

Fact Sheet: (Un)Ethical Partnerships

University of Nottingham's Ethical Policies

- **Code of Research Conduct & Research Ethics:** Principles include maximising benefit, minimising harm, fairness, integrity, transparency, and respecting autonomy. Criticised for failing to restrict partnerships with arms manufacturers.
- **Ethical Framework:** Governance tool meant to ensure ethical behaviour but inconsistently applied.
- **Research & Knowledge Exchange Strategy:** Oversees partnerships and compliance but criticised for overlooking human rights issues .
- **Concordat on Research Integrity:** Commitment to integrity and accountability but undermined by current practices.
- **Dual-Use Export Loopholes:** Allows collaborations where research has both civilian and military uses.

Key Findings

- University collaborates with companies that primarily profit from manufacturing arms, which contradicts its stated ethics which has resulted in complicity in human rights abuses.
- Partnerships with companies supporting Israeli military operations undermine integrity and international law.
- **Greenwashing:** Climate initiatives (e.g., Clean Sky) tied to arms companies such as BAE systems, Leonardo, Rolls Royce, Safran. 93% of the Clean Sky projects benefited arms manufacturers. The updated “Clean Aviation” program that benefits arms manufacturers which UoN is involved in.

Case Studies:

- **BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, Boeing, Leonardo, Safran:** All linked to arms production and sales to Israel. These companies are all top arms manufacturers.
- **Other partners:** Hexagon, Volvo, Allianz, Google DeepMind – linked to arms trade, surveillance, or supporting the Israeli military through their technologies. These have also been named in Francesca Albanese’s report on companies enabling genocide and apartheid.

UN & experts:

- Multiple UN bodies (ICJ, ICC, HRC, OHCHR, GA) now recognise Israel’s actions as *plausible genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and an illegal occupation.*

- UN experts explicitly warn that **states, companies, and institutions may face complicity charges if they continue arms sales, partnerships, or financial support.**
- The UN Special Rapporteur (Franscesca Albanese) explains the occupation of Palestine and highlights the ongoing **economy of genocide**, sustained by corporate and financial businesses.

More information can be found in the [updated NCLP report](#) (Chapter 5)