

How to set up a standing order

To set up a standing order you need to complete two steps. Unfortunately, we cannot set up a standing order for you.

Step 1: Fill in the details below and send them to your bank.

Instruction to your bank/building society to pay by standing order:

Name of bank

Bank address

Account no

Sort code

Signature

I would like to make a regular monthly standing order of: £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £15 ☐

other (please specify) £

Account name:
Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund
Bank: Yorkshire Bank - Virgin Money
Sort code: 05 08 68
Account number: 33288777

Step 2: Email or write to SPWSF telling us you have set up a standing order. We will then contact you about whether you wish to receive email updates on the Fund and whether we can claim gift aid on your contribution.

Contact us

email: sheffieldpwsf@yahoo.co.uk
address: SPWSF, 124 Cliffe Road, Sheffield S8 9DN.
web: www.sheffieldpwsf.org.uk for information on the Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Click on 'Our Campaigns' for info on the Scholarship Fund.

How the Fund works

The Fund is managed in Sheffield by a small coalition of women. We work in partnership with Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Saddleworth Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund, Bolton Socialist Club, Sheffield Palestine Education Network and Rotherham Friends of Palestine.

In Gaza the Fund is administered by a panel drawn from the Board of Directors of the Red Crescent Society and the Union of Health Work Committees. A community-based organisation, Afaq Jadeeda, provides admin support. In West Bank a committee has been formed to administer the Fund, including representatives from Birzeit University Women's Studies Department, Sunbula and the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA).

There are strict criteria for student selection. In Gaza candidates are nominated by their local community centre. They must have attained 65% or above in their school exams and be from families that cannot afford university fees. Active involvement in the local community is also a requirement and family circumstances, such as a recent home demolition, are taken into account. In the West Bank similar criteria will be adopted.

How to support the Fund

- By making a monthly contribution through a standing order.
- By giving a one-off donation – some supporters ask for donations in lieu of birthday gifts and others take part in sponsored events.
- By organising or taking part in a fundraising event. We are happy to send speakers.
- By leaving the Fund a gift in your will.

Any contribution is much appreciated. Standing orders are particularly welcome as they enable us to plan.

Thank you for your support.



Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund



Supporting women
in Palestine to
access education

charity number 1133499

History of the Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

The idea for the Fund came out of a 'Palestinian Women Speak' event held in Sheffield in 2006. Dr Mona El Farra (Union of Health Work Committees and Red Crescent Society Board Member in Gaza) talked about the hurdles young Palestinian women face in accessing higher education. She told us about how life-enhancing the experience of university can be. Palestine can only gain, she said, if more young women are equipped to take on professional and leadership roles.

Using money raised by the event, the Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund (SPWSF) was born, a small group of women becoming its steering group. In 2007, our first year, we supported just 3 students to go to university. By 2018 we were sponsoring 65 women per year to study in the Gaza Strip. We became a charity in 2010, enabling us to seek gift aid and boost our funds.



"I am very proud of this project, because I have always believed that education is the key to empowering women in our society – with or without the constraints of the Israeli occupation."
Dr Mona el Farra, Gaza.



What is the Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund?

The Fund enables women in Palestine, who would otherwise not be able to, to access higher education. We focus on women because many families, given the high cost of higher education and the poverty and unemployment in Palestine, tend to concentrate what resources they have on their sons.

All SPWSF students attend universities in Palestine. Until 2019 we worked solely in the Gaza Strip. Here a university education can greatly diminish the suffocation and isolation that Gazans feel. As one of our students said: "through education we discover the world." From 2019 we will be offering a small number of scholarships to women from marginalised communities in the West Bank.



We raise funds for scholarships through running events and by encouraging supporters to take out monthly standing orders or to make donations. We also receive one-off donations (including legacies).

Feedback from SPWSF students

Iman Rashid Abu Hajar

Iman received a scholarship to study English and education at the Islamic University in Gaza. "As a woman, education has enhanced my place in society. Through English I can be a voice for my community. I find it necessary or even obligatory to communicate what happens here to the world."



Israa Abed

Israa received a scholarship to study applied sciences in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Al-Azhar University. "When the Sheffield scholarship came along it felt like a gift from heaven. University has opened up new horizons in my life and introduced me to a whole world of knowledge, friendship and enjoyment. Being a student has also given me greater self-confidence."



Hadeel Hassan

Hadeel received a scholarship to study Arabic at the Islamic University in Gaza. "I wouldn't have believed I would go to university. You cannot imagine the psychological relief the scholarship provided. That's why I'm thankful to everyone who helped me. So all thanks, appreciation and respect goes to those wonderful women in Sheffield."

