

THINK GLOBAL

Act locally with
Global Justice Now



 **Global
Justice
Now**

September 2026

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Think Global is Global Justice Now's activist newsletter, published three times a year, with monthly email supplements (Think Global Extra)

Editing: Daisy Pearson and James O'Nions

Cover photo: Protestors and local groups gathered for a demonstration against hyperscale datacentres outside the Scottish Parliament

2 September 2026

The fight against Palantir unites many causes



Daisy Pearson Movement-building manager

Following on from our big tech conference earlier this year, two major campaigns have emerged: resisting the physical infrastructure of the big tech takeover through the fight against data centres, and challenging the growing power of Palantir.

The fight against Palantir sits at the junction of so many of the struggles we care about: Palestine and big tech, but also militarisation, corporate power, surveillance, migration, democracy and public services. That is what makes the campaign so important.

It is a fight to protect our NHS. But it is also a rejection of a model in which military companies become indispensable to our public services, surveillance becomes omnipresent, and ever more power is concentrated in the hands of a small number of tech billionaires. And when that power sits alongside the political influence of billionaires such as Palantir's Peter Thiel, the danger is not just monopoly capitalism but a profound threat to democracy.

These struggles are fundamentally international. The technologies being developed and deployed by powerful corporations do not respect borders. The same systems and companies can connect warfare, border control, policing and public services across countries – meaning that resisting corporate power here is also part of resisting the global systems of surveillance and militarisation that harm people around the world.

Precisely because Palantir poses so many threats, the campaign builds a broad coalition: people campaigning for the NHS, against big tech, for Palestine, against militarisation and surveillance, and for democracy and public ownership. Coalitions are absolutely key to winning campaigns and strengthening the movement. They help us find common ground and come together across differences; in doing so we learn we have more in common than that which divides us, and in winning we learn that we are powerful.

And this campaign is **winnable**. The NHS break clause approaches. Public opposition is growing. Political pressure is building. And on 1 October groups across the country will take action.

We know it's an incredibly busy time. But when we have the opportunity to kick a company like Palantir out of our public services, send a message to our decision makers about the kind of society and economy we want to live in, and build a broader, stronger movement while doing it, we can't afford not to take it.

News from Global Justice Now



Global Justice Now joined We Own It, Just Treatment and Keep Our NHS Public for this stunt outside Parliament in July.

In the media

It's been a great summer for media. In July, we worked with researchers whose analysis in the British Medical Journal revealed that last year's US-UK drug deal could result in 229,000 excess deaths in England. This major story led the news agenda - with a front-page splash in the Guardian, and coverage on Sky News, CNN, Times Radio, Al-Jazeera, Novara and more.

Meanwhile, the fight against datacentres in Scotland has been heating up, and we've been there on the frontlines with people across Scotland telling big tech that enough is enough. Our Scotland activism manager Jane wrote a brilliant article for the National, debunking big tech's grand promises of jobs and economic growth from data centres.

On Palestine, we uncovered that last year, as Gaza was under brutal attack by Israel, the UK undertook an impact assessment on pausing its

trade agreement with Israel. Sky News covered our scoop. As the details of the assessment have not yet been released, questions to our government still remain. We also put out a statement welcoming the government's recent ban on trade with Israel's illegal settlements – but this must be just the beginning if we want to see real change for Palestinians.

On trade, we revealed that UK investors are suing Mexico using ISDS over cancelled mining licenses, which was then covered in several specialist legal publications. Meanwhile, in the wake of plans to bring Thames Water into public ownership being stalled amid fears of legal challenges, we worked with Labour MP Clive Lewis to write an upcoming article for New Statesman, calling for the UK to step away from ISDS for good.



Poster design you can order for stalls and actions on Palantir

Action checklist

Corporate courts

- ☐ Plan an activity for the ISDS days of action using our action guide
- ☐ Order additional materials and placards by 8 October

Climate

- ☐ Consider holding a screening of the National Emergency Briefing if you haven't already

Palantir

- ☐ Use the petition and leaflet to spread the word about the campaign
- ☐ Use the No Palantir in the NHS online tool to apply pressure across the board

Trade justice



Many local groups held stalls on ISDS this summer, including Cambridge.

Are corporate courts blocking Thames Water nationalisation?

In July we updated on the third ISDS case threatened against the UK, over the takeover of British Steel. While the challenge to the Cumbria coal mine is a landmark case in corporate courts threatening climate action, we're also seeing the sinister ways ISDS is spreading its tentacles to stymie all manner of public policymaking – especially as the new Burnham government is exploring ways to take Thames Water into public control.

It was recently reported that government officials had raised concerns about the risk of legal action, causing Burnham to reconsider nationalisation plans. This legal action could very well come via corporate courts: the group of investors engaged in a rescue bid for Thames Water has engaged an elite litigation firm with a history of involvement in high profile ISDS cases, and the creditors include US vulture firms that have been aggressive users of the system previously.

This is an example of the chilling effect of corporate courts in action, threatening the protection of our most basic rights to water unsullied by failures of management and reinvestment, disastrous sewage spills, and the dishing out of shareholder bonuses while our bills rocket. With this issue high on the political agenda, it's an important that we take the opportunity to draw out the connections between this secretive aspect of our trade policy and the things we all care about.

**The UK
is being
sued for
halting a
coal mine**



ISDS Global Days of Action: 15-17 October

September is here and many people are returning from holidays. Groups up and down the country are getting organised for the busy autumn ahead, and for the global days of action on ISDS they're planning everything from banner drops and creative stunts, to stalls and outreach. If you haven't yet made plans, there's still time!

London action

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

If you're in London, join us and activists from across London for a banner drop off Westminster Bridge and a rally near Parliament. We're assembling at 5:30pm, and the rally will finish at 7pm. You can find full info and sign up for updates at globaljustice.org.uk/isds-london.

You can also get involved in painting our giant banner, which we'll be doing 6-9pm on Wednesday 23rd September at the Greenpeace offices in Islington. Contact activism@globaljustice.org.uk to let us know you're coming.

Get involved

Plan an action: Check out the event page at globaljustice.org.uk/isds-days, where you'll find our Action Guide with ideas for taking action as a group or individual, placards and stall materials, and resources to help you spread the word – including a short talk script, local press template, editable graphics and more.

Bring others in: Tell your community what's happening and invite other local groups to join you. ISDS intersects with issues from climate and environmental protection to food standards and workers' rights, so there are lots of ways to make the issue relevant. We're organising the days of action with Friends of the Earth – if there's a local FoE group near you, make contact and see what you can do together.

Order placards! We've produced some A3 placards in three designs (below) for use on protests, actions or stalls during the days of action. Email activism@globaljustice.org.uk to order some.



New campaign materials

Included with this issue is a NEW ISDS briefing, which explains how corporate courts work and how the movement is fighting back. It shows how ISDS threatens all areas of life, including action on climate, the environment, human rights, health, taxation, workers' rights and public services, with case studies from around the world. It's designed as an accessible resource for stalls and outreach, with different angles to engage new audiences.

We've also got:

- A5 'The UK is being sued...' leaflets – still the best way to introduce people to the issue.
- A handy 'ISDS FAQs / tricky questions' doc for use on stalls and in conversations.

Email activism@globaljustice.org.uk by Thursday 8 October to order materials in time for the days of action.

Key resources

Corporate courts holding governments to ransom Four-page briefing (NEW Sep 2026)

ISDS FAQs / tricky questions (NEW Sep 2026)

European ISDS scorecard 24-page report (April 2026)

The UK is being sued MP briefing (April 2026)

Talking points: Corporate courts One-pager cheat sheet (April 2026)

The UK is being sued A5 leaflet & petition sheet (Sep 2025)

Standing up to corporate power with Colombia Eight-page booklet (Jan 2025)

Scrap the UK-Colombia investment treaty MP briefing (Oct 2024)

Contact us to order these or view them at globaljustice.org.uk/resources

Palestine



High Peak Green New Deal send a message to Ed Miliband after the announcement.

UK action against settlements

Earlier this month, the foreign secretary, Ed Miliband, announced a series of new sanctions on Israel – the most significant action a British government has taken on this issue in decades.

This is an important moment. For nearly three years, while we watched a genocide unfold, our government chose to look the other way, at times justifying the horror we were witnessing and even supporting Israel through continued military co-operation and close economic ties.

Ed Miliband has now admitted that the horrors visited upon Gaza represent “a stain on the conscience of the world and of this country too”. This announcement is the result of many years of work by campaigners – and Palestinians themselves. While the changes are not sufficient, they are significant. They include:

- That the government now regards Israel’s occupation as a whole as unlawful
- A ban on imports from illegal settlements.

- A ban on weapons sales and other exports which materially contribute to the occupation for as long as it persists
- Sanctions against specific companies and individuals who provide services such as construction, finance or real estate for settlement expansion.

The UK is also working with other countries, most notably, France and Canada in this policy.

In the weeks ahead we will push for these new sanctions to be applied in the broadest way possible. That means not only stopping goods made in the settlements from entering British markets, but ensuring the big investors who are profiting from the occupation face sanctions too. This would make the sanctions regime far more effective.

Miliband says he disagrees with more general calls for boycott, divestment and sanctions. We disagree with him, and believe that ultimately, as with apartheid South Africa, it is only such a campaign of serious economic pressure that

will change things. So we will continue to build support for this movement.

In coming weeks, we'll send you more on this work. But for now, take time to celebrate what we've achieved. If you are in contact with your MP in the near future, please express support for Miliband's actions, and make clear the new sanctions must apply to *all* services and investments in the illegal settlements.

Kick Palantir out

US tech company Palantir makes software used for surveillance and AI warfare. Its data tools have assisted ICE, Trump's abusive immigration enforcement squads, and during Israel's war on Gaza the company entered into a new strategic partnership with Israel's ministry of defence, reportedly supplying data-processing and AI software for war-related missions.

Yet it also has at least 35 public sector contacts in the UK. The biggest of these is a £330 million contract to connect patient medical data across different NHS platforms; the backlash spans the NHS and wider society, with a coalition of organisations now campaigning to end it.

The good news is that the contract has a break clause, allowing the government to back out. But the clause likely has to be activated by December if it is to be used. Working with others, we'll be building maximum pressure over the next three months to make that happen.

New materials

Enclosed with this issue of Think Global are new campaign materials: a short campaign briefing setting out the argument against Palantir, and a leaflet with QR code links to the online petition, and a paper version of that petition.

This latest petition is specific to the NHS England contract, and since Palantir doesn't have a contract with the NHS in Scotland, we've left the leaflet out for Scottish groups. The briefing remains relevant across the UK. We've also got a new poster design, featured on page 3. To order more copies of these materials, email activism@globaljustice.org.uk.

Day of action: 1 October

Popular mobilisation against Palantir's role in the NHS is growing and Thursday 1 October will see actions in at least 20 locations around the country, supported by a coalition of national organisations which we're part of. Amnesty International have helpfully created a map so you can find your nearest one: www.amnesty.org.uk/people-vs-palantir.

Write to everyone, everywhere, all at once

If you can't make it to any of the demos, don't worry. The No Palantir in the NHS campaign have designed an online tool that will allow you to write to your hospital, integrated care board, MP and council all at once, pressuring multiple decision makers to 'back the break clause'. The idea is to make it impossible for NHS leadership and ministers to ignore the groundswell of resistance. nopalantirinthenhs.com

There is a live tracker on the site showing who has already supported the campaign. You can use this to check if your MP has done so. We have new parliamentary briefing on this issue which you can send to your MP, available on our website: globaljustice.org.uk/resources.

Key Palestine resources

Kick Palantir out Two-page campaign briefing (August 2026)

Kick Palantir out of our public services A5 leaflet (August 2026)

Breaking with Palantir Parliamentary briefing (September 2026)

No Palantir in our NHS Petition sheet

Time for sanctions on Israel Two-page leaflet (April 2025)

The case for sanctions on Israel's economy Four-page briefing (April 2025)

Sanctions petition sheet (April 2024)

Contact us to order these or view them at globaljustice.org.uk/resources

Big tech



Global Justice Now and Friends of the Earth Falkirk at a protest against the Larbert data centre in July.

Opposition to data centres is quickly becoming a front line against the growing power of big tech. This is one area where the incoming Burnham government seems so far to have continuity with Starmer, with the new communities secretary Angela Rayner giving the go ahead to a data centre in East London despite community and local council opposition. Global Justice Now is calling for a UK-wide moratorium on new AI data centres.

Scotland vs data centres

As MSPs returned from summer recess, hundreds of people from across Scotland joined a protest outside the Scottish parliament to oppose the roll out of AI data centres.

Representatives from 14 different communities where data centres are planned, as well as Global Justice Now supporters and other campaigners, gathered at Holyrood. They listened to speeches from local community representatives, spoke to the media and lobbied their MSPs who had come out to meet them. In the chamber the Green party leader asked a question about data centres at First Minister's Questions, and there was a members' debate on hyperscale data centres at the end of the day.

Despite all this pressure, the Scottish government is not convinced. In fact, its latest announcement promising to develop a 'strategic approach to responsible data centre development' seems to be encouraging of more development rather than less. But communities are not giving up the fight anytime soon.

The more MSPs hear about this the better. Please circulate our online action widely: globaljustice.org.uk/msp-datacentres. A leaflet is also available with a QR code link to it. As ever, if you're able to write to your MSPs individually or as a group this can be more powerful.



European days of action

Global Action Plan, which has been coordinating data centre opposition in the UK, are part of organising two European Days of Action on data centres on the 6-7 November. Another national protest and local actions are planned in Scotland, which we'll be part of, as well as protests elsewhere. Contact jane.herbstritt@globaljustice.org.uk if you want to take part.

Key resources

Big tech data threats Two-page Scottish campaign briefing (June 2026)

Stop the data centre rollout Scottish leaflet for home printing (July 2026)

Block the data centre rollout Stickers

Stop the big tech power grab Four-page leaflet (April 2026)

The new digital colonialism Eight-page briefing (April 2026)

A trade deal with Trump Nine-page campaign briefing (April 2025)

Contact us to order these or view them at globaljustice.org.uk/resources

Staff changes

Members who attended our AGM will know that the organisation has faced some challenging financial circumstances recently. There are several reasons for this, but one of them is the climate affecting many campaign and advocacy organisations. With the Trump administration's shutdown of USAID, and its knock-on impact on many US-based trust funds, there is far less money and far more competition for funds in the campaigning world. On top of that, rapidly rising costs have taken a toll on our expenditure.

We are lucky that so much of our funding comes from thousands of members, and while it takes work to retain those members, and recruit new ones, it gives us a good deal of stability. As a result, we've generally been able to manage changes to our budgets gradually and without too much disruption. This year, though, we haven't been quite so lucky, and have been forced to restructure the organisation. Sadly, that meant losing several members of staff.

Inevitably this will affect what we're able to do. We're still in the process of working out exactly how we change what we do, but rest assured that we'll be looking for ways to work more efficiently and will continue to seek new funding. Supporting local activists remains a priority, so please don't be reluctant to get in touch for any help you need. And if you do know anyone who would consider becoming a member, send them in the direction of globaljustice.org.uk/join.

Goodbye Guy

As group contacts will already know from his email, Guy Taylor is one of the staff members we've had to say goodbye to. Guy joined Global Justice Now over a decade ago as our campaigner against the US-EU trade deal, TTIP, throwing himself into building a significant movement against an initially-obscure trade deal. He later moved to direct support for local groups where he built relationships with lots of group members. He'll be hugely missed in the office and we wish him the best for the future.

Another great loss for our staff team and our campaigns is **Izzie McIntosh**, who led our Fossil Fuel Treaty campaign for the last few years. We'll miss her and the other colleagues we're losing, and wish them all the best going forwards.

Who to contact

Daisy Pearson

Movement building manager

Daisy is now the first point of contact for local group support in England and Wales, combining this with work on events and wider movement building. She's already started speaking to group contacts to get to know what you're up to, so expect a call if you haven't had one already, and in the meantime feel free to reach out: daisy.pearson@globaljustice.org.uk

Jane Herbstritt

Campaigns and activism manager, Scotland

Jane supports our local groups in Scotland and runs campaigns which target Scottish government decisions.

Email jane.herbstritt@globaljustice.org.uk

Sam Lund-Harket

Youth activism manager

Sam continues his role helping our youth-specific groups to campaign and supporting under-30s to get involved in global justice activism, political education and protest.

Email sam.lund-harket@globaljustice.org.uk

James O'Nions

Head of movement building

James manages the movement building team as well as getting involved in group support, materials and events. He also maintains relationships with our global allies and takes part in international movement building.

Email james.onions@globaljustice.org.uk

You can also continue to order materials or otherwise solicit our help via activism@globaljustice.org.uk or even give us a call on 020 7820 4900.

Local groups news

Global Justice Bradford are continuing their weekly vigil outside West Yorkshire Pension Fund, and planning how to celebrate its five year anniversary, which is coming up in October. They're following plans for a local data centre, and considering whether to take action against it. And they're supporting more local showings of the National Emergency Briefing and continuing to lobby local MPs and councillors.

In June, **Global Justice Cambridge** held a very successful stall at a local carnival, with people very keen to sign the petition against ISDS. They're now actively planning for the ISDS Days of Action, and preparing for a public meeting on the issues of trade justice, ISDS and fair trade. Some of them also joined a local protest against Palantir in the NHS. And of course, it's impossible to stop campaigning on the climate crisis after so many heatwaves!

Global Justice Gloucestershire held a stall as part of Global Awareness Day event in Stroud where they gathered many signatures for the "Get Palantir out of UK public services" petition. The wide range of people they spoke to included many people with close connections to the tech sector and US politics, and they all supported the campaign.

High Peak Green New Deal held a Stop Rosebank event in Glossop in August and had a letter on the issue published in the local paper. During the summer they held a book launch for 'No Nuclear' and screened the National Emergency Briefing. They secured coverage for all these in the Glossop Chronicle!

Global Justice Leicester had another successful stall at the National Justice and Peace Network conference. People were particularly interested in Palantir and big tech, and ISDS proved a lively topic of conversation. They encountered many more young people this year, some of whom struggled with the sense that what's needed is justice and not charity! The stickers were a big hit, and a great way into these discussions.



Photos, from top: Global Justice Shropshire at their stall in Shrewsbury in July; Global Justice Bradford at their weekly vigil outside West Yorkshire Pension Fund; Global Justice Gloucestershire at their stall in Stroud.



Global Justice Nottingham ran a workshop earlier this month at Up-Rooted, a climate justice event, where they invited people to write messages to Andy Burnham or other leaders at COP31 and some people put a lot of effort in. This weekend they held a stall at the Nottingham Green Festival, and have just started planning for the ISDS Days of Action together with local Friends of the Earth, XR and Greenpeace groups.



Global Justice Richmond and Kingston have been screening the National Emergency Briefing: with two screenings down and six more to go, they're really getting the word out about the climate crisis.

Rotherham for Global Justice collected 127 signatures for the Palantir petition at their stall last weekend, and gave out many leaflets and posters for further distribution.



Global Justice Sheffield held stalls at the Chesterfield May Day Gala, the Sharrow Community Festival in July, and the Bowshaw Community Festival in August, gathering petition signatures on ISDS, big tech and the debt crisis.

In July, **Global Justice Shropshire** held a great stall on Shrewsbury high street, collecting interest and signatures on both Palantir and the call for sanctions on Israel.



Global Justice South East London turned out in force for the annual Friends of Nunhead Cemetery event. They had a busy day, gathering petition signatures and writing letters to MPs on Palantir and the NHS. The public response was overwhelming—and it felt especially personal for the group, some of whom have worked in the NHS.

Global Justice York attended a screening of the National Emergency Briefing held by St Luke's Church Green Group in June and joined in the discussion. Later in the summer, they co-hosted a well-attended screening with York XR, with a GJN stall alongside, and they're now planning for the international day of action against Palantir in October.

Photos, from top: Global Justice Sheffield collecting signatures at Chesterfield May Day; High Peak Green New Deal protest Stop Rosebank in Glossop; Global Justice South East London hold fort in Nunhead Cemetery; Global Justice Leicester get chatting at the National Justice and Peace Network conference.

Global Justice Youth

The end of June saw 30 people coming together for the Global Justice Youth Summer School at our office in London. Over three days we covered campaign and organising skills as well as political education about the global economy and geopolitics.

Attendees travelled from around the country, and a packed programme included highlights such as the Transnational Institute's Hamza Hamouchene talking about how we should understand imperialism, especially in relation to Palestine and West Asia. We've already seen people from the summer school getting more involved in local activism – particularly in Manchester, Leeds, Brighton and York.

We're now gearing up for freshers' fairs and the start of the new academic year. We have a new guide to campaigning on Palestine at universities by targeting university contracts with tech firms complicit in the occupation. Flyers, posters, stickers and other resources are being sent to groups to use at freshers. Get in touch if you'd like any of these sent to you for anything beyond freshers as well.

Global Justice Youth Stirling has been working on the university's responsible investment policy. They recently had a meeting with the university's finance officer and are pushing the university to acknowledge that it has so far failed to adhere to its responsible investment principles, and to commit to a clear date by which it will meet those commitments.

Global Justice Youth Manchester recently hosted a screening of *All That Breathes* at Cultplex. The documentary explores the impacts of air, light and noise pollution on wildlife and the people living alongside it. And they're planning on joining the local Amnesty group for the Palantir day of action on Thursday 1 October as well.



Attendees at the youth summer school at the Global Justice Now office (top) and protesting Palantir.

Global Justice Youth London has been keeping up their political education with a book club, where they read *White Tears/Brown Scars* by Ruby Hamad. They've also been preparing for freshers' stalls, using the Wheel of Fortune activity from the ISDS Day of Action pack, but adapting it to focus on AI and big tech.

Apartheid tech off campus

Palantir is not the only big tech firm with significant involvement in the Israeli occupation. Oracle and Cisco are also implicated, and have contracts with various UK public bodies, including universities. As the new academic year starts, we've launched a student guide to getting 'apartheid tech' off campus. Check it out: globaljustice.org.uk/campus-tech

For help running a campaign like this at your university, get in touch: sam.lund-harket@globaljustice.org.uk