



CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
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SCOTLAND

ARMS OUT
SCOTLAND

DEMANDS 2026

- 1 **End Funding for War and Genocide**
- 2 **Introduce Real Human Rights Due Diligence**
- 3 **Partner with Communities, Not Death Merchants**
- 4 **No War in our Classrooms**
- 5 **Implement Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS)**

INTRODUCTION

The next Scottish parliament has a responsibility to ensure that Scotland's economic strategy reflects the values of human rights, international law, peace and social justice.

Scotland stands at a crossroads. At a time of climate crisis, rising inequality, pressure on public services alongside global instability and genocide, public money and policy must be used to build a fair, sustainable and peaceful economy.

Yet millions of pounds of public money continue to be distributed to multi-billion pound arms companies through public agencies, while these same companies profit from global conflict, militarisation and arms exports to countries accused of serious human rights violations. At the same time, arms companies are given unrestricted access to classrooms, universities and public institutions, embedding the arms industry within Scotland's economy and education system. This is not an inevitable economic model, but a political choice.

We believe Scotland can and should choose a different path, one that supports skilled jobs, strong communities and economic development without dependence on war and militarisation. Public money should support industries that tackle the climate crisis, build public infrastructure, expand renewable energy and create socially useful jobs. Workers currently employed in the arms industry must be supported through a just transition into these sectors, with trade unions and communities at the centre of planning that transition.

This document sets out our key demands and policy recommendations for the next Scottish parliament with practical steps the next Scottish government can take using its existing powers over economic development, public funding, education, procurement and investment.

Together, these policies would move Scotland away from subsidising the arms trade and towards building a peaceful, ethical and sustainable economy.

We are asking the next Scottish parliamentarians to support these commitments and to work towards an economy that serves people, communities and peace - not war and militarisation.

OUR 2026 DEMANDS

1

End Funding for War and Genocide

We demand an immediate end to the use of public funds to subsidise arms companies whose business models rely on global conflict, militarisation and arms exports to repressive regimes. Our economic future must be rooted in industries that promote peace, sustainability and human wellbeing.

Policy Recommendation: Exclude all companies involved in the manufacture, maintenance, financing or export of military equipment, including munitions, from eligibility for grants, assistance or any public funding delivered by Scottish Enterprise and other public bodies, including the Scottish National Investment Bank.

2

Introduce Real Human Rights Due Diligence

We demand complete transparency and external oversight on any human rights conditionality for all public funding. Scottish government bodies have been given free rein to hand over millions to warmongers from the public purse and no company has ever failed using the current framework.

Policy Recommendation: Introduce mandatory, transparent human rights due diligence checks for all companies in receipt of public funds. These should be aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including supply chain checks, export destination risk assessments and the power to suspend or recover funding where companies are linked to human rights abuses or violations of international law. Scottish government bodies should also publish a full annual list of all companies receiving public funding, grants, loans and investments, including the amount awarded, purpose of funding, human rights assessments and any links these companies might have to arms production or military supply chains.

OUR 2026 DEMANDS

3

Partner with Communities, Not Death Merchants

We demand a truly ethical industrial strategy that prioritises investment in renewable energy, green manufacturing, public transport and civilian shipbuilding. Scotland must support high-quality, skilled jobs that are not dependent on war. Public agencies should centre community wealth building, fair work and a just transition for workers currently employed in the arms industry.

Policy Recommendation: Work directly with trade unions and affected workers to develop and fund a comprehensive defence diversification strategy, positioning Scotland as a leader in transitioning workers from arms production into socially useful industries such as renewable energy, climate infrastructure and civilian manufacturing.

4

No War in Our Classrooms

We demand an end to the privileged access arms companies like BAE Systems have to schools, colleges and universities across Scotland. Educational spaces must not be used to promote careers in the arms industry through sponsorships, partnerships, recruitment programmes or research funding. We cannot let these arms companies normalise warfare.

Policy Recommendation: Introduce national guidance preventing publicly funded educational institutions and government agencies from entering partnerships, sponsorships, recruitment programmes or research agreements with arms companies and support the expansion of peace education and pathways into socially useful non-militarised careers.

OUR 2026 DEMANDS

5

Implement Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS)

The last Scottish parliament called for boycotts, divestment and sanctions in response to Israel's genocide in Gaza and violations of international law. These commitments must now be implemented in practice through reviews of procurement, investment and economic policy.

Policy Recommendation: Introduce public procurement and investment policies that exclude companies complicit in violations of international law, military occupation, or apartheid, including arms companies supplying military equipment used in such violations. Public bodies, pension funds and government-backed investment agencies should divest from and avoid contracts with complicit companies.

£90M+

SINCE 2006 HANDED OVER THROUGH
ENTERPRISE FUNDING
TO AEROSPACE, DEFENCE, MARINE AND SPACE COMPANIES

FOR THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

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Campaign Against Arms Trade Scotland works to end the international arms trade and its devastating impact. We campaign against the political and economic support given to arms companies in Scotland, exposing how public money, policy and institutions are used to sustain an industry that fuels conflict, repression and human rights abuses around the world.

We work in solidarity with communities affected by war and militarisation and advocate for a just transition to a peaceful, sustainable economy rooted in social and environmental justice. In Scotland, our work focuses on ending public subsidies for arms companies, challenging the influence of the arms industry in education and public life and promoting alternatives that create skilled, socially useful jobs.

We believe a different future is possible - one where Scotland's economy supports peace, not war.

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