

# Annual General Meeting

*Saturday 2nd August 2025 2:30pm*

@ Camp 100, Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire



## Preliminary Agenda

### 2:30pm Welcome

- Introduction to chairing & facilitation team
- Headlines & highlights
- Appointment of Scrutineers and Tellers

### 2:45pm AGM business

- Standing Orders Report
- [2024 Annual General meeting minutes](#)
- Annual Report & Accounts and the motion: "That the annual report and financial statements of Woodcraft Folk for the year ended 31 December 2024 be received and accepted."
- Appointment of Auditors and the motion "That Buzzacott LLP be re-appointed auditors and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by General Council."

### 3:10pm Election results

- Thanks to outgoing Trustees & SOC members
- Appointment of General Council members
- Appointment of Standing Orders Committee members

### 3:20pm Annual Policy Meeting

- Discussion of and voting on motions
  1. Clarify how to amend Articles of Association
  2. Removal of rules revision barrier with safeguards
  3. Extending Trustee term of office
  4. Group registration fees
  5. Call on the Government to stop arms sales to Israel
- Emergency motions
- Open discussion of issues important to young people

### 4:30pm Close

# Policy motions

## Motion 1: Clarify how to amend Articles of Association

This Annual General Meeting agrees to amend Article 3.14.1 to:

3.14.1 Subject to this Article 3.14 a written resolution agreed by:

(a) a simple majority of votes cast; or

(b) (in the case of a special resolution) members representing not less than 75% of members present and voting at a general meeting

shall be effective.

*Proposed by General Council.*

## Motion 2: Removal of rules revision barrier with safeguards

This Annual General Meeting agrees to amend SO7(ii) to:

(ii) Motions to alter the Articles of Association, the Standing Orders and the Aims, Principles and Programme will be accepted every year. No individual change can be reversed within 2 years. No additional change or new provision in either the Articles of Association, the Standing Orders or the Aims, Principles and Programme can have the effect of nullifying a change within 2 years.

*Proposed by General Council.*

## Motion 3: Extending Trustee term of office

This Annual General Meeting agrees to amend SO.26 to:

(i) Elections shall be conducted by Single Transferable Vote (STV) as defined by the Electoral Reform Society

(ii) Elections should support gender inclusion, no election should return more than 50% CIS male candidates to the Board

(iii) Any individual member of the organisation may stand for election to General Council in the lay category as described in SO.26 (vi)(a). If any candidate under 16 is elected they shall not be eligible to sit as a General Council member and will instead be appointed as an observer to General Council. The General Council member's place that they vacate shall remain empty for 3 years unless one of the following applies:

(a) The under 16 observer resigns, in which case the standard procedure for replacing a General Council member as laid down in the Articles of Association shall apply

(b) The observer turns 16, at which point they take the General Council member's place that has remained empty since their election as an observer. Not more than 5 under 16 observers may fill these places at any one time.

(iv) Where the number of nominations received in advance of the nominations deadline is less than or equal to the number of vacancies, nominations may be taken from the floor of the General Meeting. In this situation, there shall be no limit to the number of nominations taken from the floor.

(v) Nominations shall close before the ballot is opened.

(vi) General Council members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (unless otherwise stated) in the following groups:

(a) 9 Members, 3 elected each year for a period of 3 years.

(b) 1 Member who is also a member of a Woodcraft Folk District Association or Lone Group in Wales appointed by Welsh Council for a period of 3 years.

(c) 1 Member who is also a member of a Woodcraft Folk District Association or Lone Group in Scotland appointed by Scottish Committee for a period of 3 years.

(d) 6 Members under the age of 25 years at the time of election, 2 elected each year for a period of 3 years.

(e) 2 District Fellows elected from the floor of District Fellows Movement Althing for a period of 2 years.

(f) 2 District Fellows from and appointed by the District Fellows Movement Committee for a period of 2 years.

*Proposed by General Council.*

## Motion 4: Group registration fees

This Annual General Meeting recognises that group registration fees provide essential organisational resources to support Woodcraft Folk groups and volunteers. This includes safeguarding support, volunteer recruitment & training, programme advice, insurance and more.

This meeting agrees to set 2026 group registration at the following levels:

1. Groups should pay £200 per calendar year
2. Groups should pay £20 per child

And agrees that this AGM re-states previous decisions, including:

- Group registration fees should be increased annually by Average Weekly Earnings as measured by the Office for National Statistics for the previous year, rounded down to the nearest 10p
- The principle that no group or district should close due to inability to pay their registration fees

This AGM encourages those districts which are able, to continue to make solidarity payments in addition to their registration fees to help ensure that no group closes due to lack of funds.

*Proposed by General Council.*

## Rationale for increasing group registration fees

Woodcraft Folk is a co-operative children's and youth organisation rooted in values of equality, peace, friendship and social justice. As a movement, we remain committed to ensuring that every young person has access to our unique approach to education, community and collective action.

In recent years, the financial landscape for individuals and voluntary organisations alike has shifted significantly. This proposed increase in group registration fees is a necessary and thoughtful response to a combination of external pressures and internal ambitions.

### 1. Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis

The UK's cost of living has risen sharply in recent years, affecting everything from venue hire and transport, to equipment, utilities and insurance. Local Woodcraft Folk groups are feeling these pressures and national infrastructure is equally impacted. By adjusting our registration fees, we can ensure the

organisation remains financially resilient and builds on the support offered to volunteers and young members alike.

## 2. Supporting Our Local Groups

Groups are the lifeblood of our movement. Increased registration fees will enable us to:

- Provide improved practical support to group leaders and district volunteers,
- Expand training opportunities and safeguarding support,
- Improve essential administrative and compliance systems, and
- Invest in resources that reduce barriers to volunteering and participation.

We want every group to feel well-supported, confident and connected—especially during challenging times.

## 3. Growing Our Movement

We have a collective ambition to grow the number of Woodcraft Folk groups across the UK, particularly in communities with fewer opportunities. Increased group registration income will help fund outreach work, volunteer recruitment and start-up support for new groups - bringing our values and experiences to new communities and families.

## 4. Reintroducing Annual Gathering

Woodcraft Folk's Annual Gathering has historically been a vital space for democratic engagement, relationship building and shared visioning. After a period of pause, we are eager to bring back this national event as a powerful opportunity for members to connect, celebrate and shape the future of our movement together. An increase in registration fees will contribute directly to making this a reality.

## In Conclusion

This proposed increase in group registration fees is not simply about covering rising costs, but it is about securing the future of our movement. It is a shared investment in:

- Sustainability,
- Support for grassroots volunteers,
- Growth into new communities, and
- Revitalising our national identity through shared spaces like Annual Gathering.

We will continue to ensure that Woodcraft Folk remains accessible to all, including maintaining access fund support where needed. By working together,

we can ensure that Woodcraft Folk not only survives but thrives and continues to offer generations to come the chance to live co-operatively, act for a fairer world and find friendship in solidarity.

## Motion 5: Call on the Government to stop arms sales to Israel

As Woodcraft Folk, our aims and principles state that “we are dedicated to building a more peaceful world, where all enjoy freedom from war and want,” and “we respect and defend the rights of all children and young people, and support them to recognize and take action when those rights are threatened.” Woodcraft Folk looks towards a future in which all weapons of war, their manufacture and trade, would be banned, and the investment made into conflict would be redirected to diplomacy. Because of our principles, we are deeply concerned about the ongoing war in Palestine/Israel and its devastating impact on children.

The war disproportionately affects children and young people. As of 16 September, over 16,700 out of 41,223 Palestinians killed by Israel were children. These numbers, published by the Gaza Health Ministry, likely underestimate the real number of victims. There are several ways in which the war disproportionately affects children and young people because of their specific needs and vulnerabilities, most importantly:

- Deliberate destruction of the healthcare system. By the end of June 2024, Israeli forces carried out 498 attacks on healthcare facilities in Gaza, killing over 500 medical staff. Out of 26 hospitals in Gaza, none are fully working, and 20 are completely non-functional.
- Deliberate destruction of the education system. By the end of April 2024, Israeli forces damaged or destroyed over 80% of schools and at least 60% of all educational facilities, including 13 public libraries. Israel killed 261 teachers and 95 university professors.
- Campaign of starvation by denial of aid and destruction of domestic agriculture. As of October 2024, Israeli forces destroyed 70% of crop fields in Gaza. 86% of Gaza’s population is experiencing an acute food crisis, and 6% are experiencing famine. With no aid entering the north of Gaza in October, and very little entering any of Gaza, this situation is expected to worsen.
- Targeting of children by the Israeli military. One example is the highly publicised killing of Hind Rajab. There are multiple witness statements by healthcare workers about treating children as young as 3 with single bullet wounds to the chest or the head.

The UK Government has a responsibility to do everything in its power to stop war crimes and crimes against humanity, and in particular to protect children. This responsibility entails immediately suspending all arms sales to Israel, just as the Government is required to do in relation to all authorities where there is reason to believe that the weapons will be used for serious violations of



international humanitarian law, as set out in the Export Controls Act. Those leaders who are suspected of ordering the execution of war crimes and crimes against humanity using those very weapons, should be brought to justice in fair trials, such as trials at the International Criminal Court, of which the UK is a member.

The UK Government suspended some military export licences to Israel on 2 September 2024.

Only 30 licences out of 350 were suspended, and parts for the F-35 fighter jets were excluded from the suspension. Fifteen percent by value of every F-35 aircraft produced is made in the UK. The use of F-35 jets by Israel in an attack on a humanitarian zone in Gaza has been confirmed.

Woodcraft Folk movement should call on the UK government to:

- Publicly demand and actively ensure that Israel and Hamas uphold the conditions of the ceasefire, and that they work towards a complete, and permanent peace in Gaza and the whole of Palestine/Israel.
- Impose a complete arms embargo on Israel. The embargo needs to include parts for F-35 fighter jets.
- Respect and cooperate with the International Criminal Court in all its investigations and prosecutions, including with regards to arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu, Yoav Gallant and Mohammed Deif. (The other two Hamas leaders who were charged were killed by Israeli forces).

The Woodcraft Folk movement should send letters with these three calls to Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Foreign Secretary David Lammy, and to publish the calls on the Woodcraft Folk website.

*Proposed by Highgate & Holloway District*

## **References**

As of 16 September, over 16,700 out of 41,223 Palestinians killed by Israel were children:  
<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/names-710-palestinian-newborns-killed-israeli-forces-gaza-published>

The count published by Gaza Health Ministry likely underestimate the actual number of victims

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)

## **Deliberate destruction of the healthcare system**

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/262/79/pdf/n2426279.pdf>

Children in particular have borne the brunt of these attacks, suffering both directly and indirectly from the collapse of the health system  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-inquiry-accuses-israel-crime-extermination-destruction-gaza-health-system-2024-10-10/>

### **Deliberate destruction of the education system**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-over-school-holocaust-gaza>

### **Campaign of starvation by denial of aid, and destruction of domestic agriculture**

<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157985/?iso3=PSE>  
<https://www.wfp.org/news/new-gaza-food-security-assessment-sees-famine-risk-persisting-amid-ongoing-fighting-and>

<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157985/?iso3=PSE>

### **Targeting of children by the Israeli military**

Killing of Hind Rajab

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing\\_of\\_Hind\\_Rajab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Hind_Rajab)

Evidence given by Professor Nizam Mamode to the International Development Committee:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/98/international-development-committee/news/203748/idc-chair-responds-to-shocking-evidence-on-gaza-healthcare/>

Interviews with 65 health care workers who have served in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/10/09/opinion/gaza-doctor-interviews.html>

Open letter from American health care workers who have served in Gaza to President Biden and Vice President Harris:

<https://www.gazahealthcareletters.org/usa-letter-oct-2-2024>

15% by value of every F-35 aircraft produced is made in the UK. The use of F-35 jets by Israel in an attack on a humanitarian zone in Gaza has been confirmed

<https://caat.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/10/CAAT-F35-briefing-v4.2.pdf>

<https://danwatch.dk/en/major-civilian-casualties-danish-equipped-fighter-jets-behind-bloody-attack-in-gaza/>

## **May 2025 updated figures**

### **Death toll**

52,653 Palestinians killed, source

<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-170-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>

15,613 - 16,278 children, source as above or

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250506-israel-kills-a-child-in-gaza-every-40-minutes-health-ministry-says/>

### **Destruction of schools**

95.4% of schools in the Gaza Strip sustained some level of damage, 88.8% need full reconstruction

Source: UNRWA as above

### **Hunger**

95% of Gaza's population is experiencing an acute food crisis, and 30% are experiencing famine. With total blockade on aid including food entering Gaza since 2 March 2025 the projections is that half of the population will be experiencing famine soon.

Source: [Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 15 February - 15 March 2024 and Projection for 16 March - 15 July 2024 | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#)