

Sheffield PSC:

The Healing Centre, Khuza'a, the Gaza Strip, Palestine.

Special edition Newsletter
2021

Sheffield **PALESTINE**
solidarity campaign



MIDDLE EAST CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

[MECA](#) is a highly respected registered international charity, working for children's rights. It raises funds used for medical, educational, play, clean water and other humanitarian aid to the Middle East.

Breaking news: Sheffield PSC and the Middle East Children's Alliance ([MECA](#)) working in partnership for the Healing Centre in Khuza'a

In our Summer Newsletter, we reported that our next funding target was to raise enough sustainable funding to add two professional psychologists to the existing staff and volunteers at the Healing Centre in Khuza'a. This Centre is part of the Never Stop Dreaming Charity Association, which we also support. (Never Stop Dreaming is a community organization, in Khan Younis, working with children by providing them with play facilities, musical equipment, books, computer access and education.)

Now we are delighted to announce that MECA has offered to **match fund our contributions** to employ two psychologists and provide the essential materials and equipment they need. The psychologists will also work with families, especially the mothers of traumatised children, extending the benefits of their work more widely. In 2019, the women of Khuza'a identified the need for such support to Musheir El-Farra of Sheffield PSC when he visited: **we are responding to their call.**

And, we ask you to join with us and make this happen.

Why Khuza'a?



Two images show Khuza'a after Israeli attacks, all witnessed by the children.

The Healing Centre was built in Khuza'a for a reason. This small village, very close to the "border" built by Israel, has seen some of the worst atrocities of recent years. Farmers at work are attacked on a weekly basis by Israel's army. In 2008/2009, and again in 2014, Khuza'a was ruthlessly bombed, invaded and occupied in by the Israeli army. Major international bodies describe what happened here (and elsewhere in Gaza) as war crimes, crimes which the international Criminal Court is set to investigate. And the adults and children who survived must learn to live with the legacy.

Building in Khuza'a

Every Palestinian will instantly understand the significance of Sheffield PSC's choice of Khuza'a as the place to build a Healing Centre.

This small place experienced the worst of the worst: people killed in their homes; others forced to flee and shot as they sought safety; ambulances prevented from reaching the injured; homes occupied and vandalised; fathers and brothers subjected to enforced and humiliating nakedness; one family fled their home and found shelter, only to have 20 members wiped out in a single Israeli night raid.

Save the Children's report, "[A Decade of Distress](#)," captured the consequences of such experiences: "...it is clear that the ongoing instability and feelings of entrapment have left many children and young people in Gaza with a deep sense of insecurity, fear and hopelessness, and have had a profound impact on their mental health and well-being."

In the preface to "Gaza: When the Sky Rained Fire" by Musheir El-Farra, Ilan Pappé spoke about the children of Gaza "... whose dreams and childhoods had been ruined, but maybe not forever - one hopes a different future awaits them."

Our friends in the Yemeni women's community, in Chesterfield and in Manchester PSC have worked with us to do our bit to turn hope into reality by building this centre.



The Healing Centre: our contribution to the future.

Will you to help us raise enough to fund two psychologists for the sustainable future? Thanks to MECA, every £1 we gather will be doubled.

Mental Health professionals in Gaza, like Dr. Ussamah Frinah, will welcome new colleagues into the service. And you can support the project in so many ways:

- a small fundraising event with family or friends
- a garden tea or an evening meal
- a sponsored sports activity or challenge
- a table-top sale
- a monthly donation by Standing Order
- a one-off gift, when you can.

If you would like to donate, please use this account:

**SPACE (Sheffield Palestine Cultural Exchange).
Account number: 33129312. Sort Code: 05 08 18**

