**Open letter from York St John University UCU Branch to Acting VC at the University of Leeds**

Dear Professor Hai-Sui Yu,

We write to you to express our concern about the situation at the University of Leeds.

Students occupying the Parkinson building have four demands:

1. BAE Systems off campus
2. Leeds University to end partnerships with Israel
3. No war criminals on campus
4. Leeds University to make a strong statement of support of the Palestinian people

We understand that Security was sent to lock the doors on the occupying students early on Friday evening restricting food and medicine from entering the building over the weekend, and preventing other students from using the Brotherton Library to study. This is a very concerning response on the part of the University, and we urge you to cease this draconian approach, listen to the demands of the students and engage with them.

Leeds University is already facing the risk of serious reputational damage and future litigation because of its failure to incorporate the binding Provisional Measures of the International Court of Justice within its university policies and because of its failure to stop its plausible complicity in Israel’s genocide. The student demands have moral and legal weight. It is only a matter of time for this truth to become irrefutable. We, therefore, urge you to correct your course of action as a matter of urgency.

Signed