FRIENDSHIP 8 TWINNING

BRITAIN PALESTINE FRIENDSHIP AND TWINNING NETWORK

WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP AND TWINNING?

Friendship and twinning links with Palestine are connections between people from different parts of the UK and Palestine, set up to exchange experiences, share culture, develop friendships and express solidarity. Connections are often place based, but can be based on a shared interest such as cooking, cycling, shared religious beliefs or links between arts, sports and educational groups. Twinning and friendship with Palestine is an important way to show support, engage with, listen to, and learn from people who are affected by the Israeli occupation, and to find out how to help change things.



WHY DO IT?

- Friendship or formal twinning is a wonderful and constructive way to show your support, solidarity and appreciation of Palestinian people and their culture.
- It is a two way learning, sharing and exchange process between people from both Britain and Palestine.
- It is all about human connections and building friendships between people from all walks of life.
- Friendship and twinning offers hope, raises awareness and gets the stories of real people who are affected by the Israeli occupation every day, heard in the UK.



GET STARTED

- You'll need a small group of people with a bit of time and a lot of enthusiasm, in your local area or who are connected by a social, professional, cultural or other link (e.g. a church, a sports club, a choir or a school)
- You'll need a link to a place or similar group in Palestine - but don't worry if you don't have one, we can help you build these links.
- <u>Talk to us</u> to see how we can help with your next steps whether it's planning your kick off event, attracting people to join your group, connecting with Palestine online or by visiting, or anything else. We can connect you to other groups who can help to get you started.



FIND OUT MORE

- Britain Palestine Friendship and Twinning Network <u>website</u>
- <u>Contact us</u> with any questions or for a chat - we'd love to hear from you.
- Existing groups who can offer support or advice include <u>Camden Abu Dis Friendship</u> <u>Association, West Wales Friends</u> <u>of Palestine, Dundee Nablus</u> <u>Twinning Association, Oxford</u> <u>Ramallah Friendship Association</u>
- You can find up to date news and stories from Palestine from <u>EAPPI</u> and <u>Amnesty UK</u>

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MAKE FRIENDS, BUILD SOLIDARITY, INSPIRE HOPE



TOP TIPS FROM EXISTING GROUPS

- Act with trust, sensitivity and a sense of humour!
- It doesn't matter if your group is big or small friendship and solidarity is always powerful.
 It helps if you can have an English speaker in your Palestine group and/or an Arabic speaker in the UK group.
- The more local connections with different people and different groups both in the UK and in Palestine, the better e.g. with women's groups, sports, arts and cultural groups, academic, religious and business organisations etc.
- Cultural visits and exchanges work really well- meeting people face to face and online via Zoom or WhatsApp keeps the connections strong; people are very digitall connected which is great!
- If you chose to fundraise as a group ask people in Palestine what they would find useful and make sure your projects are sustainable. Set realistic targets and manage expectations.
- Variety is the spice of life- keep your events and activities fresh and interesting; e.g. film nights, online theatre or choir exchanges, festivals, food events, talks, walks etc.
- Building links with other groups in the UK helps- you can learn and share ideas
- Keep your group's membership and committee 'fresh', recruit new people to both
- If you're going for a formal twinning relationship, official delegations are really useful and important in building connections at the right level.

"Twinning is a way of bringing the voices of Palestinians, to allow them to speak directly in their own words. It is an an act of friendship and solidarity. Twinning is a community relationship, linking schools, students, women's groups, churches and mosques, professional groups, and football teams." - Liverpool Bi'lin twinning

The Britain Palestine Friendship and Twinning Network (BPFTN)

is a membership network of around 35 different friendship and twinning groups which vary in size, location, activities and approaches but all have the common aim of building friendships and acting in solidarity with the Palestinian people. We are available to help you set up or reawaken your group- please get in touch!

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