

Gaza Employment Project



Jan 2018, Peter Rand (FHL Vice Chairman) meets beneficiaries of FHL's Gaza Youth Employment Project

The situation

No bigger than the Isle of Wight and home to almost 2 million people, Gaza is the most densely populated country in the world. The Christian community numbers just over 1,000, and without sustainable investment in the next generation could disappear entirely.

Life in Gaza is unimaginably hard. Cut off from Israel by a 1 km 'no go zone' the population are reliant on international food aid, have no access to clean tap water and have electricity for just a few hours a day. Prospects for young people are bleak, with 65% unemployed.

How does FHL help?

Since October 2016, FHL has been supporting 16 young people in work placements across Gaza. Recruits were selected through a rigorous programme of exams and interviews, and then placed in institutions such as the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, the YMCA and the Orthodox Cultural Centre. FHL provides £46,000 funding each year to ensure this valuable work to sustain the Christian population in Gaza can continue.

What impact does FHL make?

As well as giving these young people an opportunity to develop skills and acquire work experience, the placements provide an income to support the young person's family. Employment sponsorship in Gaza also helps the institution the young people work in, opening pathways for succession planning and enabling it to support the wider community. Many schools, healthcare facilities, social and community projects are run by Christians, and these institutions are supporting the majority Muslim population. There is a real possibility that Gaza's infrastructure might collapse if Christian institutions do not receive direct investment based on sustainable objectives.

Could you support this project?

FHL exists to help and support the Christian population of the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan, to help develop a resilient and enduring community there. We are grateful for all donations of time and money to help us achieve this mission.

Financial donations can be made online by visiting www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk and clicking on the DONATE NOW button. Alternatively, a cheque made payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land', can be sent to FHL at the address shown below. Standing order forms are available on our website under 'GET INVOLVED ' on the 'Donate Money' page, or by contacting the office.

Sponsor a young person: Opportunities exist for groups or individuals to sponsor a young employee in Gaza at £2,875 a year (or £240 a month). Contact the office for information.

Contact details: Friends of the Holy and, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2DH, office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk 01926 512980 www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Volunteer with us: Volunteers are needed to help in our office in Kenilworth or to speak at events across the country, please let us know if you can help.



"From my visits each year to Gaza it's clear that the Christian community needs sustainable assistance, employment opportunities are essential to help the local community have the best chance to become self-sufficient."

Peter Rand FHL Vice Chairman and Trustee

"My name is Ramy Tarazi, I am 25 years old and I live in the Gaza Strip. I have a BA in accounting and I am employed by the Orthodox Culture Centre. I am so grateful to Friends of the Holy Land for supporting the youth of Gaza and giving me this opportunity to gain valuable work experience".

Ramy Tarazi – FHL beneficiary

