

Oxford-Ramallah Friendship Association - 2003 to 2019
Record of activities

Major achievements

- ❖ Self funded delegation from Oxford to Ramallah for the Britain Palestine Twinning Network and Friendship Association conference Nablus April 2019
- ❖ Visit of Mayor Musa Hadid to Oxford for the signing of the formal Twinning Agreement between Oxford and Ramallah. March 2019
- ❖ Twinning - Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Oxford and Ramallah – signed by Mayor Colin Cook and Ambassador Husam Zomlot (on behalf of Mayor Hadid). December 2018
- ❖ Fundraising for facilities to support yoga room in the Youth Centre, Al Amari Camp – (classes for adults and children) 2018- 2019
- ❖ Dabke Dance Visit – Dance group from Al Amari refugee camp performed at Ashmolean Museum, Cowley Carnival, East Oxford School, participated in dance workshops, performed and danced with Refugee Resource Women’s Group etc. June/July 2018
- ❖ Mazin Qumsiyeh visit – Human rights activist and Director Palestine Natural History Museum, Bethlehem October 2017
- ❖ Self funded delegation from Oxford to Ramallah October 2016
- ❖ Visit to Ramallah and West Bank with Trade Union focus (self-funded), Summer 2015
- ❖ Visit of Women’s delegation from Al-Amari Women’s Programme Centre and Bethlehem to Oxford, June 2014
- ❖ Trade union members’ visit and Oxford residents’ self-funded visit to Ramallah and West Bank, August 2014
- ❖ Charity registration and charity launch. March 2014
- ❖ Oxford Trade union delegation visit to Palestine in June 2013
- ❖ Oxford Fun Run -12 friends of ORFA joined fundraising run. 2013
- ❖ Student visit to Ramallah and West Bank – 7 self-funded students, Summer 2012
- ❖ Visit of trade unionist (Mohammed Saleh) from Ramallah and delegate from Arura Faringdon Friendship Association, attended the National Twinning Conference and built links with trade union branches. November/December 2011
- ❖ Youth visit to Oxford from Al-Amari refugee camp (Ramallah) of 4 teenagers and 2 young adult leaders in the summer of 2011
- ❖ Development of a sustainable participatory video project in partnership with UNRWA in Ramallah’s Al-Amari refugee camp (2011-continuing)
- ❖ Olive-picking delegation from Oxfordshire to Arura village (north of Ramallah) including establishment of Arura Faringdon Friendship Association. October 2009.
- ❖ Upgrading of a teaching room in Al-Amari refugee camp's Women’s Centre.
- ❖ Visit of Ms Hanan Bannourah, President of the West Bank Health Workers’ Sector Union, to Oxford on the occasion of the International Women's Festival, March 2009.
- ❖ Oxford youth visit to Ramallah and the West Bank of 9 teenagers and 5 adults, self-funded, in 2008.
- ❖ Ramallah youth visit to Oxford and the UK of 8 teenagers and 2 adults from Al-Amari camp in 2007.
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- ❖ Visit of Ms Janet Mikhail, Mayor of Ramallah Municipality, to Oxford on the occasion of the International Women's Festival, March 2007.
- ❖ Visit of Dr Hadeel Qazzaz, specialist in gender, education and development, to Oxford on the occasion of the International Women's Festival in March 2004.
- ❖ Visits and delegations of self-funded Oxford citizens: Women's and Trade Union delegation 2003; Education delegation 2004; regular annual Solidarity delegations.

Awareness-raising activities:

- ❖ Defence of the Child International – joint meeting with Oxford PSC
- ❖ Prisoner's Rights Film in Palestine Unlocked 2016
- ❖ Public meeting with representative from Addameer, Palestinian prisoner support and human rights organisation, 2013
- ❖ Public meeting on Human Rights for Palestinian prisoners, 2012
- ❖ Public meeting to show film 'Gaza Monologues' and discussion of ORFA activities
- ❖ Martin Asser, journalist, talk at North Wall, Oxford
- ❖ Displays on ORFA activities and the situation in Ramallah at the Oxford Central Library, 2004, 2006 & 2007 and Organisation of Palestinian film season

Links

Through its activities, ORFA has links with a number of local organisations:

Pegasus Theatre, Oxford Film & Video Makers (OFVM), North Wall Theatre, Cherwell School, Oxford Trade Union Council, Oxford Unison Health Branch, Woodcraft Folk, Oxfam, BMW, Oxford Brookes University.

Joined with, collaborated with, supported by other local & national organisations:

Network of Oxford Women for Justice and Peace (NOW), Oxford Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), Oxford University Arab Cultural Society, Oxford University Palestine Society, Oxford Brookes University Palestine Society, Arura Faringdon Friendship Association, Oxford University's Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, Friends of Bir Zeit University.

We have also had valuable support from local and regional political representatives including MPs, councillors and Mayors.

ORFA is an active member of the Britain Palestine Twinning Network and Friendship Association (over 40 linkings of cities, towns and villages) and regularly attends Britain-Palestine twinning conferences in the UK and Palestine. Joint participation in common activities such as Palestinian student visits in the UK

Supporters

ORFA has been supported financially and practically by many local and national organisations to whom we are grateful:

Al-Salam Restaurant, Bodrum Restaurant, British Shalom Salaam Trust (BSST), Faringdon Peace Group, Maggie Black Trust, National Assembly of Women (NAW), National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), Network of Oxford Women for Justice and Peace, Oxford Brookes Arab Society, Oxford Film & Video Makers (OFVM), Oxford Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Oxford Rotary Club International, Oxford Trades Union Council, Pegasus Theatre, Royal Jordanian Airline, UNISON Health Branch, Unite the Union Car Plant and Region, Palestine Unlocked, Oxford City Council Cultural Fund, Oxford University Museums Service.

To everyone involved in any of the above on behalf of ORFA

THANK YOU!