



Oxford and Ramallah were twinned in 2019, building on a 15 year friendship link between the two cities which had been driven by the Oxford Ramallah Friendship Association.

As the seat for the Palestinian Authority in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Ramallah is a Palestinian city 16km North of Jerusalem. It is a base for many NGOs, diplomatic representations, companies and banks. It is a bustling and cosmopolitan city with a wealth of culture and heritage. Ramallah Municipality includes four refugee camps.

Ramallah and Oxford have similarities in terms of population size, universities, schools and hospitals, and many civil society groups as well as commerce, trade unions and cultural ventures. Literature, comedy and the arts in general are of great importance in Ramallah. Like Oxford, it is a city with an historic market and a wide variety of eateries and accommodation.

In March 2019 the Mayor of Ramallah, Musa Hadid, visited Oxford to cement the twinning agreement of the two cities. Mr Hadid and Lord Mayor Cook signed the Twinning Agreement in the presence of Palestinian Ambassador Dr Husam Zumlot, city councillors, Cowley carworkers' representatives, church representatives and others. Both Mayors, Ambassador Zumlot, and ORFA representative, Nikki Marriott, stressed the historic nature of the agreement and their hopes for the future of the relationship.

An independent organisation, Oxford Ramallah Twinning (ORT), was set up to promote the twinning partnership between Oxford and Ramallah. It is independent of Oxford City Council but is tasked by the Council to perform this role. ORT works closely with both Oxford City Council's International Coordinator and the Oxford International Links Committee. To contact ORT, email [ORT\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:ORT_info@yahoo.com)



*The formal signing of the Oxford Ramallah Twinning Agreement on 11 March 2019 in the Lord Mayor's Parlour, Oxford. Right to left: Musa Hadid; Colin Cook; Dr Husam Zumlot; Nikki Marriott; and Oxford councillors and representatives.*