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TO KNOW, TO GROW, TO ACT
WINDOWS - CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATION

Dear friends in the UK,

Forever grateful for your support in the past 18 years,

We have said it many times before, and we are happy to say it again. It was not only financial support that enabled us to implement many different projects in Palestine / Israel as well as in the UK, but also the strong sense of solidarity and care that gave us more strength in dire times, and such were many.

As unfortunately Windows for Peace UK needs to close down now, we wish to take you with us along memory lane, to thank all of you for the amazing work that was done to support Windows - Channels for Communication next to the brilliant work done in the UK to bring people together.

The struggle for a future of peace and human rights in our region is not yet over. We are determined to keep working hard for it. We hope you will stay with us.

October 2021

Windows members and team

... and this is how it all began...



When Ken and Yvonne Singer visited their family in Israel in 2004, they were introduced to the Windows' team who took them to visit Windows' members in Tulkarem area in the West Bank.

Ken remembers: **"The general theme of bringing the peoples of the area together was one that appealed. The particular emphasis on the young people - the future! - was what drew us to Windows. It seemed a good idea to establish a charity in the UK to raise money to support them."** So, Windows for Peace (UK) was registered as a charity in 2004, with founding trustees: Jude Bloomfield, Sylvia Cohen, Judith Emanuel, Pam Kleinot, Nilofa Siddiqi and Ken Singer.

The first action was to bring two speakers from Windows CFC, Fahmi, a Palestinian, and Rutie, an Israeli, to meet people in London and Manchester, building the base for a Windows UK devoted community.

As the charity developed some Trustees retired and new ones appointed, each bringing their own ideas and philosophy to the work. They all made a tremendous contribution to Windows - Yael Arbell, Yaakov Atik (ZL), David Bird, Xen Hassan (ZL), Gillian Holding, Sahera Parveen, Penny Roberts, Eyal Sagie and Farhat Zaheer-Flaherty. Although not trustees, Judith Sischy and Lady Brenda Beecham (ZL) made a huge contribution in organising two summer schools in Edinburgh. As well as the main work of fund-raising, there were many invigorating and enlightening discussions about the position the UK charity should take on the conflict in Israel-Palestine. The statement which was finally adopted read:

"Our work is based on a belief in a democratic future for all the people of the region, all recognising the others' right to live there with comprehensive human rights and equality. We oppose any violence, oppression, discrimination or occupation."

With lots of love and endless creativity, fund-raising events were organized from yearly Garden Parties with folk dancing at the home of Ros and Ravi Raizada in Cheshire; to nature walks organized by Judith Emanuel, Ros and Ken; Klezma, Jazz and classical concerts; selling Windows greeting cards; making and selling marmalade in Liverpool; Woodie Guthrie music and history concerts by Will Kaufman; not to mention all the other amazing initiatives that helped keep Windows CFC going and doing...





Besides donations from many synagogues, churches, Quaker meetings, Trade Unions and Peace Groups, Windows UK got support from the JUSACA Tust; Sydney Franklin Charity; the Robert Gavron Trust and from Dr. Alfred Bader. But in addition to them, and no less important, Windows UK reached over 200 individuals that decided to donate money - some of them even for 18 years. The total sum that was raised since 1994 until now is £610,000.

The pictures below will show you some of what was done with that support

Thanks to the efforts of Judy Sischy and Lady Brenda Beechom ZL, supported by Windows for Peace UK, we were able to hold two 2-week summer schools in Edinburgh offering Windows' youth quality time a way from our local tensions to delve deeply into the conflicts and to go through a meaningful process. We used these opportunities to bring our youth to meet our supporters and directly share with them their experiences. It was also very special for our youth to meet local youth in Edinburgh and Jewish youth in London. Life looks different when you look at your reality from afar.





The many days together, unlike the short weekends our youth could meet back home, gave plenty of time to share personal stories and openly discuss whatever came up about the harsh reality. Some of their newly learned information and fresh insights were shared with tens of thousand readers in the issues of the Windows Hebrew-Arabic magazine that followed the summer schools. *"I look at things differently today after I heard all those stories, I want to share them and I want to learn even more so I better understand the situation."* said one of the participants before leaving Edinburgh, Another said: *"It is not enough to talk, we need to take action."* Today, as part of an evaluation process looking back at 30 years of work, we met some of the Edinburgh summer school participants. The choices they made in their lives for study and work clearly show their determination to make a difference in the world.

Donations from UK funds and individuals supported some of our local youth work from the Youth Media and Actions programmes; our Tulkarm center in the West Bank (2005-7); school workshops around the content of our Arabic-Hebrew magazine; the print of the magazine itself, and many more projects.



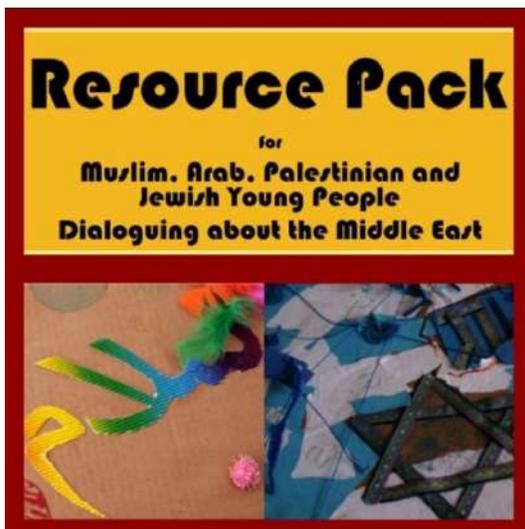
Led by Judith and Xen ZL, and funded by Manchester City, the UK National Lottery Fund and others, the Windows UK youth programme developed dialogue programmes for UK schools and colleges.



Young people involved in WFP Youth Dialogue:

"I know what my community think. By being part of Windows I can find out what Muslims think. That way I am going to get a whole picture. I feel better informed."

"I'm determined to take what I've learnt through Windows to educate the other young Jewish people I'll be leading this summer."



A tangible outcome was the widely-distributed Resource Pack.

One of the Youth Workers who used it told us: **"The pack is a fantastic resource for any interfaith activity particularly between Jews and Muslims/Christians trying to discuss the Middle East conflict."**

A main challenge of an NGO is to cover the overhead costs and keep an office running as most donors prefer to support only the projects. Your support enabled us to keep our office for many years as a Palestinian - Israeli Friendship centre with a variety of activities organized by our team and volunteers. These included: a public programme with alternative tours on both sides of the Green Line; lectures;

movie screenings and debates; Arabic classes; art exhibitions, and deliveries of aid to communities in need. All that in addition to hosting workshops and seminars for the youth programmes. Located in south Tel Aviv, our office also hosted activities for asylum seekers from Africa. Windows was the only place in town where Palestinians from both sides of the Green Line, asylum seekers, internationals from all over the world and Israeli Jews could meet together on a regular base and where all could feel at home.



Sharing knowledge and experience was always important to us. Thus we were happy to host in Israel / Palestine groups organized by Windows UK for tours and workshops, as well as to hold meetings and workshops in the UK, from a 2-days workshop for youth workers in the Warrington Peace Center, to a visit to a mosque in a London Muslim school in which the students were surprised to hear about Palestinians and Israelis working together against occupation, and workshops for Jewish and Muslim youth in Manchester, among others.



"Unlike the basic fund-raising work, these activities brought us into contact with the real work of Windows - which was a wonderful experience."

As you could see here, your support was very meaningful for us at Windows and the many people who benefited from these activities. Your support was so valuable for us, and for the civil society efforts to end occupation and discrimination and promote peace that is based on justice and human rights.

We hope you will choose to continue to support us through the NIF or through [our website](#). You can also [subscribe](#) to our periodical newsletter to learn more about our ongoing and new activities.

In the UK the easiest way to donate is through a ring-fenced donation via the New Israel Fund. Please click on this link:

www.newisraelfund.org.uk/donate

Please Write in the comments section that your donation is for Windows - Channels for Communication. NIF can also reclaim Gift Aid tax on your donation. You can make either a single or regular donations.

THANK YOU!



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