

Registered Charity Number: 1133499

Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

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Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

Committee Report

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022.

The members of the Trustees during the year were;

Val Johnson - Chairperson
Sara Gowen - Treasurer/Secretary
Catherine Gaze
Hilary Smith
Beverley Booker

Principal address

124 Cliffe Road
Sheffield
S8 9DN

Bank

Yorkshire Bank
681 Chesterfield Road Sheffield
SB ORY

Independent examiner

ENOVION Ltd
Ashlea,
High Street,
Calver,
Hope Valley,
S32 3XP.

Management committee's responsibilities for the financial statements

The management committee are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and of the surplus or deficit of the group for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee are required to:

a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and enable the management committee to prepare financial statements. The management committee are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

Trustee Report

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022

This year's scholarships

Thanks to the incredible and ongoing generosity of our supporters we have been able to award a record **75** scholarships this year. **68** scholarships went to young women in Gaza and **7** to young women in the West Bank. We are delighted that an anonymous donation of £10,000, received in 2020, enabled us to sponsor four new students in the West Bank.

We are enormously grateful to our partners in Palestine, who have continued to administer the Fund despite the pandemic and all the difficulties they face. And our students are amazing! Their determination and their dedication to their studies is a constant source of inspiration. We offer especial congratulations to the **15** students who graduated this year in Gaza.

Messages from our students in Gaza

Amal Abdulralim Ashour is studying to be a pharmacist at the University of Palestine:

This last year was difficult as the measures taken to limit the spread of COVID-19 had a great impact on us psychologically and emotionally. Every moment there was a possibility of losing a loved one, which made us constantly anxious, but thanks to God I did not lose any of my family.

I definitely felt more isolated at the university, during the period when classes were held online, because of the reduced social contact with both students and lecturers. This affected me a great deal as it was my first semester at the university and I hadn't yet got to know the other students and lecturers. But the situation is now better and more stable. Classes are held in person and students and lecturers have begun to get to know one another

The Israeli attacks in May 2021 also had a very bad effect on my psyche. Every moment I was worrying about losing someone.

Despite all these difficult circumstances, I motivate myself to study and to continue because this is the only way to survive and to build my future. I appreciate the efforts of the women of Sheffield who know, as we do, that education is the best choice for a decent life. Thank you for going on supporting our education.

Norhan Khaled Tawfiq El-Ghafari is studying business administration at Al-Israa University:

I've already had quite a bit of work experience and I have done many courses related to my field of study. It was not easy when COVID-19 appeared. I had many plans and projects in mind. COVID-19 also affected me psychologically. I was very afraid for my loved ones. I was afraid of losing them or harming them and I often needed support from my friends, but I could not see them because of the restrictions that were imposed. I became very depressed but now the situation is better, the restrictions have eased and I go out with my friends while taking the necessary precautions.

COVID-19 also affected me in terms of university. When the universities were closed I no longer saw my classmates and university lecturers. I studied less because education became remote and I no longer participated in class.

In addition to the suffering brought on by COVID-19, we were exposed to heavy attack from Israel in May 2021. This caused a lot of psychological pressure. I was nervous for the simplest things and became hypersensitive. All

the time I was afraid of losing my family or my home. Through this Israeli attack and because of COVID-19, we lost our family income and this has made our situation worse.

Despite how we suffer in Gaza – as a result of economic hardship, wars, diseases, shortages in medical equipment – I never lose my passion. I always try to regain my strength and my ability to help myself and others to become the best people that we can be.

The Sheffield women's scholarship helps me keep my passion, my ability to continue, and my determination to succeed. I would like to thank the Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund for their support and assistance to us financially and for giving us hope that tomorrow will be better.

Messages from our new West Bank students

Naghah Khalayleh is studying nursing at the University of Hebron:

It has been a lifelong dream to become a nurse. The main reason why I chose nursing was because when I was a little girl my Dad was very sick and I wanted to help him in any way I could and to ease his pain. After he died I started to dream of becoming a nurse so I could help other people and alleviate their suffering.

For me nursing is a noble, humanitarian profession. I hope to complete my undergraduate studies and then practice nursing and I also look forward in the future to helping my family financially. I hope I manage to make my dreams and aspirations come true. And I won't hesitate, if circumstances allow it, to continue my studies and in particular I'd like to do a master's degree in nursing.

Asma Dakhee is studying nursing at Al Quds University in Abu Dis, Jerusalem:

From earliest childhood I aspired to become a doctor because it is a humanitarian profession and one that commands respect within society. However, my average high school grades did not allow me to study medicine so I decided instead to become a nurse. Nursing is a profession that is very close to medicine. A nurse is the link between the patient and the doctor and we provide the patient with everything they need: care, comfort, monitoring and the medicines to help them recover. My desire to study nursing became stronger during the period when my father was ill and needed help. I looked after him then and helped him.

Eventually, I'd like to become a theatre nurse and to keep abreast of new developments and I'd like to obtain higher degrees in my field.

Fundraising

We have received funds through a range of fundraising activities including regular donations through standing orders to one-off events. We have continued to be supported with fundraising activities and donations by Saddleworth Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund, Bolton Socialist Club, Sheffield Palestine Education Network and Rotherham Friends of Palestine. In 2021-22 we began to receive support from the Derbyshire Dales Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund and they have begun fundraising and raising awareness about the work of the Fund.

The Fund receives regular standing orders each month, which enable it to plan for future scholarships. The Fund is committed to ensuring that we support each student through to the completion of their degree. We have also received funding from a range of community events and one-off celebratory events. In 2021-22, these included:

- ✦ The choir 'Body of Sound' for donating half the proceeds from their online International Women's Day fundraising concert.
- ✦ A fundraising cream tea
- ✦ Small Park BIG RUN – an annual fundraising which was online again this year.
- ✦ Organisational donations, including Wooldale Quakers.

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.

Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

Examiners Statement

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022

I report on the accounts for Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund which are set out on pages 7 to 9

Respective responsibilities of the management committee and the examiner

As the management committee you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the account by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or:
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date:

Signed



Andrew Wood
Enovion Ltd - Independent Examiner

Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

Receipts and Payments account

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022

| Receipts | notes | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 1 | | |
| Donations | | 18206 | 19343 |
| Fundraising | | 13002 | 23975 |
| Legacy | | | 500 |
| Total Receipts | | <u>31208</u> | <u>43818</u> |
| Payments | | | |
| Afaq Jadeeda | | 32000 | 31000 |
| Teachers Creativity Centre | | 5500 | 8000 |
| Bank Admin Charges | 2 | 75 | 50 |
| Bank Charges | | 293 | 200 |
| Independent examination | | 100 | 50 |
| Newsletter | | 200 | 200 |
| Fundraising costs | | | 2478 |
| | | <u>38118</u> | <u>42053</u> |
| Net Receipts/(payments) | | (6910) | 1765 |
| Fund balances brought forward | | 54537 | 52772 |
| Fund balances carried forward | | 47627 | 54537 |

Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

Statement of assets and liabilities

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022

| Assets | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance of bank account as at March 31 | 47627 | 54537 |
| Liabilities | £ | £ |
| Independent examination 2022 | 100 | 50 |

Committee member Sara Gowen Dated 30/11/2022

Committee member V. Johnson Dated 30/11/2022

On behalf of the management committee

Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022

1. Receipts and payments accounts

Because the level of income and expenditure is below £100,000, the group has opted for accounts prepared on a receipts and payments rather than an accruals basis. This is in line with Charity Commissioners guidelines for small charities and is more appropriate for this project

2. Bank Admin Charges

charges relating to the cost of transferring money to Afaq Jadeeda and Teachers Creativity Centre in Palestine.

3. Payment from HMRC for Gift Aid

A Gift Aid payment was received on 14th February 2022 for £551.07.

