**Statement of Liverpool Friends of Palestine on arrests on 20 July 2025**

Since October 2023 and the start of the genocide in Gaza we have organised over 80 peaceful, non-violent marches in solidarity with the Palestinians.

While it was lawful to do so, LFOP provided a platform for Palestine Action speakers at our events, financially supported them and attended court hearings in solidarity with defendants. Since the disgraceful vote in Parliament on 5 July Palestine Action has been proscribed.

Last Sunday 20 July four of our peaceful, non-violent marchers were arrested under the Terrorism Act. Were they planning to bomb cafes, or to assassinate politicians, or to occupy a branch of Barclays and hold the staff hostages? No! They were arrested for simply carrying placards with the ‘explosive’ words Palestine Action. Excessive force was used in one of the arrests and all four are now subject to oppressive and unnecessary bail conditions until at least September.

Hundreds around the country have been arrested for similar actions since the proscription of Palestine Action. We applaud their decision to put their freedom at risk in defence of our right to protest. We offer all of them our support and particularly those in Liverpool. It is not true that the police have no choice as they claim. They do have discretion. In Totnes, a small town in Devon, and in Edinburgh, protesters mounted similar actions without any arrests.

On the march on Sunday 6 July we read out a statement which said: “We condemn the attempt to further restrict our civil right to protest injustice and, where involved, government policies.”

That remains our position today and we condemn the UK government for using the Terrorism Act to attempt to silence us and the use of the police to enforce it.

In line with the statement adopted by Liverpool TUC and the Merseyside   
Association of TUCs, we call for the proscription of Palestine Action   
under the Terrorism Act 2000 to be lifted, immediately.

We will continue our peaceful, non-violent marches in solidarity with the Palestinians and to demand a full arms embargo on Israel including   
direct and indirect supplies. With the advent of mass famine in Gaza and the dreadful suffering of the children, that solidarity is ever more important. We must continue to remind the citizens of Liverpool that the genocide in Gaza is continuing and call for their support in our efforts to prevent it. *(ends)*