

Model submission for CLPs and Branches to the National Policy Forum *Britain In The World* Policy Commission

The *Britain In The World* commission is responsible for foreign affairs, international development, defence and trade. Our model submission – in response to Question Four – calls on Labour to commit to arms control, including the suspension and revocation of licenses for exports to states that engage in human rights abuses and war crimes.

Model submission

Question Four: How will a Labour government's trade policy reduce poverty and global inequality whilst promoting (a) human rights, (b) workers' rights, (c) fair trade and (d) global peace and security?

- *The UK is a major exporter of weapons abroad. Since 2008, declared arms exports have totalled £61 billion. Many of these exports are to states that are engaged in human rights abuses, war crimes and repression. The single greatest recipient of UK arms exports is Saudi Arabia: since 2008, the Saudi state has received a declared total of £14 billion worth of arms from the UK. Other major recipients of UK arms exports include Qatar, Turkey and the UAE.*
- *UK arms are also used in civil repression. At the time of George Floyd's murder and subsequent police brutality against demonstrators, the British government had approved an open licence that allowed for the unlimited export of tear gas to the United States. A similar licence existed for exports to Hong Kong: evidence suggests that UK-manufactured CS gas has also been employed against protestors there.*
- *Following campaigning, Gordon Brown announced the closure of UKDSE's forerunner, the Defence Export Services Organisation, in 2007. However, its functions were kept intact, and transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the Department for International Trade's predecessor instead. UKDSE currently employs around twice the number of staff that the Foreign Office's Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Centre (CPACC) does. In 2019/20, UKDSE's list of "key markets" for exports included Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, the UAE, and the Philippines.*
- *Labour should therefore commit to:*
 - o *Prioritise arms control over arms exports;*
 - o *Work with other states and international organisations to control the international arms trade;*
 - o *Close UK Defence and Security Exports (UKDSE), and reallocate its resources to bodies dedicated to arms control and counter-proliferation, such as the Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Centre (CPACC);*

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- o End the use of Open Individual Export Licences and Open General Export Licences (which are used to avoid transparency and obscure the scale of the arms trade);*
- o Suspend and revoke other existing licences for arms exports to states that engage in human rights abuses and war crimes.*