

Sample motion for academic union branches on Reed Elsevier

This branch notes:

1. That the world spends more than \$1 trillion on arms and military goods, and that these sales often undermine human rights. The cost of the arms and the conflicts they sustain have a massive and disastrous impact on the possibility of sustainable development.
2. That arms fairs, such as Defence Systems and Equipment International which takes place in London, are a key part of the global arms trade, and allow arms companies to promote weapons to countries involved in, or on the brink of conflict, as well as those with terrible human rights records.
3. That information company Reed Elsevier, which owns the company which runs DSEi and other arms fairs, also owns hundreds of academic journals which depend on the goodwill of academics for their viability, not just for sales, but for content and for peer review.
4. That arms fairs make up only 0.5% of Reed Elsevier's total business according to Gerard Van de Aast, global CEO for Reed Business.

This branch believes:

1. That promoting the global arms trade and facilitating arms exports is not something which a respectable company like Reed Elsevier should be involved in.
2. That when 15% of the world's population suffer from chronic hunger (UN figures), pushing arms sales to the global south is morally repugnant.

This branch resolves:

1. To write to Reed Elsevier chairman Jan Hommen, reminding him of the role academics play in supporting Reed's journals, explaining our opposition to DSEi and other arms fairs, and asking him to pull out of this small part of Reed Elsevier's business.
2. To encourage members to do the same, especially if they use or write for Reed Elsevier-owned journals.
3. To distribute Campaign Against Arms Trade materials on the issue to union members, including postcards to send to Reed.

More information on Reed Elsevier, DSEi and other arms fairs can be found at www.armsfairs.com. Details of CAAT's work can be found at www.caat.org.uk