

# FRIENDSHIP AND TWINNING DURING INCREASING VIOLENCE - NOV 2023



Israel's attacks on the people of Gaza show no sign of abating and settler violence is increasing sharply, alongside further restrictions on movement, access, rights and freedoms across the West Bank. The Israeli army are carrying out raids and incursions into homes, communities, refugee camps, and hospitals. Many of our groups are reporting increasingly alarming and concerning events in towns and villages across Palestine. This resource is designed to offer ideas for groups to extend their contact and support, as we look for ways to continue our solidarity with our friends in Palestine at this very difficult time. We also want to remind groups of our 'Sumud: Staying Motivated' resource, available on our website: <https://www.twinningwithpalestine.net/resources>

**BRITAIN PALESTINE  
FRIENDSHIP AND  
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## IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES

Many of these activities have been done by BPFTN groups already, so if you want to organise something similar and would like to know more, [please get in touch](#) or ask a question in the [BPFTN Facebook group](#):

- Make use of your existing mailing lists: send reports, recorded events, photos and updates from Palestine, and opportunities to support groups via newsletters and well timed emails to people on your supporter list. Be mindful of not overloading people but also know that UK public support for Palestine seems to be at an all time high so utilise that to grow support for the places you are linked with.
- Art, food, craft and music remain great ways to show and build support. Groups have sold Palestine related art, Christmas cards, Zaytoun food and Palestinian products such as Abuarlrous Soups from Hebron and Cross Stitch4Palestine (Tatreez), and had online events with Palestinian food and music at the heart of them or part of them - using video clips, live performances, recipes and stories. Children have taken part in remote painting projects and womens' groups and farmers from places in the UK and Palestine have connected over Zoom.
- Encourage people to Buy Palestinian this Christmas and beyond - hold local stalls or promote online shopping with Zaytoun. Ask your library to stock books on Palestine, including children's books. These could be bought as Christmas gifts too (see list below).
- Voices from Palestine: lots of groups have organised webinars with speakers from Palestine, either from their friendship and twinning group or community to share what is happening in Palestine now, or from other Palestinian experts to talk about specific topics. Use these online events to galvanise people into action.
- Fundraising and support for communities who are now scared to travel: some groups are supporting their friends in Palestine by fundraising for people to stockpile basics, as fear grows of a major military operation in the West Bank and as travel to urban centres such as Nablus or Jenin becomes too dangerous. This includes supporting bulk buying of food staples as well as batteries and lights, in case Israel cuts off electricity.



# MAKE FRIENDS BUILD SOLIDARITY INSPIRE HOPE

- Calls to action, campaigning and political activism: if this is something your group does, then ask your supporters to write to their MPs and other political representatives to support your work and to speak out against the violence in Palestine, including whatever you are hearing from your friends in their homes and villages. Ask people to sign petitions and take part in other actions to support Palestinian human rights, an end to the bombardment of Gaza, and settler and Israeli army violence and impunity.
- Letter writing and messages of friendship and solidarity: continuing to be in touch with friends in Palestine is important - it doesn't have to be a big event, friendship in any way you can do it, is more important than ever. Texts, whatsapps, Facebook messages - sending these regularly make a genuine difference to people who feel like the world's leaders have abandoned them.
- Make sure to record new contacts and people you speak to so you grow your mailing list and supporter base in your own town or network, if you're out and about doing campaigning, raising awareness or holding events.
- If you hold online events, with people's permissions, record events and put them on your website / social media or email them round to supporters - if people can't be there live, they can always listen afterwards.
- A large number of Palestinian films are currently available for free online - you can share this information with your members and supporters or use it to host film nights. You can find a wide range of films on this website: <https://palestinefilms.org/en>
- Keep sharing what you're doing, the updates, and anything you'd like support with on the BPFTN Facebook group. Please feel able to use this as a place to seek solidarity at this particularly difficult time as well - and share our 'Staying Motivated' resource with whoever you think might find it helpful.

If you have ideas, comments, things to add, requests for help or anything else - please get in touch with us: [palestinetwinning@gmail.com](mailto:palestinetwinning@gmail.com)

