

# Scottish Palestine Cancer Nurse Project

*In partnership with*



**Gerry O'Hare is a Glasgow-based Cancer Nurse Specialist. He has supported cancer nurse training in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza) for 14 years.**

Gerry's expertise in nursing includes working alongside Palestinian nursing colleagues to improve the outcomes for patients in Palestine who are diagnosed with cancer.

In addition, Gerry teaches on the Cancer Nursing Master's Programme at Bethlehem University and arranges clinical placements in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland. The clinical settings are for Palestinian cancer nurses who are enrolled on the Cancer Master's Programme at Bethlehem University.

Due to Covid the clinical placement programme was halted.

## Project launch

The Scottish Palestine Cancer Nurse Project is now being re-launched and will build on the great links and work Gerry has established. In the ensuing period we have witnessed the destruction of hospitals, and all other infrastructure, in Palestine.

We believe that practical solidarity, such as working with the cancer nurses, can make a significant contribution towards rebuilding health care in Palestine.

The occupation of Palestine includes: reduced freedom of movement; fewer educational opportunities; restrictions in access to medical care; threats and actual acts of violence.



This has devastating outcomes for both Palestinians diagnosed with cancer and the limiting of training opportunities for Palestinian cancer nurses.

The programme, developed by Gerry, allows cancer nurses from the West Bank to travel to Glasgow to improve clinical skills in cancer care through clinical placements in cancer settings in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland.

In addition, the nurses have an opportunity to learn in an environment that is welcoming and free from the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation.

In turn, Palestinian nurses can share accounts of the huge and detrimental impact of the Israeli occupation on health care in Palestine with their sponsors.

We believe that the ongoing attacks in Gaza and the West Bank make it more important than ever to support health care in Palestine. We cannot do this without your support.

## Bethlehem University

A programme has been developed with Mariam Awad from the Nursing Department of the University of Bethlehem. The programme objective is to bring over master's student cancer nurses from the West Bank to Glasgow to undertake cancer training opportunities not available under occupation.

Currently, there are eight students on the master's programme at the University. It is our intention to bring the students over in groups of four. This allows for the best level of support and clinical experience.

However, given the travel restrictions imposed on Palestinians and the requirement for Israel to approve visas, it is not certain that all those students seeking a placement will obtain a visa.

Whilst we have no control over the issuing of visas by Israel, we will have the necessary support in place. This support includes accommodation, food and travel in Scotland.

## Placement in Scotland

Our first group of Palestinian student nurses will be hosted by us in June 2025. With plans in place to support a second group in the Spring of 2026.

The Palestinian student nurses do not have the financial resources to fund travel costs and accommodation for the clinical placements in Glasgow. These costs amount to £2,500 per placement.

## Funding

In order to sustain the project, we are asking donors (individuals, organisations and trade union branches) to consider supporting the programme by providing support over both the short and medium term.

Our objective is to seek support, where possible, over a three-year period. This allows us to develop best practice whilst enabling teaching staff at Bethlehem University to best utilise the skills and knowledge base of the students upon their return.



We understand that not all donors will be able to commit to the medium term (i.e., three years).

However, rest assured that any financial support will be gratefully received. All donations will go directly to support the students.

Please consider supporting this vital initiative to show solidarity with the Palestinian cancer nurses.

## Donations

We are working with the **Scottish Palestinian Health Partnership** who are hosting the funds donated for the Cancer Nurse Project.

They will also host a web page with updates on the Cancer Nurse Project which can be seen at the following:

[www.ScotpalHP.org](http://www.ScotpalHP.org)



Thank you for taking the time to read our leaflet and for considering supporting our solidarity project.



## DONATING TO THE SCOTTISH PALESTINE CANCER NURSE PROJECT

All donations to the project can be made to:

**Scottish Palestinian Health Partnership**

**Sort Code: 80-22-60**

**Account no: 27822864**

**Reference: Cancer Nurse Project**

