Tower Hamlets & Jenin Twinning Campaign

information leaflet

twinjenin@hotmail.co.uk

Why twin Tower Hamlets with Jenin?

In 2002 Jenin was in the news as it received the brunt of the Israeli army's aggression. Bulldozers and tanks destroyed hundreds of homes and displaced thousands of people. At that time Tower Hamlets Stop the War Coalition attempted to officially twin our borough with the Municipality of Jenin.

Since then, although Jenin has not been regularly in the news, the people living there still suffer the distress of occupation, and the support for twinning Tower Hamlets with Jenin has grown.

What is twinning?

This is an ongoing project to link organisations here with partners in Jenin. It is a way of sharing ideas, experiences and resources, on a person-to-person basis, between groups, workplaces and whole communities.The project aims to link hospitals, schools and universities, religious and community groups, trades unions, arts organisations... the possibilities are endless! It might be exchanging emails, or facilities, providing a venue for visiting delegations, one-off projects, or going to see what life is like in the Occupied Territories.

It can lead to lasting friendships, practical exchanges and first hand understanding of global issues. Importantly, the people of Jenin need to know that even though they are physically isolated, they have friends throughout the world.

Who are we?

We are a group of people who live and work locally. Our group is unaligned with any political or religious organisation. We all became involved because we want to make our friendship and support for the Palestinian people into something real. There is a growing network of towns throughout the UK who are making links with municipalities in the Occupied Territories, and we hope you will join us.

Twinning statement from Tower Hamlets

WE BELIEVE the time has come for the people of the Borough of Tower Hamlets to develop strong links with the people of the town and refugee camp of Jenin in northern Palestine.

Tower Hamlets has a long history of offering shelter to those fleeing persecution and seeking an escape from hardship: the Huguenots in the 18th century, the Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe in the 19th century, the many communities of the present. The people of the Borough have themselves often faced difficult circumstances and take pride in their traditions of struggle and resistance. We have organized into unions, defended ourselves against racism and fascism, most famously in the Bat ble Street when Mosley's fascists were driven out of the East End, and sent our children abroad to defend democracy, with the International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War.

Building on this strong and proud tradition of international solidarity, we again want to extend the hand of friendship to those suffering persecution. The people of the town and refugee camp of Jenin, in northern Palestine, have suffered repeated dispossession, have been made refugees in their own country, and face ongoing political and economic oppression and the threat of ethnic cleansing.

We call upon the local council to twin with the municipality of Jenin. We believe this will signal our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for human rights, will provide a basis for projects of practical assistance, and will assist different communities and organizations in Tower Hamlets in their own efforts to establish links of friendship and support.

name **address/organisation** **contact:**

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Please return to: **Twin Jenin, St George's Town Hall, Cable Street, London E1 0BL**

Twinning statement from Jenin Municipality

The Municipality of Jenin believes that the initiative of the people of Tower Hamlets to twin with the Municipality of Jenin is considered important step to strengthen the good friendship relations between the people found on strong cooperation and equity towards bright future full of humanity free from hate and violence.

Tower Hamlets which has always formed safe shelter to the victims of violence and persecution and resisted strongly both racism and fascism is considered twin of Jenin city which resisted and remained firm in front of the occupation and still facing all kinds of violence and persecution.

We extend our hands to the people of Tower Hamlets and its local community to have strong twinning that provide our citizens the opportunity to create the constituents required for real friendship and facilitate the cooperation between the various communities and organization in our cities, also to struggle together against terrorism and racism.

Finally, we would like to confirm our solidarity with the British people against the terrorist attack in London and feel sorry for the innocent victims.

Jenin Municipality, Palestine