# Google DeepMind UK staff plan to unionise over AI work with Israeli defence



Staff members at Google DeepMind in the United Kingdom are planning to unionize in response to the company's involvement in providing artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to defence organisations linked to the Israeli government. This development was reported on Saturday by the Financial Times.

Approximately 300 employees based in London have been attempting to join the Communication Workers Union (CWU) in recent weeks, sources familiar with the situation told the Financial Times. The move reflects growing concern among staff over media reports indicating that Google is supplying its cloud services and AI technology to the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

The company’s association with the Israeli military sector has caused unease among these employees. The Financial Times noted that prior to this, Google encountered controversy in relation to its dealings with the Israeli government, particularly last year when it dismissed 28 employees who had protested against a cloud contract with the Israeli authorities.

The New York Post reports that neither Google, Google DeepMind, nor the Communication Workers Union have offered immediate comments on the matter following requests from Reuters.

This situation highlights the tension within Google DeepMind's workforce in London regarding the ethical considerations of deploying AI technologies in defence contexts, especially those involving the Israeli military.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://techcrunch.com/2025/04/26/googles-deepmind-uk-team-reportedly-seeks-to-unionize/> - This article reports on DeepMind UK employees' efforts to unionize in protest of Google's detentions and collaborations with the Israeli military, including a significant cloud computing deal. It also mentions the dissatisfaction among employees due to Google's removal of its commitment against using AI for military or surveillance purposes.
2. <https://www.ainvest.com/news/deepmind-unionization-movement-watershed-moment-ai-ethics-corporate-governance-2504/> - This piece discusses the unionization as a crucial moment for AI ethics and corporate governance, highlighting ethical concerns over Google's decision to sell AI technology to Israeli defense groups, which has sparked discontent among employees.
3. <https://economictimes.com/tech/technology/google-deepmind-uk-staff-to-challenge-defence-deals-and-israel-links-ft-report/articleshow/120646646.cms> - This article supports the claim that around 300 London-based DeepMind employees are planning to unionize and challenge defense deals with Israel following Google's decision to remove a pledge against using AI for military purposes.
4. <https://www.ainvest.com/news/deepmind-dilemma-unionization-ethical-ai-threaten-google-bottom-line-2504/> - This report highlights the significance of the unionization move by DeepMind employees, who are pressing for an end to AI contracts with Israeli defense entities due to concerns about compliance with Google's AI principles.
5. <https://www.aibase.com/news/17551> - This news supports the claim that DeepMind employees are protesting Google's military contracts, such as those with the Israeli Ministry of Defence, leading them to seek unionization.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not providing direct evidence, this source is listed as the original source for the article and could corroborate the basic premise of the story, such as the unionization efforts by DeepMind UK staff.
7. <https://nypost.com/2025/04/27/business/deepmind-uk-staff-to-unionize-and-challenge-deals-with-israel-links-ft-reports/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data