

Things get more difficult every day

Messages from our students in Gaza, January 2021



My name is **Amal Ashour** and I'm a student of pharmacy at the University of Palestine.

Because of the significant and rapid spread of coronavirus in the Gaza Strip, all educational centres and institutions, including universities, have closed and we now have to stay at home. We are continuing our studies through e-learning.



Actually, e-learning has some negatives. I have missed some exams because the internet speed is slow or I can't get connected. It is very stressful for me. I have become even more anxious about the internet not working than about the exams themselves.

My name is **Eman El-Atawna** and I'm also studying pharmacy.

The efforts taken to limit the spread of coronavirus have impacted negatively on the health of people in Gaza and on our economic and social life and on the education sector. And these spheres of life were already suffering and deteriorating in the Gaza Strip.



Universities in Gaza have decided to adopt e-learning, and this has had a negative impact on my academic achievement. The College of Pharmacy is a practical college and some of our courses need to take place inside laboratories. E-learning just cannot give us this practical, hands-on experience. We also have constant interruptions to our internet connection and the applications used by the university for e-learning are not always the best.





My name is **Iba'a Yosif Hamoda** and I'm studying engineering.

Things get more difficult every day. Although I'm used to the electricity getting cut off on a daily basis, the situation is now more difficult as I need to have electricity for long periods of time to be able to run my laptop and continue my studies.

Electronic education was introduced as a result of the lockdown, which has been imposed to limit the spread of coronavirus, but with power cuts and not being able to access the internet I find it difficult to follow the lectures.



I have been suffering terribly from the cold as I need to stay up and study at night and the exams take place at night. The electricity is often cut off. I was able recently to purchase a small battery to run my laptop and sometimes I use the light on my phone to study and take exams. Not going to university is bothering me as I need to communicate with my colleagues and tutors, but my fear of being infected with coronavirus has forced me to stay home all the time.

I hope to be successful in my studies and to meet the expectations of my loved ones, especially my mother who is struggling to provide for all my needs whilst I finish my studies.

I am **Hanady Abu Shawish** and I am studying for a degree in clinical investigations.

This academic year has been completely different to any other, as coronavirus affected all of our education badly. As a



student of clinical investigations, I need practical training and this training has now stopped as a result of the lockdown.



E-learning is insufficient. I have had to postpone my practical training until next year and unfortunately this will delay my graduation from university.

What we need is hope

A message Wafaa El-Derawi, January 2021

I am writing from Gaza which is locked in its own experience of the coronavirus pandemic.

The curfew imposed to limit the spread of Covid-19 in the Gaza Strip is extremely harsh and is not comparable to most lockdown experiences around the world. The situation here has its own peculiarity because here we are already living under a strict siege as a result of the Israeli military occupation. Another form of siege is the internal political fractures and the horrible state of poverty that is overwhelming the Gaza Strip. On top of all of this, we now have Covid-19 to deal with.



Wafaa (left) with SPWSF partner
Mona El-Farra

The dire situation of the health sector, especially shortages of medicines and respirators, makes matters worse. This means we cannot have the experience of coexisting with the virus as can happen in other countries. We have only one option: to ease the illness curve which means imposing lockdown for a long time. This has created a worse financial situation for people in Gaza. Thousands who survive hand-to-mouth have lost their daily work. Now approximately 80% of people in Gaza are unable to secure enough food or to cover their basic needs.

When I went out for the first time during lockdown, the sight of the empty hollow streets reminded me of the 2014 Israeli military attacks on the Gaza Strip. I saw the same empty streets, same few pale faces, same frustration and fear of the unknown. But maybe what's happening now is even worse and I feel terrified seeing more and more people fall below the poverty line. The lockdown has also impacted on education. Many university students in the Gaza Strip do not have adequate access to the internet and so are prevented from enrolling in virtual classes. Even if they do have access to the internet, there are constant power outages and they often have to stay up through the night, waiting for when the electricity will be available. Only then can they take their courses and make contact with their lecturers through e-learning. On top of all this, many students do not have their own laptops. A good number of students postponed their courses because they were unable to continue their studies electronically.

It has been a most difficult year for the Scholarship Fund students, but receiving a Sheffield scholarship does ease the financial and psychological stress that they are under. Our students are helped towards completing their studies and achieving a part of their ambitions. Many obstacles may lie ahead, but it's always good to start somewhere.

Through the Sheffield scholarships, we are supporting the most vulnerable students. It is these students who need to feel and to know that they have not been forgotten, whilst the whole

world is preoccupied with fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We give them hope for a better future and this is what we need right now: HOPE.

Wafaa El-Derawi volunteers with the Scholarship Fund in Gaza and is our link to the Fund's Gazan students. We are enormously grateful to her for all she does to keep the Fund running smoothly.



The main road of Nusseirat refugee camp in Gaza, November 2020. Arabic reads: “protect yourself, stay at home, wear a face mask and socially distance”. (AP Photo/Adel Hana)

Detention of women students



Layan Kayed

In October 2020 Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (together with Addameer Prisoner Support and the Human Rights Association) submitted a complaint to the United Nations over the arbitrary detention by the Israeli military of three female students, Layan Kayed, Elyaa Abu Hijla and Ruba Asi, who have been held in continuous military detention since 8 June, 1 July and 9 July 2020.

The three young women are full-time students at Birzeit University and now await trial. They were charged with attending a meeting of a legitimate university student group and were all detained within a month, indicating a possible targeting of female students. In December 2019 Shatha Hasan, head of Birzeit University Student's Union Council was arrested at her home in the middle of the night and was held in continuous military detention without charge or trial on the basis of 'secret evidence' until late May 2020. Like Elyaa, Ruba and Layan, Shatha had no previous experience of Israeli military custody.

We long for this pandemic to end

Messages from our West Bank students, November 2020

Fatma Nidal Radwan Abbas

Virtual learning is difficult. We benefit much more from attending classes and having face-to-face contact with our tutors. The internet is unstable and it cuts off during lectures and exams. It is very difficult for us. I don't have the internet at home. We use our neighbour's internet connection. Therefore, to attend an online class or lecture, I have to stand by the window. It's a hassle. And there are difficulties in how the university organises the exams. We are not allowed to go back over the questions and our answers, and we do not have enough time to complete everything. Being virtual, we are rushed. And then my laptop audio stopped functioning. I took it to a shop for repair, and I am hoping I will get it back before the exams.



In order to study, I have to kick my family members out of the room. I force myself to concentrate. I am studying economics and it's a tough course. To keep up I have no choice but to work at my studies.

We have also had Covid-19 in the Amari refugee camp where I live and we've had other difficulties too. My uncles got arrested during a confrontation when Israeli forces came into the camp.

I am determined to go on with my studies. I get the strength from myself. I am really motivated. Continuing my education is a given. I am the first sibling in my family to go to university.



Dalia Nasser

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we lost an entire semester. We were told to stay at home from March until the second semester started. We were supposed to benefit from online teaching, but we missed a lot.

I'm studying music and it is just not feasible to be taught virtually. You cannot learn music via a computer screen. The tutor has to be present in class and students have to do face-to-face work. Students need to observe. We got maybe 50% benefit, or only 30% benefit, from online learning. They tried to condense the second semester but it placed a lot

of pressure on us. Everyone feared another lockdown, but we couldn't complete in a month what we had missed during the entire previous semester. In addition, courses complement one another. You're not going to learn and fully comprehend the content of a new course if you haven't first completed the previous one. It's like you're building on something that doesn't have a base. We were always in a rush in case there was another lockdown. There was a real feeling of rush, rush, rush, make up for what you've missed, make up, make up.

Our tutors have been very flexible and keen to meet our needs. If students didn't want to attend classes, the tutors have kept in touch through the internet. In fact they did their very best to compensate for what we had missed and to help us. All the teaching staff have been very supportive. That's been nice. They are mostly from Jerusalem and it hasn't been easy for them as the restrictions have been tighter in Jerusalem and they had a second lockdown.



Wiam Hameidan

The pandemic has put everyone under a great deal of pressure. As students we've faced difficulties in comprehending what's covered in our courses because everything is being taught virtually. Students concentrate better when they are in class and have face-to-face interaction with a tutor. Online lectures are boring and at home students are under pressure and stress. It's boring to be glued to your computer screen.

I have also missed classes and exams due to having no internet connection when the electricity stops. This is very annoying. The internet disconnects a lot and is very unstable.

The psychological pressure is the hardest thing we're facing. A person with a relaxed psychological state of mind can achieve more in life. In addition, we are unable to participate and to be active in our community when we are locked in the house 24 hours a day. We cannot participate in organisations or take part in activities like we used to when we could go into the university.

We long for this pandemic to end and to be able to go back to our normal way of life, going into the university and resuming our social life with our friends. We miss our friends.

But each individual has a goal in life and, despite all the difficulties, we must keep working to fulfil this goal. I am studying computer engineering and I love my field of study. I like to develop myself. I would like to have a prominent role in society. Many people go through life anonymously as if a passer-by, never being recognised because they are not active in their community. As for me, I aspire to be someone who is actively involved in society and whose name is known. So many people live and die without ever being someone.



This year's scholarships

This year we are again supporting **58** students in Gaza and **3** in the West Bank – a total of **61**. We are indebted to our partners in Palestine who, despite all the difficulties of the pandemic, have continued to administer the Fund. There could be no awards ceremony in Gaza this year, but we hope one will take place in 2021 for the next intake of students.

Our congratulations go to all of our students for persisting with their studies and to the **14** students who graduated this year, who are listed below.

	Name	Address	University	Subject	Amount (\$)
Gaza students we are continuing to support from September 2016					
1	Ayat Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed	Nuseirat camp	Islamic University.	Engineering	1000
Gaza students we are continuing to support from September 2017					
2	Duha Jamal Abdulrahman Abu Hayya	Nuseirat camp	Al-Aqsa University	English Teaching	300
3	Rawan Faraj Abdulqader Abu Shammala	Nuseirat camp	Al-Quds University	Accounting	600
4	Abeer Anwar Khalil Maleha	Gaza City	Al-Quds University	Health Administration	600
5	Salsabeel Salman Hassan Abu Rashed	Nuseirat camp	Palestine University	Business Administration	600
6	Nehal Fouad Nabhan Salama	Nuseirat camp	Palestine University	Teaching English	600
7	Reham Bassam Abdulsame' Abu Seef	Nuseirat camp	Palestine University	Law	600
8	Eman Arrar Mohammed El-Atawna	Nuseirat camp	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy	1000
9	Anwar Saed Sobhi Abu Jalhom	Gaza City	Al-Azhar University	Teaching Arabic	600
10	Israa Ra'fat Ameer Abed	Gaza City	Al-Azhar University	Applied Sciences	600
11	Shorouq Hassan Mohammed El-Awadi	Jabalia Camp	Al-Azhar University	Psychotherapy	600
12	Noor Nael Shehda Abu Obeida	Gaza	Al-Azhar University	Clinical Investigations	800
13	Norhan Khaled Tawfeeq El-Ghaffari	Nuseirat camp	Al-Israa University	Business Administration	600
Gaza students we are continuing to support from September 2018					
14	Nahla Mohammed Hassan Ahmed	Maghazi	Palestine University	Law	600
15	Noor Mohammed Ibrahim Rayan	Deir El-Balah	Al-Azhar University	Dentistry	1000

16	Ghalia Ghalib Gabr Abu Khaled	Zwaida	Islamic University	Nursing	600
17	Manar Nafez Mahmud Al-Saidy	Bureij	Islamic University	Nursing	600
18	Remaz Ahmed Zaher Farj Allah	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	English Literature	600
19	Hadeel Gamal Abdullah Abu Haya	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Arabic Teaching	500
20	Hanady Mahmud Khalil Abu Shawish	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	Clinical Investigations	500
21	Lamia Anwar Abdulhameed Abu Hezien	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Accounting	500
22	Rola Borham Mohammed El-Quraan	Zwaida	Al-Aqsa University	Nursing	500
23	Malak Ibrahim Ibrahim Qnanish	Khan Younis	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	1000
24	Rawan Ali Abdulmajeed Abu Shawish	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	Translation	600
25	Lama Hussein Nady Hamad	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Accounting	600
26	Samaher Akram Abdulsalam Ali	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Teaching English	600
27	Marwa Mamdouh Ibrahim Ba'alousha	Zwaida	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy	1000
28	Ola Khairi Abdulrahma Abu Habid	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Pharmacy	1000
29	Iba'a Yosif Mohammed Hamoda	Khan Younis	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	600
30	Eliaa Ibrahim Ibrahim Al-Fasees	Gaza City	Al-Quds University	Information Technology	600
31	Haya Mohammed Gasem El-Assar	Nuseirat	Islamic University	Mathematics Education	600
32	Alaa Maher Fahmy Al-Ghreez	Nuseirat	Palestine University	Information Technology	600
33	Lina Abdullah Mahmud Awadallah	Gaza City	Islamic University	Engineering	1000
34	Rima Fayez Ali Al-Thawabta	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration	500
35	Yasmin Baker Ismail Shaheen	Bureij	Al-Aqsa University	Teaching Arabic	300
36	Nehad Raed Ahmed Al-Jadbah	Gaza City	Al-Aqsa University	Chemistry	500
37	Rozan Nahed Abdulrahman Matar	Gaza City	Al-Azhar University	English Literature	600
38	Rania Khaled Tawfiq El-Ghafari	Beit Lahia	Al-Aqsa University	Clinical Investigations	300

39	Noor El-Huda Amin Esmat El-Borno	Gaza City	Al-Aqsa University	Business Administration	500
40	Asmaa Iz El-Dein Abdeen	Khan Younis	Al-Aqsa University	Teaching Arabic	500
41	Rouand Jaber Ibrahim Abu Saeed	Bureij	Al-Quds University	Primary Education	600
Gaza students we are continuing to support from September 2019					
42	Amal Abdulralim Mutleq Ashour	Nuseirat	Palestine University	Pharmacy	1000
43	Shadia Yasir Mohammed Shmed	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	Psychotherapy	250
44	Ola Ibrahim Mohammed El-Shaltawi	Jabalia	Al-Quds University	English Education	600
Gaza students we are continuing to support from September 2020					
45	Hala Mohamed Mosa Al-Ramadi	Deir El-Balah	Al-Aqsa University	Design and decoration	500
46	Aya Mohammed Salama Abu Mandil	Maghazi camp	Al-Aqsa University	Sociology	500
47	Sabreen Salah Nada Al-Rabiah	Beit Hanoun	Al-Quds University	Nursing	600
48	May Mohammed Mohammed Madi	Gaza City	Palestine University	Pharmacy	900
49	Dina Loay Saadi Zaanin	Beit Hanoun	Al-Quds University	Information Technology	600
50	Shahed Zead Alyan Darwish	Nuseirat camp	Palestine University	Pharmacy	900
51	Tasneem Kamal Ibrahim Dowidar	Gaza City	Islamic University	Islamic law	600
52	Randa Rami Fathy Al-Dawahid	Nuseirat camp	Al-Aqsa University	Mathematics	500
53	Dima Darwish Abdel-Razek Al-Majdalawi	Nuseirat camp	Al-Quds University	Information technology	600
54	Zikraa Ezat Ahmed Abu Swireh	Zwaida area	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	600
55	Bayan Yoseef Mohammed Abdel Aal	Deir El-Balah	Al-Aqsa University	Nursing	500
56	Mai Hassan Abdel Salam Al-Hamlawi	Al-Burij camp	Islamic University	Telecommunications engineering	600
57	Mona Atef Hassan Salaha	Deir El-Balah	Palestine Technical College	Computer Engineering	600
58	Aya Akram Hussain El-Edeni	Deir El Balah	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	500
West Bank students we are continuing to support from Sept 2020					
59	Fatma Abbas	Amari Camp	Bir Zeit University	Economics	1700 *

60	Dalia Nasser	Deheisheh Camp	Bir Zeit University	Music	1025*
61	Wiam Hameidan	Beata – south of Nablus	Al-Najah University	Computer Engineering	1025*
Students who graduated in 2020					
1	Aseel Nedal Mohammed Shahin	Nuseirat	Al-Aqsa University	English Teaching	
2	Hanaa Atef Hassan Salha	Deir-El-Balah	Al-Aqsa University	Primary Education	
3	Ritta Reyad Ahmed El-Looh	Bureij	Al-Quds University	English Literature	
4	Karama Hassan Mohammed El-Da'or	Jabalia	Uni. Of Palestine	Pharmacy	
5	Rasha Anwer Hassan Salha	Jabalia	Al-Azhar University	Applied Science	
6	Lubna Abdelkhaleq Ali El-Farra	Khan Younis	Al-Azhar University	Engineering	
7	Areej Mohammed Madi	Gaza City	Al-Azhar University	Accounting	
8	Deena Soheil Omar El-Tanani	Gaza City	Al-Azhar University	English Teaching	
9	Tasneem Naser Juma Darweish	Maghazi	Al-Quds University	Accounting	
10	Alaa Naser Hassan Zuqat	Nuseirat	Al-Quds University	Primary Education	
11	Amal Mahmud Rizq Seyam	Nuseirat	Al-Azhar University	Nursing	
12	Reham Sobhi Mohammed Nassar	Gaza City	Islamic University	Clinical Investigations	
13	Amal Maher Ahmed El-Sayed	Bureij	Gaza University	Business Administration	
14	Waed Bahjat Nayef Abu Sawirh	Zwaida	Islamic University	Nursing	

*This is the allocation for the first semester. A total of £8000 has been transferred to the West Bank to support 3 students in their second year. Allocations for the second semester are yet to be confirmed.



Participants in the Covid-19 safe **Small Park BIG RUN** event, June 2020. See page 14 for more details.

Women in Gaza break down work barriers

Naela Abu Jibba, the first female taxi driver in Gaza, has been undeterred by the criticism she has faced for going against gender stereotypes.



Photos: Ashraf Amra/Al Jazeera

As reported in November 2020 on the Al Jazeera website, Naela Abu Jibba, 39 and a mother of five, found herself amongst hundreds of women in Gaza who are unable to find a job in an economy on the brink of collapse. So Naela decided to create her own job and to become the first female taxi driver in the Gaza Strip – taking only women passengers.

Naela recently graduated from university in Gaza. “I got married at a young age and after my children grew up I went to university to study social science.” Naela hoped then to find a job connected to her degree, but unsurprisingly this proved difficult. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in the first quarter of 2020 the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip was 45.5%, and amongst women 62.1%.

Naela’s job as a driver has not been easy. “Many male drivers and people in Gaza started to attack me on social media or while driving as they didn’t like the idea of me driving a taxi, although many other women are driving freely in Gaza. I have faced a lot of obstacles – especially with my family – but I will continue my work.”



Salma al-Najjar, 15, is another pioneer. She is the first female petrol station attendant in Khan Younis, a conservative area of Gaza, ruled by Hamas since 2007.

Salma is challenging the rules in her society that restrict some professions to men. “With the support of my family, my first goal is to contribute to a much needed change in the community’s ideas about women’s work. I don’t have a financial need for this job, but I believe a woman should have a freedom of choice. We can do different and difficult jobs

and we should be free to get an income from any dignified source that we can find.” Salma added that whilst she had received support from many people on social media, “I have encountered a lot of objection and bullying of me as a girl.”



Saddleworth Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

We felt it was more important than ever this year to keep up our fundraising efforts. This turned



out to be both challenging and rewarding with the pandemic forcing us to change our plans and to develop our IT skills so that we could engage with people at a distance.

We are pleased to report a level of success that surprised us and this is testament once again to the generosity of our supporters and their commitment to the students the Scholarship Fund supports.

Our Spring Event of 2020 was held on the 17th May, via Zoom. There were about 60 participants and we

Spring solidarity event poster

displayed the names of the Fund's students and their university subjects on homemade signs, as a demonstration of solidarity with our students at this most testing of times.

It was uplifting to see so many people come together virtually to show their support. Our IT expert Bash Din took a screenshot during the event, which he then made into a poster and slideshow. This was shared on social media and via email and the response on social media was incredible with donations and messages of support coming from the Middle East as well as from around the UK. The event brought in over £1000.

Our Autumn Event was again an online affair, this time in the form of a do-it-yourself 'Picnic4Palestine'. Participants gave a donation and in return received a pack of information including recipes, cultural resources, our annual report, and information about life in Palestine today. Participants then set up their own individual events over the first weekend in October – in household groups or online with friends and family. Participants made good use of the Palestinian recipes, listened to Palestinian music, and discussed the information we had provided. They also sent in photos of their events for us to share online. Once again, we had a

fantastic response with over 30 people requesting the packs and many more taking part. The event raised nearly £3000.

This year we also organised an online sale of homemade preserves, donated by one of our supporters, which raised over £100. In addition, we received a number of donations from individuals as well as from Shropshire Friends of Palestine, Bolton NEU Branch, and Manchester PSC.

We have 33 people giving regular donations, which amounted to over £4000 in 2020. In total we raised over £9000 for the Scholarship Fund in 2020.

Our organising committee has grown again and we are very pleased to welcome our new member, Maggie Magner. Maggie has been a loyal supporter for many years, attending and helping at all our events. Her knowledge and dedication to the Palestinian cause will be an asset to us.



Picnic4Palestine poster

Saddleworth PWSF Committee - Michele Abendstern (Secretary), Anne Forster, Jacqui Greenfield (Treasurer), Sarah Hey, Catherine Holland (Chair), Maggie Magner, Magda Sachs and Sue Warrington



Bolton Socialist Club

Along with many other organisations, it's been a difficult year for Bolton Socialist Club. The club itself closed its doors in March 2020 and in all probability won't open them again before March 2021. This has drastically curtailed all our usual activities, including fund raising. However, support for the Scholarship Fund remains strong and over the twelve month period we raised approximately £450 for the Fund, mainly through individual donations. Hopefully in the coming year we'll be able to return to the kind of fund-raising events we've organised in previous years. In the meantime, we send our best wishes to our other partners. It was good to see many of you at the virtual AGM.

Neil Duffield



Rotherham Friends of Palestine

The Rotherham Friends of Palestine group has not been able to hold any fund-raising events this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, this does not mean that we have not thought about the students and we have been delighted to read of their successes. We are full of admiration for their determination and passion in pursuing their studies in such a difficult year.

We have continued to receive generous individual donations enabling us to contribute to the Scholarship Fund and we have also shared information and news about the Palestinian situation and the Scholarship Fund. One of our members took part in the **Small Park, BIG RUN** event for the first time. We wish all the students well in 2021 during these very challenging times.

Patricia White



Patricia White, who walked 63 kilometres round her local streets for **Small Park BIG RUN**: a kilometre for every student sponsored. It took 3 weeks!



Small Park BIG RUN

Because of the pandemic, the annual **Small Park BIG RUN** went 'virtual' this year. It took place between midday June 21st and midday June 22nd with participants signing up to do any activity of their choosing. The range was stunning: hill walking, swimming, cycling, cake baking, knitting, poetry writing, and much more.

The Scholarship Fund recruited a team of volunteers who covered every hour of the 24 and sent in photos of themselves doing their chosen activity. See http://www.sheffieldpsc.org.uk/?page_id=2421. Altogether around 500 people signed up for the event, which raised more money than ever before. The Scholarship Fund shares the proceeds with the Khuza'a Children's Play and Heal project in Gaza.

Activities were organised in Palestine to run at the same time and people signed up from as far afield as New Zealand. At the end of the 24 hours there was a very moving Zoom rally involving the Palestinians who had put on activities in Ramallah, Nablus, Gaza and Bethlehem and the Sheffield Lord Mayor and local MP Louise Haigh took part.

Date for your diary: next year **Small Park BIG RUN** will take place on 19-20 June 2021, when we hope it will be back in Meersbrook Park.



A BIG thank you

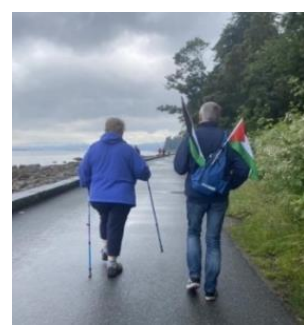
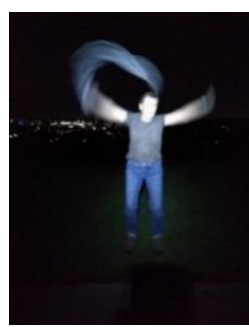
In July 2020 we sent **£31,000** to Gaza to cover **58** scholarships. This sum also included a 5% admin fee to Afaq Jadeeda and bank charges. We sent **£8000** to the West Bank, which covered **3** scholarships and bank charges – we pay no admin fee. Our thanks go to all our donors and to anyone who donated time, money or other support to the Fund, including:

- ✚ All those who have maintained or taken out a standing order. We so value these regular donations. It means we can plan ahead and also claim gift aid from HMRC.
- ✚ Everyone who has made a one-off donation or fundraised. An especial thank you goes to an anonymous donor who has made a second gift of £10,000.
- ✚ Sheila Abdullah, a Fund supporter from the very start, who has very sadly died. Sheila left the Fund a legacy of £500 for which we are most grateful. Sheila often spoke up for the rights of Palestinian women and was a champion for women's health. Our sympathies go to her family and friends.



Sheila Abdullah

- ✚ Supporters in Bolton, Saddleworth and Rotherham, in the Palestine Education Network at Sheffield Hallam University and in the University of Sheffield Palestine Society.
- ✚ Everyone who signed up for the **Small park BIG RUN** in June 2020 and then organised their own, DIY activity. The event raised a fantastic £4253 for the Fund. Small Park BIG RUN will be back on June 19/20th 2021. See: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/smallparkbigrun/>



- ✚ Organisations that have supported us including Sheffield and Rotherham National Education Union (NEU), Interfaith for Palestine, Fulwood Labour Party. *If you are a member of an organisation and would like someone from the Scholarship Fund to speak at one of your meetings, please get in touch.*
- ✚ People for Print, who print the newsletter so beautifully and never charge us full price.



Thinking of raising sponsorship for the Scholarship Fund?

We are registered on **Virgin Money Giving** so it's very easy.

Just go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/> and use the search facility to find Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund.

How the Fund works

The Fund is managed in Sheffield by a small coalition of women working in partnership with the Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign, and in Gaza by a panel drawn from the Board of Directors of the Red Crescent Society and the Union of Health Work Committees, with administrative support from Afaq Jadeeda. In West Bank we work with a committee of women, all of whom are active around women's education and employment. We route our payments for scholarships in the West Bank through the Teachers Creativity Centre based in Ramallah.

In Gaza candidates for scholarships are nominated by their local community centre and are either ready to enter university or are in the first or second year of a course but unable to continue for financial reasons. There are strict selection criteria for the Scholarship Fund, which include having attained 65% or above in high school grades, socio-economic background, commitment to the community, and personal and family circumstances such as a recent home demolition, or war injuries.

Our partners in the West Bank have adapted these criteria for their own student selection process and, as in Gaza, they keep in contact with the scholarship students and help them overcome problems in completing their courses, i.e. not being able to afford transport, books, equipment etc. Our partners can sometimes access other small amounts of funding to cover these additional costs.

In Britain the Fund's supporters make donations or monthly contributions through a standing order and/or by organising or taking part in fundraising events. Any contribution is much appreciated. Standing orders are particularly welcome as they enable us to estimate our income more accurately and to plan.



The Fund's organising group

How to contact us

You can contact the Scholarship Fund on sheffieldpwsf@yahoo.co.uk or by writing to SPWSF, 124 Cliffe Road, Sheffield S8 9DN.

If you wish to take out a standing order with your bank, our bank details are:
Yorkshire Bank, account name: Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund
Sort code: 05 08 68
Account number: 33288777
Reference: your name.

Please contact us if you do take out a standing order. In order for the Fund to claim back any tax you may have paid on your donation/standing order, can you please supply your name, address and postcode and indicate that you are a tax payer and wish the Fund to claim gift aid. Our charity number is 1133499.

Thank you for your support.