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FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Salaam from Bethlehem. The last two years were full of joyful occasions. In 2015 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Diyar while 2016 marked the 10th anniversary of Dar al-Kalima University College. It was in 2006 that Dar al-Kalima received its general accreditation as a community college, offering associate degrees. We started the first year with 14 students in the basement of Christmas Lutheran Church and no one would have believed that ten years later we would have a state-of-the-art campus with 4 main buildings, 6 bachelor's degrees, 8 associate degrees, 2 special diplomas, extensive continuous education programs, a committed team of teachers, and 552 students. One of the best good news was receiving the accreditation of three new BA programs,



thus doubling the number of BA programs starting in September 2017. The three new programs are: BA in Interior Design, BA in Performing Art with a focus on Music or Theater, and BA in Sustainable Cultural Tourism. The last two programs are the first of their kind in Palestine. With these new programs we expect to double the number of students within three years.

A major step in the history of the DAK University College was the ground breaking for the new Library and Multimedia Resource Center in June 2016. This became possible after receiving a \$600,000 USD gift from ASHA/USAID (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) through Bright Stars of Bethlehem. This gift from ASHA is a game changer since it represents a validation of our work and opens the door for similar future gifts as well. The rest of the amount needed to complete the first phase of the building is around \$1 million USD. Bright Stars of Bethlehem pledged to raise \$750,000 USD of the remaining amount, our

friendship association in Germany around \$150,000 USD, and our university college the rest.

In these last months, I made it a point to meet with all students face to face and to give them the opportunity to ask their university college's president "anything they always wanted to know about the university college and never dared to", and the results were stunning. I was amazed at the maturity, creativity, and love of the students to their university college. Many of them spoke about the mentoring the university college is providing, the positive impact that Dar al-Kalima is having on their lives, and the unique opportunities they get as students. Several of the films, art pieces, songs, and culinary art that the students produced received local, regional, and international awards and attention. Board members, famous politicians, and international evaluators who met with the students were able to attest to this quality and excellence.

To encourage social innovation among the young adults in the Arab World, Diyar, the community development and outreach arm of DAK University College, launched within the Religion & State program

the CAFCAW award for young social entrepreneurs. It was amazing to be with a group of 62 young people from the Middle East who are committed to improve the quality of life in their context by developing initiatives for the common good.

The Art and Resistance Conference in May 2017 was another highlight that brought together leading Palestinian and international artists to debate the role of art as resistance in contexts of conflict, oppression, and the role of artists in social transformation. The participation of several First Nations artists from Canada was an important highlight of this conference since it forged a bond between their experience and ours in Palestine.

Last but not least, I was privileged to be awarded in early 2016 the Olof Palme Award in Sweden; "As preacher and pastor in the Lutheran church, Mitri Raheb sends a clear message to the young generation of Palestinians:



'We want you to live, not die, for Palestine.' In a Bethlehem confined on three sides by the walls of the occupying Israeli power, and with Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture that he founded and his innovative artistic education in film, art, and drama, Raheb has made it possible for young people to investigate their Palestinian identity, to nurture beauty, and to invest in a culture of life as tools for a creative resistance against suffocating confinement and towards nation building."

However, 2016 was not an easy year at all. Administratively, our Vice President for Finance left us in October as we were finalizing the 2017 budget and the 2016 audit after losing his wife to cancer to immigrate to Australia where he came from 10 years earlier. This has put extra load and immense pressure on me as president and on the financial managers. The fact that we managed despite him leaving us at such a critical time of the year is attributed to a dedicated staff who took on more responsibilities, and spent more time and energy to be on top of things. Many of our staff in 2016, and due to several factors, had to take on extra load to ensure a smooth operation, sometimes at the cost of their family or personal

life. Some major changes are thus underway to fill positions, re-distribute loads, and implement some organizational changes to put the organization on solid ground.

Another challenge was the financial one. We started 2016 with a huge deficit in our budget that threatened the existence of the organization. The interest on the overdraft alone came to almost 100,000 USD. This became an urgent matter that needed a quick solution. We had to intensify our fundraising efforts and by the grace of God we were able to finish the year with a very small deficit, thus securing a healthier start into 2017.

Dar al-Kalima University College continues to be a success story because of its unique vision, clear mission, committed members, dedicated staff, visionary board, faithful friends, and generous supporters. Their commitment made and makes all the difference. We thank the Lord for this success.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb
President
April 2017

Dar Al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture

➤ *Projects:*

Visual Arts Department

- **Products of Palestine**

DAK launched in 2016 a new project called "Products of Palestine" in partnership with DVV



International and supported by GIZ. The main goal of the project is to effectively involve the youth in the labor market and support them in achieving increased income. The participants are 25 young men and women, who graduated from culinary art, jewelry, glass and ceramics.

- **Education for Employment**

In 2016, the Church of Sweden continued its support for the "Education for Employment" in the field of film. This project, which the University College started working on between 2010 and 2012, continues to be a strategic investment in a field that is expanding and needs highly qualified people in the film industry. The project shall come to its end in December 2017.

- **Portrait of Palestine**

This project is funded by the World Bank through QIF. In 2016, the most important achievements included finalizing the amendments on the Diploma program, receiving approval from the Ministry of Higher Education and introducing the practical training for the first time for the Diploma students where 12 students were trained in 4 different institutions for 70 hours each on different professions including camera, lighting, sound and editing.

- **"I Love Bethlehem" Development Project**

This project was awarded by the Ministry of Culture and it shall continue in 2017 with a new follow-up project from Otto per Mille, which is the production phase of "I love Bethlehem". The main



accomplishments of the 2016 "I Love Bethlehem" Development Project included producing six scripts that are ready for pre-production.

- **Traditional Handicrafts of Palestine Photography Project**

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, 8 students were commissioned to take photographs of 8 traditional handicrafts of Palestine. The photographs will be published in a book that documents these handicrafts, with credits to our students.

- **Nissa FM Radio Project**

In cooperation with Nissa FM Radio in Ramallah and the UN, DAK students wrote and acted in the production of 6 episodes of Radio Drama about violence against women. The broadcasting will be made in March 2017.

Cultural Heritage Department

- **The "Future of Our Past" Project**

The "Future of Our Past" project was completed in December 2016. It was an EU/ENPI project involv-

ing eight partners from the Mediterranean region. The main outputs of this initiative included:

- ❖ The first community hotel in the historic center of Bethlehem with an initial overall accommodations capacity of 60 beds. In this regard, 5 houses were renovated and refurbished up to international standards.
- ❖ An accommodation center in the heart of Beth-



lehem, which will act as a tourist information center and will provide booking and front office services.

- ❖ Two training packages for the staff of the University College, which focused on Customer Service and Hospitality.

- **DAAD Exchange Program with Partner University in Eberswalde-HNEE**

As part of the DAAD exchange project, the DAK Cultural Heritage department conducted a research visit to Berlin in July 2016. The topic of the visit was Culinary Tourism. The visit focused on the guiding aspects within culinary and food tourism for the Palestinian Tour Guides program students and included the Culinary Art program students to get them exposed to opportunities of either working in or starting their own initiatives in culinary tourism.

- **Jenin Tour Guide Training Program**

The Jenin Tour Guide Training Program, funded by the GIZ and completed in March 2016, trained 7 young professionals from the Jenin district to become tour guides in their region.

➤ *Visiting Artists*

DAK University College hosted many artists and guest professors, including guest speakers at the "Art and Resistance" conference. Some of the artists and professors we received in 2016 included:

- George Snow, who supervised an intensive workshop in "3D Animation" during March 29 - April 27, 2016.
- Mohammed Harb from Gaza, who was at the University College during March 8 – 20, 2016. He screened his films "Death Tunnel" and "Broken Dreams" and gave two artist talks.
- Gita Hashimi, an Iranian- Canadian artist who supervised a special workshop for our BA Contemporary Art program under the title "Land, Rights and Declarations" between



April 26 – May 12, 2016. The workshop ended with a student performance entitled "The Memory of the Place" on May 14 at the Makhrou – Battir hiking track.

- Jan Van Der Kooi, a famous Dutch artist who taught a course entitled "Introduction to Anatomy" during May 29 - June 16, 2016.
- Eszter Szakacs, a Hungarian curator who visited DAK on October 15, 2016. She gave a regular class for BA students in Contemporary Art, in addition to a public lecture entitled "Unofficial Art and Positive Forms of Resistance Today in Hungary".
- Tamam al-Akhal, a famous Palestinian artist who met with the DAK students on November 3, 2016 and was the main guest speaker at the Karimeh Abboud Award Event on November 4, 2016.



- Leila Sansour, a filmmaker and producer from Bethlehem, screened her film "Open Bethlehem" on March 29, 2016 followed by a discussion with the students and general audience.
- Michael Khleifi, considered the founder of modern Palestinian cinema and as part of the "I love Bethlehem" Development Project, met in May 2016 with 12 of our students and gave an inspiring talk about films and filmmaking.
- Suha Arraf, an award-winning script writer and part-time faculty member at DAK University College, screened her first narrative feature film entitled "Villa Touma" on July 28, 2016, followed by discussion with the students and general audience.



- Tomas Axelson, an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies/ Media at the Communication School of Humanities and Media in Högskolan, Sweden, conducted a workshop on October 7, 2016 about perception in cinema.
- Dominique Welinski, a French producer, carried out a film master class on December 14, 2016. Ms. Dominique Welinski is the head of the program called THE FACTORY, supported by the Directors Fortnight, which provides space for young international directors to meet and create together.



➤ *Delegations, Co-operations, Internships*

- Two film students participated with students from CNSMD Le Paris in filming a music video in Bethlehem during Christmas. The Conservatoire de Paris is a college of music and dance founded in 1795 in Paris, France.

- Several fact-finding missions were carried out to the village of Battir, Mar Saba Monastery, the wilderness, as well as Jenin and the surrounding areas. The purpose was to assess tourism potential for Palestine marketing campaign ITB (International Tourism Boerse Berlin).
- A visit by the CMT travel trade fair – (Caravan Motor, Touristic) was conducted for the purpose of collecting marketing material of other destinations to get input/ideas for ITB presentation of Palestine.
- Staff members from the Cultural Heritage department visited the IMTM 2016 travel trade fair – (International Mediterranean Tourism Market). The current representations of the tourism industry were assessed and presented at the ITB press conference.
- Faculty members from the Cultural Heritage department attended the ITB Berlin in March 2016 together with DAK President Rev. Dr. Raheb. They represented Palestine and launched the project “Bethlehem Destination Christmas” at the official

Palestine press conference. Over 60 journalists attended the conference.

- The Cultural Heritage department hosted a student from the University of Eberswalde and offered her support in her Master’s thesis, as DAK was the second evaluator, on assessing the current tourism situation in the north of the West Bank and how to better promote that region.
- The PTG program hosted an MA student intern from the University of Eberswalde in Germany for a period of three months. She had a supportive role in the Future of Our Past project, where she helped in developing the marketing plan of the community hotel, among other tasks.

➤ **Conferences**

- **Art & Resistance**

The 13th international conference, which was part of the 10th anniversary celebrations for the founding of DAK University College and was supported by the EMW and the Ministry of Culture, was held May

12-15 under the theme “Art and Resistance”. Visual and performing artists, historians and researchers from 12 countries and 30 universities attended the conference, including Patrick Lama from Paris, who composed the first Arabic Opera entitled “Canaan’s Opera”. Also, a total of 35 academic and artistic papers were presented, and several documentary films were shown. Additionally, the conference included a workshop for the students entitled “Breaking through the Established Social System”.

During the conference, an art exhibition under the title “Art and Resistance” was held with 63 artists from around the world participating in this exhibit.



In addition, a student exhibition, which was also part of the end of the academic year exhibit, was organized by the Contemporary Art BA program. The conference also included a tour in Bethlehem and Battir to the artistic, cultural and religious sites, during which the Contemporary Art students did a performance art entitled “The Memory of the Place”.

- **Bethlehem 2020**

During the period November 4 – 6, 2016, the Ministry of Culture organized a conference in Bethlehem to prepare for Bethlehem 2020. Several DAK faculty members moderated sessions at the conference and students participated actively as well. As a result, DAK University College delivered several recommendations to the Ministry of Culture to be adopted for Bethlehem 2020.

➤ **Competitions and Awards**

- **Ismail Shammout Competition for Fine Art**
The annual competition was organized for the second year in a row on March 2, 2016 as a

celebration of the life and works of the artist Ismail Shammout as well as of the finalists and the winners. The award ceremony took place at DAK University College. Ms. Varvara Abd El-Razeq from the DAK Contemporary Art BA program won the Shammout Award. An exhibition with a printed catalogue of the 14 final works, including a silent auction, was held as well. The Bank of Palestine and DAK board member Mr. Zahi Khouri sponsored this competition.

- **Karima Aboud Competition for Photography**
Supported by the Bank of Palestine, the celebration of the Karima Aboud Award under the title "A Human Being from Palestine" was held on November 4, 2016. The keynote speaker for the event was the artist Tamam al-Akhal, who came from Amman, Jordan and delivered a talk under the title "Karima Aboud: Art and Image." Ms. Nihaye Saade, DAK student from Contemporary Fine Art diploma program, won the Karima Aboud Award. A catalogue was printed for this exhibition.



- **Photo Marathon**

Our students participated for the second time in the national Photo Marathon competition on May 1, 2016. Seven students received awards for their work.

- **Schools Art Competition**

Between April and May of 2016, the Visual Art department cooperated with the Communications and Media office at DAK in organizing an art competition entitled "For a Beautiful Palestine" for the high schools in the Bethlehem Governorate. A total of 13 schools participated in this competition.



- **Film Competitions and Awards**

In 2016, two student films received multiple awards. They were:

- ❖ *The Living of the Pigeons*, by Baha' Abu-Shanab, which won the Best Foreign Movie Award (Chalontout Court Festival 2016) and the Best Movie on Palestine, Al-Ard Award (Al-Ard Doc Film Festival 2016).
- ❖ *Praises of the Wounds*, by Mohammad Abu Sneineh, which won the Best Production Management Award (Sphinx International Film Festival - Egypt).



➤ **Festivals, Exhibitions, Film Screenings, Performances**

- The Film program participated in March 2016 in the "When the Cinema Gets Indignant" Festival of Amnesty International.
- The Music program students performed a short concert at the Ismail Shammout Award event on March 2, 2016.
- A performance by two British actors took place at DAK's theater in March 2016. Ayham Ayesh, a

music performance student, accompanied the performance with musical improvisation on the Qanoun instrument.

- Wa'd Al-Azza, a music performance student, participated in a French song competition sponsored by the French Cultural Center at the Peace Center in Bethlehem on April 9, 2016.
- The Film program participated in several festivals in France in April 2016, including the Corrida Film Festival, ESAV and Toulouse. Five films were screened at these festivals.
- The Film program participated for the 6th time in ZUMFF, Abu Dhabi in May 2016.
- Music program students held a concert at DAK on May 24, 2016.
- The Film program participated during May 5 – 8, 2016 in Day of Palestine Festival in Germany by screening "The Living of the Pigeons" film.
- Wa'd Al-Azza, a music performance student, accompanied by Mr. Hassan Al-Sheikh, the voice teacher, performed a short concert during the library groundbreaking celebration in June 2016.
- All Music Performance program students performed at the outdoor Hayat Bethlehem Festival on August 5, 2016.

- The DAK graduation exhibition was held for two days, August 23 – 24, 2016. The exhibition included the art works of the Contemporary Fine Art and Jewelry graduates, film screenings of all the Film program graduates as well as three theater performances by the theater graduates.
- The Theater and Drama students performed a play directed by Mr. Sameh Hijazi at the end of the summer semester.
- A professional bilingual catalogue was published featuring the profile and graduation project of each graduate and a DVD of the graduation films. The catalogue was funded by QIF- World Bank.
- The Film and Music Performance programs participated in Bright Stars of Bethlehem's 5th Annual Room for Hope Festival, from September 19 – 26, 2016.
- Two film students participated in the Gothenburg Book Fair in October 2016, where 5 student films were screened.
- The film "Shutter" by Bilal Kronz was screened twice at the Sun Bird Film Festival during October 17 – 23, 2016 and was in the competition for the Freedom Bird Award.

- The Film program participated in the Cam Film Festival, Egypt during October 18 – 23, 2016. The festival is for short films.
- The Visual Arts department participated in the national art exhibition Qalandiya International, which included the Karima Aboud exhibition. On November 24, 2016 DAK organized a visit to the students of Contemporary Art program to the exhibition in Ramallah.
- The Film program participated in the French Film Festival in December 2016, organized by the French Cultural Center in Palestine.
- The Music Performance students performed a Christmas concert on December 20 at Ad-Dar Cultural and Conference Center for the DAK/Diyar employees.
- Screenings of DAK student films took place in Algeria, which were organized by the Palestinian embassy through the Palestinian Ministry of Culture.
- A screening of the film "The Living of the Pigeons" was held for the board of directors of the World Bank in New York.

➤ **Study Tours**

In August 2016, the chairperson of the Cultural Heritage department participated in the 10-day training "Hospitality Training for Trainers" in Thailand. The training was in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities - MoTA and funded by the Japanese and Thai International Cooperation Agency.

➤ **Curricula Development**

The Documentary Film Diploma Program was developed through the QIF project. In 2016, it received the final approval by the Accreditation Commission.

➤ **Dar al-Kalima University College Library in Numbers 2016 Acquisitions**

Number of Books	576
Number of Reference Books	9
Number of Films	50

By the end of 2016 the total number of acquisitions at the library reached 8277.

Numbers of Students in 2016

The table below shows the University College's Diploma and BA students during 2016:

Program	Number of Students
Bachelor	
Contemporary Fine Art	25
Graphic Design	7
Film Production	34
Professional Diploma	
Glass & Ceramics	3
Art Education	16
Jewelry Making	20
Contemporary Fine Art	17
Music Performance	22
Drama & Theater Performance	4
Palestinian Tour Guides	62

Documentary Film Production	52
Professional Diploma	
Culinary Arts Program	31
Continuous Education	
Film Production – CE	12
Contemporary Arts – CE	6
Jewelry Arts – CE	7
Music Performance – CE	3
Drama & Theater – CE	1
Glass & Ceramics – CE	2
Culinary Arts – CE	16
Arts "no program" – CE	2
Special Certificate	
Leadership – CE	169
Adult Education "Curriculum GlobALE" – CE	10
Total	521

Construction Projects

The Library and Multimedia Resource Center



A state-of-the-art Library and Multimedia Center is the newest construction project at the compound of Dar al-Kalima University College. The orientation of this innovative library, funded partly by US-AID/ASHA, will allow for maximum natural lighting, ventilation and solar energy utilization, as the building will be equipped with a solar photovoltaic system. DAK is the first organization in the Bethlehem area to make use of solar energy for lighting, heating, and air conditioning; it aims to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2019.

The Accumulative Manpower on site during 2016 was 1980 work days including engineers, foremen, skilled and unskilled workers.

The total built-up area of the project is 2750 square meters. The building is composed of four floors that include the library, workshop areas and studios for the Visual and Performing Arts, and parking facilities for faculty, staff and visitors with a capacity of 26 parking spaces.

The library will house over 25,000 titles (books and multimedia resources), in addition to an open area for events, space for reading and studying (for 200 persons), an archive, a room for lectures, presentations, film screenings and video conferencing, the librarian office and a circulation desk.



Diyar – Community Development and Outreach

➤ *The Model Adult Education Center in Palestine*

In 2015, DVV International, the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV), the German Adult Education Association, selected Dar al-Kalima University College to develop the main hub of adult education in Palestine. DVV represents the interests of the approximately 900 adult education centers (Volkshochschulen) and their state associations, the largest further education providers in Germany.

Structure

The partnership with DVV International has been key to the streamlining process of DAK's already existing,

unique, lifelong learning programs as a more defined structure of the Model Adult Education Center has emerged during 2016. This partnership manifested itself in a number of ways, including participating as DAK in the 14th German Adult Education conference in Berlin, Germany in June 2016.

Market and Need Analysis

A market and need analysis was conducted as a guideline for developing new courses. A participatory approach was adopted so that the viewpoints and recommendations of DAK's multiple target groups were incorporated and reflected in the results, which called for and supported adult education courses that correspond to the Palestinian context and aim at empowering the local community's members

and groups to develop attitudes and capacities to continuously and actively seek new knowledge and apply it in ways that enhance their quality of life.

Curriculum GlobALE

Ten adult education master trainers were trained in Curriculum GlobALE in 2016. The intensive training of 5 modules that qualifies trainers to lead adult education courses was carried out by Professor Katarina Popovic, the co-author of the Curriculum GlobALE. It is important to note that having the Curriculum GlobALE introduced into Palestine will galvanize the system of hiring adult educators, trainers and facilitators so that a new standard is set upon which they are selected. At the same time, a steering committee was established to review and start the accreditation process of Curriculum GlobALE.

➤ *The Civic Engagement Program*

The Civic Engagement Program consists of multiple projects that are core to achieving its mission, which is to empower the Palestinian young people as active citizens and future leaders. In 2016, there were

two main projects carried out that worked with 169 new young people from different areas in Palestine, focusing on enhancing their knowledge of and building their capacities in critical areas that would ensure their full participation in the decision making processes.

1. *The Civic Cultural Network – Phase II Project*

Supported by the Olof Palme International Center, this unique and critical four-year project aims at



creating a grassroots youth lobby in Palestine that can contribute effectively to having the Palestinian young people actively engage in the development of their communities and practice fully their citizenship rights. A summary of the main activities and highlights of 2016 is as follows:

- **Training and Capacity Building:** Nine-themed intensive training workshops were carried out, which aimed at equipping the young people with skills in advocacy, campaigning, lobbying and effective communication. The training included key issues that directly impact the youth's lives and



future such as environmental, gender and youth rights in Palestine, in addition to technical, hands-on training on how to organize advocacy and lobbying campaigns in Palestine. Non-traditional advocacy fields such as the electronic and social media were strongly incorporated as well. The number of young people who graduated from the 2016 training was 83 persons.

- **Stakeholders Coalition and Alliance Formation:** Close collaboration and association with key stakeholders and inter-sectorial partners is essential for the success of a grassroots youth lobby. In 2016, at least 20 partners provided youth candidates to be trained, who then went back to their various organizations and localities to apply their training and spread the values and culture of organizing and campaigning for their rights. In addition, several joint activities with different stakeholders were carried out in multiple areas. These stakeholders included local/national media outlets, local/national civil society organizations, ministerial and semi-governmental bodies, local government authorities, chambers of commerce, private sector and others.

- **Public Relations and Promotional Efforts:** One result of this key activity was the strengthened presence of the young people and their issues in local/national media. Diyar has introduced a unique approach into the local/national media, in that the reporting on youth activism has shifted to



considering cultural and community activities as also part of the overall process of advocating for more youth rights and enhancing their role and presence in decision-making mediums and spaces. In 2016, the frequency of coverage in the local and national media in various formats was 68 times.

- **Community Events:** Unique events were held in the different communities and localities, such as the "Exchange Your Book" in both Bethlehem and Hebron cities, as well as the symposium that was organized in Nablus on "The Role of Palestinian Women in Culture and Civil Society".
- **"Min Haqi" and "Jalsat Shababiyya" Online Radio Shows:** The production of the weekly online radio show "Min Haqi" continued with significant topics that were strategically selected so as to highlight some of the fifteen priority areas that are covered by the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), which guides the UN youth agenda. In total, 27 shows were aired with 100+ guests and interviewees. Another one-hour weekly show also emerged in 2016 called "Jalsat Shababiyya" (Youth Gatherings), which was broadcasted during Ramadan fasting month and revolved around soliciting the youth's opinions on different issues and daily observations.
- **"Min Haqi" Quarterly Online Newsletter:** The quarterly newsletter encouraged the young people to contribute with articles, stories,

poems, photographs and other types of creative expressions. Also, a profiles section was created that highlights remarkable Palestinian youth as role models who are members of the Civic Cultural Network, including the first Palestinian woman to work at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague in the Netherlands. All in all, 4 issues were produced in 2016.

- **Local and Regional Presence:** The participation of the target group in different local and regional forums and mediums was enhanced in 2016. Examples include 3 young people selected by Dr. Taleb Dkeidek, a well-known human development expert in Palestine, to assist him in a workshop in December 2016. Another is the participation of 7 young people in a continued regional initiative in Amman, Jordan entitled “United Against Violence in the Name of Religion: Social Media as a Space for Dialogue”. A third example is the partaking of a young woman in “Positive Dialogue: A Tool for Change” training in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Brochure and Logo:** With a new logo that creatively expresses The Civic Cultural Network’s values,

vision and mission, as well as a new brochure in Arabic, there are currently 209 active youth members in this network, in addition to 66 new persons who will join in early 2017

2. *The Palestinian Youth Leadership Training Project – Phase III*

This initiative in its third phase, which was supported by the Representative Office of Finland in Ramallah, aims at identifying, motivating and cultivating young Palestinian leaders as informed, engaged and proactive citizens by empowering them to articulate and organize around significant civic issues through using the powerful medium of culture. A summary of the activities and highlights of 2016 is as follows:

- **Training Workshops:** A total of 86 young people underwent training in 10 innovative, unique workshops that focused on enhancing their skills and understanding of leadership, culture and civil society issues. It is important to note that 63.95% of the participating youth, i.e. 55 persons, came from marginalized areas distributed across the

districts of Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarim, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron.

- **Internship Opportunities:** A total of 7 interns fulfilled 10 internship opportunities of 50 hours each, and as a result their leadership, organizational and communication skills were further developed and cultivated. Some of these interns served more than one term.
- **National Seminars:** 2 national seminars were organized on significant cultural figures and issues, and thus contributed to enhancing the youth’s awareness and understanding of their heritage, history and culture. The first seminar focused on Karimeh Abboud, the remarkable first Palestinian woman photographer who passed away in 1940, leaving behind a wealth of photographs that document the Palestinian social history of the early twentieth century. The second seminar was on the Palestinian rural heritage.
- **Cultural Field Visits:** 2 cultural field visits were conducted to the Jordan Valley and Nablus district as well as to Irtas village near Bethlehem. These

visits positively impacted the youth because it allowed them to physically experience what they are learning about, so that for example at the Jordan Valley the issue of environmental sustainability, which was one of the training themes, was a key topic that was highlighted while at Irtas village the issue of Palestinian rural heritage was the focus.

- **Cultural Resource:** A cultural resource with the working title “The Little Town: A Social Cultural Guide to Bethlehem” was produced, documenting the social cultural history of the old city of Bethlehem. The research was partly carried out by a young woman researcher, so that the youth were involved in the important process of producing the narrative on the social history of an important city such as Bethlehem.

Religion & State Program

The overall goal of the Religion and State – Middle East Program is to empower Christian young women and men to be proactive in the pursuit of full and equal citizenship for everyone in the Arab Middle East, thereby actualizing their Christian commitment for full citizen rights. Toward that goal, the program continues to train Christian university graduates for advocacy and engagement in sustainable human development for Christian citizenship.

Staying the course, two workshops were held in 2016. The first workshop was organized in Cairo, Egypt, on July 1 and was attended by 35 active men and women (ages 24 – 36), while the second workshop was held in Amman, Jordan on October 7 and was attended by 21 Christian Jordanian young women and men. Alongside the training events, a wide-spread effort continued to interpret the CAFCAW initiative among



Christian scholars and academic researchers, so as to strengthen CAFCAW itself and thereby to give momentum to a movement that aims, in the long run, toward full citizenship for all members of society.

As Phase III was designed to climax in the autumn of 2016 with a major conference for Christian youth from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, a prize was announced for a most creative and effective initiative carried out by Christian youth that promotes full citizenship for all.

The conference was held in Limassol, Cyprus during December 1-3, which brought together 62 young men and women from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine. The topics included: Challenges of Full Citizenship in the Arab World; the Impact of War in Syria on Youth in that Country and Beyond; A Training Session on Citizenship; Advocacy Messaging; Incubating Youth Initiatives; Presentations and Submissions by Youth of Their Initiatives; Peer Voting by All Participants on Presented Initiatives; and Voting by Steering Committee on Submitted Initiatives and Calibrating the Votes.

To affirm and encourage the youth for creative and brilliant initiatives, three prizes were awarded, while other submissions received honorable mention. The first-prize winner (a Lebanese youth) had started a voluntary blood bank under the title “*Donner Sang Compter*” (note the play on words between “*sang*” – meaning “blood” – and “*sans*” – meaning “without” – “Give [blood/without] counting!” by doing so, he is helping not only those needing blood transfusion but also the donors to have a sense of belonging to their country and a purpose for improving the quality of life there.

Instead of publishing a book with the proceedings of the conference, the youth participants suggested to invest more in social media. The Facebook site of CAFCAW got 403 active followers in 2016 and in a closed CAFCAW Facebook group 60 very committed members who post there on daily basis, thus creating an online regional community. An interactive website is under construction.

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

The Theater and Dance School

1. Theater and Dance Creative Labs

The creative labs seek to expose the young students to the essential elements of theater and dance by offering new and innovative tools, empowering them



to create artistic work and production from beginning to end. In 2016, there were two student productions. The first was *Out of the Box?*, which focused on the pressures that society places on youth as it “boxes them in” societal expectations and control; the second was *Our Life Attempts*, which was produced by an all-female drama group and highlighted the issues of gender equality as well as disability and integration in public and private schools.

2. Dance and Theatre Productions

The first major production in 2016 was entitled *Hayya* (the Syriac word for “life”), a scout music and dance collaborative production that brought together more than 55 dancers and musicians from the Diyar Dance Theater and the Orthodox Syriac Scout Troupe of Bethlehem, in a combination of Palestinian folklore

dance, contemporary dance, collaborative movement, scout marching and live music comprised of bagpipes and drums. The second production was *SantaClore*, a 50-minute Christmas theater performance that dealt with the issue of seeking refuge and protection, and portrayed the many children and families around the world suffering from war and displacement.

3. International Tours and Cultural Exchanges

Diyar Dance Theater participated in the *One Nation Dance*, an interdisciplinary and international dance theater exchange held in Bremen, Germany between young dancers from Germany, Palestine and Finland. They also represented Palestine in the *Europaisches*



Folklore Festival along with 15 folklore dance troupes from around the world. In addition, 6 young dancers toured Germany and Austria for 40 days in September – October, 2016.



4. Special Events

Two special events were held at the theater and dance school. The first was hosting Pierre Dulaine, founder of Dancing Classrooms, who carried out ballroom dance workshops and a dance competition. He also gave lectures in the technical expertise and development, explained ‘dance salons’ and introduced the young

participants to the different kinds of dance such as Waltz, Tango, and Salsa. Notably, Dulaine was the character Antonio Banderas played in the feature film "Take the Lead" and the New York City instructor behind the public schools' dancing project in the documentary "Mad Hot Ballroom".

The second event was organizing the second edition of the Diyar Theater and Dance Week during the last week of October 2016 in Bethlehem, featuring both new and original works of young Palestinian artists with a packed program of theater and children plays, Dabkeh and contemporary dance performances and music concerts.

The Sports School

1. National Competitions

Diyar Women Soccer Team won the Palestinian Presidential Women Cup 2016 by defeating Sarreyet Ramallah in an exciting game with a final score of 3 to 1. As well, Diyar Youngsters Soccer Team "A" achieved second place in the Five-A-Side Palestinian Female Youngsters Championship.



2. International Competitions and Exchange

Diyar Women Soccer Team participated in an international soccer festival that was organized by Discover Football in August in Berlin, Germany. The festival included workshops and a tournament with teams from Germany, Palestine and other countries. The festival concluded by meeting the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who stressed the importance of women soccer in advancing gender equality. Diyar Women Soccer Team also participated in an exchange program in August in

Bremen, Germany. The extensive training program included soccer and leadership workshops, official visits and friendly games with the Werder Bremen Women Football Team and the Girls Team from Sinn, Germany.

3. Sports Camps for Girls

The sports camps for girls, held July 11 - August 5, was successfully implemented for the third year in a row as these camps provided a unique athletic and leadership opportunity for 150 girls from different localities in the Bethlehem Governorate. The main focus was on soccer, volleyball and swimming. There were also social leadership workshops and leisure outdoor activities to strengthen group dynamics and cohesion.

4. Diyar Karate Course at Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

The Karate program completed its first year with 40 children as participants. The program includes boys and girls from the major cities, refugee camps, rural areas and Area C in the Bethlehem Governorate.

5. Special Events

Two major events were organized to promote sports among Palestinian girls and women. The first event "Our Goals, Our Dreams" highlighted the importance of women participation in male-dominated sports fields such as soccer. The second event was a play day for young children with more than 100 participants to help parents understand the positive effects of sports on their children.

The Art School

An intensive book writing workshop for 10 Palestinian youth from Bethlehem, Hebron and Jerusalem was held from July 10 to August 29, 2016. Creative writing was successfully utilized as a tool to encourage youth to express sensitive issues in their daily life; the educative part of storytelling helped the youth in exploring, challenging and expressing their own ideas, using the needed skills, language and processes of art. The end result was one-of-a-kind creative book writing and illustration training, with stories expressed by the youth themselves.

Ajyal Program

Ajyal Elderly Care Program

The overall aim and goal of Ajyal is to improve the quality of life of the elderly in Palestine and explore their contributing potential, particularly as there is a significant growing number of elderly living without the support of traditional family social structures. The major highlights of 2016 were the following:

Ajyal 10th Anniversary: The year 2016 marked the 10th anniversary of the launching of the Ajyal Elderly Care Program. A phenomenal growth of this program was witnessed, starting with 14 persons in 2006 and expanding over the years to serve thousands of seniors from different areas in Palestine. A celebration dinner of this important milestone was held, with the noted Palestinian woman artist Tamam al-Akhal as the guest of honor, who spoke of her struggles and triumphs as a Palestinian artist in exile.



“Pioneers of Palestine Award Program”: In recognition of her dedication and hard work, the manager of Ajyal Elderly Care Program, Ms. Raeda Mansour, was granted the “Pioneers of Palestinian Award Program” through Synergos MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Institute in collaboration with Al-Waleed Philanthropies.

Workshops: The main focus this year was to provide training for the twelve committee members who assist in running the program, through workshops on

voluntarism and serving others as well as other major issues they should consider while dealing with other seniors as peers.

“Jamil and Wadi’a” Drama Show: The drama club during 2016 produced several plays that were performed by the elderly members at special celebrations, including Mother’s Day. One major theater show was called “Jamil and Wadi’a”, which dealt with the challenges and physical changes that the elderly face and go through at this stage of life, particularly the loss of hearing. It is important to note that the script was written by an elderly woman who is a member of the drama group.

Azwaj Program

The major 2016 highlights of this unique program that works with young families are the following:

“Forgiveness in Our Marital and Spiritual Life” Conference: An annual event, this year’s conference revolved around the issue of forgiveness as not only a question of peace and harmony within a couple’s communication and marriage life, but also as a matter involving the utmost center of spiritual life. The

workshops were facilitated by Dr. Margaret Griffiths, a committed supporter who is a psychotherapist from Illinois, USA.

Monthly Awareness Sessions: The monthly sessions aimed at raising awareness among the young families of issues related to spousal relationships and parenting continued with many interesting and new topics including skills for better communication and messages, caring for and within the marriage, values in life, parent-child conflict and others.

Intergenerational Activities: There were many joint activities carried out in 2016 between members of the Ajyal and Azwaj programs. These joint activities included meals, celebrations, trips and educational sessions. One particular activity was *The Celebrate Recovery Program* where intensive weekly meetings were held as the members engaged in deep reflection and discussions, looking into past painful experiences and difficult challenges such as hurt, fear, anger, anxiety, control issues and family chaos to heal, recover and move forward. Such program continues to positively impact the lives of the Ajyal and Azwaj participants.

Culture Program



In 2016, a total of 81 cultural events were held at Dar al-Kalima/Diyar premises. These events varied and included 27 theater plays and dance performances;

Diyar included the Choir of London, the Australian Voices, the Choir of St. Peter's College – Oxford and Dima Bawab, the famous opera singer.

17 music festivals and concerts; 14 film screenings; 16 conferences, workshops and book launchings; 7 exhibitions and other types of activities that ranged from a one-day event to several days of happenings. These events featured local, national and international artists.

Among the cultural events were two important musical festivals, which were:

The Palestine Choral Festival: The Palestine Choral Festival, which took place August 11 – 20, included 5 international choirs and ensembles in addition to over 50 Palestinian choirs. Some of the choirs that were hosted at



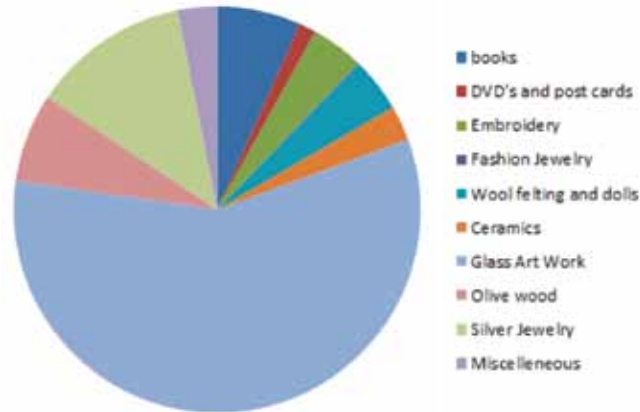
Dandanat Dance and Music Festival: Together with our Swedish partner Bilda, Dandanat Dance and Music Festival was held for its 11th year in a row in September 2016. Hosting 8 Swedish and Palestinian music bands and dance companies of different genres, including alternative rock and hip-hop, the three-day festival with this year's theme "stay where there are songs and dances" offered a significant and effective platform for cultural exchange among youth of different contexts. The Dandanat Dance and Music Festival, as usual, included technical training workshops alongside public concerts that were performed in different spots in Bethlehem.

Finally, it is important to note that other significant music events included a concert on the occasion of the International Woman's Day that was supported by the Representative Office of Finland, with the noted **Pianist Laura Mikkola** and **Cellist Liina Leijala** from Finland.



The Cave Gift Shop

Cave Category
Books
DVDs and Post Cards
Embroidery
Fashion Jewelry
Wool Felting and Dolls
Ceramics
Glass Art Work
Olive wood
Silver Jewelry
Miscellaneous



Facts and Highlights

*12,451 items were sold at the Gift Shop in 2016.
 *Online sales were 59% of the total sales in 2016.

*Sales by Countries:

Sweden Ranked #1.
 Denmark Ranked # 2.

USA Ranked #3.
 Germany Ranked #4.
 France Ranked #5.

*Best Sellers:

- Books: Faith in the Face of Empire.
- CDs: Social Transformation Through Youth Media, DAK Productions.
- Ceramics: Ceramic Stars.
- Felted Lamb Wool: Small Nativity and Shepherds Field Set.
- Embroidery: Stoles, variety of colors and designs.
- Recycled Glass Items: Original Angel, Glass Eye Drop and Peace Dove.
- Olive Wood: Olive Wood Hearts 5cm*5cm.
- Silver Jewelry: Olive Leaves Ring, Zigzag Olive Leaf Earring and Semi Rolled Twin Olive Leaf Pendant.

Launching of the New Website: www.annadwa.org

New items were introduced to the new website and 1000 copies of the annual catalogue were printed in 2016.



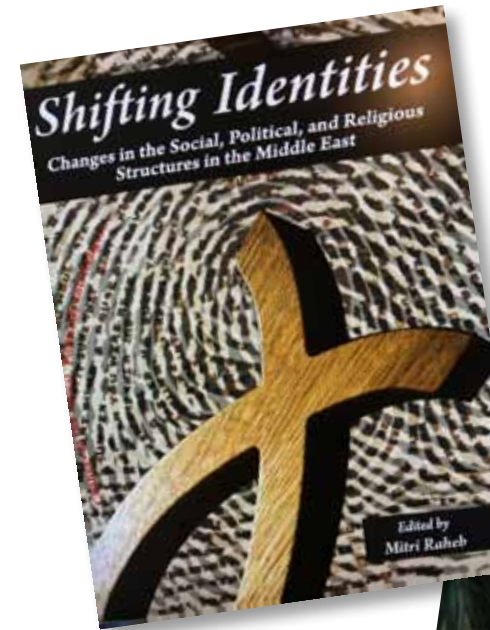
Diyar Publisher

2016 Publications

- Ayyoub Musallam (Author: Adnan Musallam)
- Atlas of the Palestinian Rural Heritage (Author: Ishaq Hroub)
- Khawater Falastinieh (Author: Ahmad Saifi)
- Resonance of Our Footsteps (Author: Mai Zaru)
- Shifting Identities (Editor: Mitri Raheb)

Best Sellers

- No.1: Faith in the Face of Empire
(Author: Mitri Raheb)
- No. 2 Atlas of the Rural Heritage
(Author: Ishaq Hroub)
- No. 3: Palestinian Identity (Editor: Mitri Raheb)



Media Coverage

There was extensive media coverage during 2016, with three main events receiving wide attention, namely the Ismail Shammout Award Ceremony, The Art and Resistance International Conference and the Karima Abboud Award Ceremony. A detailed description of the highlights of the DAK media department follows:

News Reports: there were about 88 news reports on Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar.

Print Media: Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat newspapers reported 77 times on Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar. In addition, both Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam newspaper posted 16 promotions.

Digital Media: A total of 542 reports were published in the different websites of news agencies and other platforms such as: Palestinian News & Info Agency (WAFA), Maan News Agency, Radio Bethlehem 2000,

Radio Baladna, Radio Mawwal, Al-Quds Newspaper Website, Raya Network, Palestine News Network (PNN), Panet website, Al-Hayat Newspaper website, *Al-Watan Voice* website, Pal 24 website, Radio Orient, Radio Nagham, *Al-Hourriah* Magazine website, Zaman News Press Agency, *Shfa News*, Al-Quds website, Palestine News Agency, R4fm Radio, Bethlehem TV, Asdaa News website, Pal Today Agency, Bethlehem Network News, Al-Fajer TV, Palestine TV website, The Voice of Palestine Radio website and others. In addition, coverage was made on Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar websites and official Facebook pages.

Radio: Promotional coverage was made on Radio Bethlehem 2000, Radio Baladna and Radio Marah. In addition, there were 51 interviews carried out on Ajyal Radio Network, Radio Bethlehem 2000, Radio Baladna, Radio Mawwal, Radio Orient, Radio Marah,

Radio Nisa FM, The Voice of Palestine Radio. There were also 4 live broadcasts on the activities of Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar on Radio Baladna.

Audiovisual: A total of 20 interviews were broadcasted on different satellite channels including General Authority for Radio and Television (Palestine TV), Maan TV and Al-Filastiniyya TV. Also, there were 19 news reports broadcasted on Al-Jazeera TV, General Authority for Radio and Television (Palestine TV), Maan TV, Al-Quds TV and Al-Hurra TV. Moreover, there were 7 live broadcasts on the activities of Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar on Al-Jazeera TV, General Authority for Radio and Television (Palestine TV) and Maan TV.

School Visits: A total of 1684 students visited the University College from 30 different schools to learn more about its work and unique degrees and specializations. In

addition, Dar al-Kalima University College and the Palestinian Ministry of Education co-organized a workshop for school teachers and directors. As well, Dar al-Kalima University College organized an art competition for school students.



Authentic Tourism Program



Authentic Tourism Groups: In 2016, there were 18 groups who participated in the Authentic Tourism Program, coming from the USA, Germany, Sweden and Finland. The average group size was 15 persons, with a total number of 293 visitors.

Studiosus Groups from Germany: The number of visiting groups from Studiosus has increased in the year 2016 when compared to 2015. These groups come for one day to Bethlehem and Diyar, to learn more about the work and current issues in addition to a special tour in Bethlehem. In total, we received 521 persons in 2016.

Visiting Groups for Lectures: In addition to authentic tourism and Studiosus groups, Dar al-Kalima University College/Diyar received in 2016 a total of 856 visitors who came to hear a lecture about the vision and mission of the organization as well as current issues. These visitors were from the following countries: United States (1238 persons); Germany (187 persons); Sweden (164 persons); England (133); Denmark (55 persons); Norway (24 persons); Finland (31 persons); Canada (21 persons); Switzerland (20 persons); and Scotland (7 persons).

Art & Resistance Conference



by Rima Amin

“Art is a sacred space where people learn how to breathe freely in a context where the fresh air seems to be almost already used up.”

Mitri Raheb,
President of Dar Al-Kalima

Between 12 and 15 May, works of interdisciplinary scholars, artists and critics from more than 12 countries and 30 higher education institutions were presented and discussed at the Arts and Resistance Conference in Bethlehem, Palestine.

Some may wonder what power can be found in art against the armed occupation of Palestine. In a place

with concrete separation walls towering over roads and checkpoints surrounding every direction with armed soldiers at guard, wouldn't art be considered a luxury? Participants of the conference would disagree, in fact arguing that art can be a tool for resistance in contexts of conflict. Researcher Cynthia Bodenhorst said:

“The voices that are significant are those that remain largely inaudible or silenced and struggle for a space of appearance: the unemployed, the homeless, those forced into migration; those criminalized for civil protest; those forced to live under war and occupation.”

Using art to have their voices heard

Art offers a place for this voice to be heard. This alone makes it a necessity. And for delegates who have travelled around the world, using art in their own struggles and pursuits for justice is further evidence of its usefulness as a tool of resistance.

In Palestine, art also offers ownership in a place where so much has been taken. It offers a place for talent to thrive in spite of limitations. It offers reminders of an important aspect of history that many do not want to forget. Art binds people. This conference brought together artists, academics and activists from: Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, Ecuador, Lebanon, Netherlands and more.

Dr Ihab Bseiso, Palestine's Minister for Cultural Affairs, supported the event saying:

"We want to show the world that we're not who they say we are. We have music, literature, theatre and in Gaza as we speak, there is a film festival is taking place."

Palestinian filmmaker Annemarie Jacir spoke of the day a lecturer once told her that her family history,

which she'd written in an essay at school, was not true. He told her: "You have been lied to. It's not your fault but you come from a culture that lies."

This is the moment Annemarie learnt what it meant to have her voice silenced. It was the moment she found her role and responsibility in storytelling. Filmmaking became her art of choice.

Many like Annemarie feel their histories are being erased. Earlier this year, Anat Burko, a lawmaker within the Likud party of Israel, inferred that there could be no such a place as Palestine because there is no "P" in Arabic. Art becomes an important tool in resisting such statements, and affirming historical events.

Combining art, history and politics

On 15 May the conference honored "Yawm al-Nakba" (Day of Catastrophe), the day when more than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or forced out of their villages in 1948. Students collaborated with artist Gita Hashemi to perform "On the Land" – a walk from Beit Jala to Battir, to show the power of "performance resistance" – "because even to walk on these lands is resistance".

Engagement from politicians on art is important too. On the 4th floor was a studio with an exhibition of students' artwork. The Minister of Cultural Affairs for Palestine and artists spent time there observing and speaking with students. Student Balqees Othman said that it was the first time he had met the Minister and that he appreciated the way he had taken the time to look at their artwork and participate.

"It feels great to be able to share our artworks with the world so the world will be a part of our real struggle."

The conference lunches were served by students studying for a Culinary Arts diploma. One dish was called "Musakhann" which, translated from Arabic, means "heated". It is a dish from North Palestine consisting of chicken baked with spices and onions served over taboon bread.

The cuisine fitted in with a presentation from Ron Benner on the ecology and political economy of plants, food and agriculture. He explained that where there is occupation, there is also occupation of the ownership and history of food. It is therefore significant to know where food and recipes come from.

Reflecting on the conference, independent critic Anna Khimasia said: "It reaffirms for me the importance that art and politics must not become severed from life and are intimately intertwined. The generosity and the commitment to engaging with ideas around art and resistance shown by Dar Al-Kalima University is extraordinary and I hope that the university, its amazing faculty and staff continue this discussion."

Arts can be delivered through many forms: theatre, dance, food, paintings, performance, drawings, music and installations. Each is unique and has the ability to connect with others on a multitude of levels.

In parts of the world where occupation exists and connections are severed, art acts as a strong bridge supporting all who choose to walk along it. Those who do will find themselves listening to unheard voices, exploring emotions and discovering rich histories along the way.

Special Thanks to...

***Our friends, supporters and donors who believe in what we do,
and to those who contributed directly or indirectly to our ministries.***

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft F. Entwick (AGEH)
- Bank of Palestine
- Bilda
- Bread for The World – Protestant Development Service
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- British Consulate-General Jerusalem
- Church of Scotland
- Church of Sweden
- Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)
- Dar Al-Kalima Foerderverein
- Diakonie Austria
- DVV International
- Evangelical Church of Westphalia
- Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW)
- Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)
- FPSE International Solidarity Fund
- Healing the Living Stones
- Holy Land Christians Society
- Italian Geographical Society
- Kerk in Actie
- Misereor - Ihr Helfswerk
- Olof Palme International Center
- Otto Per Mille ChiesaValdese
- Palestinian American Women's Association of Southern California (PAWA)
- Palestinian Bible Society
- Pilgrims of Ibillin
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Quality Improvement Fund (QIF) - MOEHE
- Representative Office of Finland in Ramallah
- Representative Office of Norway in Ramallah
- The Palestinian Ministry of Culture
- The Sternenstaub Foundation
- The Synergos MENA Institute
- The United Methodist Church – The General Board of Global Ministries
- United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ
- United Palestinian Appeal, Inc. (UPA)
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Zahi and Amal Khouri

Diyar Consortium