



**N**etwork of  
**P**hotographers for  
**P**alestine

**OSCR**  
Scottish Charity Regulator  
[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

Registered SCIO  
SC046699

Annual General Meeting, 26 January 2017,

### Chairman's Report

I am delighted to welcome you to this our first AGM.

2017 has seen a significant increase in our work.

Membership – Although still small, our membership has increased slowly over the past year. We now have 26 members, of which 15 reside in Palestine, 10 in the UK and 1 in Germany. We continue to attract members via our exhibitions and events, but clearly still lack members outside Palestine and the UK.

In 2017, we modified our constitution to delete any requirement to charge a membership fee. The difficulties in collecting our original nominal £1 fee far outweighed any benefits we would have gained.

We will be discussing ways of improving relationships with our members in the coming period.

Charitable status – 2017 has been our first full year of operation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This has involved quite a steep learning curve, involving the appointment of a new Board of Trustees, the increased regulation of our financial affairs, and a wider discussion of policy issues. I would like to thank Frank Thomas, our treasurer, for his work in pulling our finances together, and Phil Chetwynd (secretary) for co-ordinating the various strands of our activity.

After the resignations of two of our Trustees due to conflict of interest (both wished to submit images for this year's "Displaced" exhibition), we have once again strengthened our ranks with the addition of John Badenhorst (Arbroath, Scotland) and Mohamad Zwahre (Al Mas'ra, near Bethlehem & Birzeit University).

Exhibitions – We have had an interesting year of exhibitions this year. "Displaced" our work on the experiences of Palestinian refugees both inside and outside of Palestine has now been shown to wide acclaim in Gaza City and three Scottish venues – Edinburgh (x2), Inverness and Lochinver. The exhibition will also be on

show in Arbroath, Scotland throughout the month of February, and negotiations are still underway to show the exhibition in Glasgow later in the year.

Our second exhibition, “The Legacy of Balfour”, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Balfour Declaration was somewhat more controversial. Shown during the Festival as an outdoor exhibition in a prime central site, this was serially vandalised by pro-Israelis attempting to censor our work. Indeed, the police were quite inappropriately drawn in to investigate bogus allegations of “anti-Semitism” and in so doing removing several of our pictures. Our complaint to Police Scotland was fully upheld and an apology was issued to us. Our positive coverage in the press and social media over this matter was probably instrumental in obtaining a number of other requests to show this exhibition. So far the exhibition has had two further outings in Edinburgh and one in Dunblane as well as being shown in Al Mas'ra on the West Bank. Further requests to show this exhibition have come from students at the Universities of E. Anglia and Birzeit. The conclusions we drew from this episode is that, whereas we do not seek out political confrontation, we nevertheless will certainly not roll over and succumb to the constant bogus complaints of “anti-Semitism “against anyone who seek to tell the Palestinian story in Scotland.

Funding – Achieving charitable status did not bring about the hoped-for successes in funding applications this year. We therefore had to rely once more on crowdfunding as our major source of income. We fell well short of our target, which drew our attention to the fact that there are many more competitors on the crowdfunding scene these days, and that we will need to refine our approach to funding in future. We are therefore particularly pleased that John Badenhorst has kindly agreed to take on the tricky task of fund-raising for the coming period. Nevertheless our income was slightly greater than our expenditure. See Appendix for financial details.

Looking to the Future – We are planning a full programme of events in 2018. Anne Paq and “Ezz” al Zanon of Activestills have been invited to exhibit and discuss their work during the Edinburgh Festival in August, and we are hoping too that Mahmoud al Kurd, one of Gaza's most innovative photographers will be able to undertake a three-week tour of Scotland in the spring/ early summer of this year.

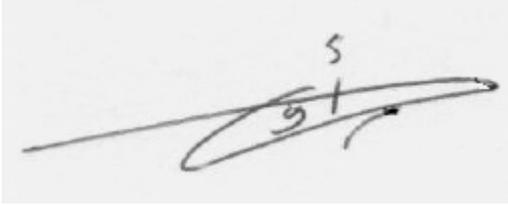
We have also recently been approached by Palmed Europe to initiate an exhibition of photographs documenting health care in Palestine, but this is in the very early planning stage at this point.

We are now opening up contacts in Universities in Norwich (UK) and in Birzeit (Palestine), and hope that the collaboration between the student bodies around a simultaneous showing of our exhibition “The Legacy of Balfour” will bear fruit for the future.

I would like to thank our members for supporting our work over the past year. The road to liberation in Palestine remains long and hard. Our task of opening the eyes of those around us to the realities of life under a brutal military occupation remains as

urgent as ever.

Finally, I would also like to record my thanks to our Trustees who have worked so hard to develop NPP over the past year. It has been a major year of development in our organisation, and we look forward to extending this into 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light background. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Rafat Abushaban'. There is a small 'S' written above the main signature line.

Rafat Abushaban (Chairperson, NPP)

## Appendix

### Network of Photographers for Palestine

#### Financial report 2017

The table below summarises income and expenditure for the year 2017, the first of our existence as a charity.

Income was entirely from donations totalling £1843. More than half the total (£1061) came from a crowd-funding appeal for our main project 'Displaced'.

We ran two projects (for details see Chair's report). 'Displaced' gathered donations of £1722 and incurred expenses of £1792, thus finished with a small deficit of £70. £720 was awarded as prizes to photographers providing images selected for exhibition. The exhibition was put up in three locations: Edinburgh, Gaza and Ramallah. Exhibition costs in Edinburgh were low compared with the other two locations because, among other things, a free space to exhibit was found. Transferring money to Palestine cost us £129.50.

The 'Balfour' exhibition was put up in both Edinburgh and Al-Mas'ra in the West Bank, incurring costs of around £100 in each.

#### *Income and expenditure, 2017*

|   | £        |
|---|----------|
| <b>Income</b>                           |          |
| Donations                               | 1,832.43 |
| Total income                            | 1,832.43 |
| <b>Expenses</b>                         |          |
| Bank charges for transfers to Palestine | 129.50   |
| Materials, printing, etc.               | 558.08   |
| Venue costs                             | 225.27   |
| Prizes to photographers                 | 720.00   |
| Total expenditure                       | 1632.85  |
| <b>Net income</b>                       | 199.58   |

Our UK bank balance on 31 December 2017 was £367.06 with funds in Palestine standing at £474.52, mainly earmarked for holding the 'Displaced' exhibition in Ramallah.

The summarised balance sheet is in the following table. Little if anything is held as

stock as photographic materials tend to be bought and used immediately for the project in hand.

***Balance sheet, 31 December 2017***

|                       | £             |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Current assets</b> |               |                  |
| Cash in bank          | 367.06        |                  |
| Funds in Gaza         | 74.52         | Held as \$94.75  |
| Funds in Ramallah     | 400.00        | Held as \$511.17 |
| Total                 | 841.58        |                  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>    |               |                  |
|                       | 0.00          |                  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>     |               |                  |
|                       | <b>841.58</b> |                  |
| <b>Capital</b>        |               |                  |
| Opening balance       | 642.00        |                  |
| Net income            | 199.58        |                  |
| Closing balance       | 841.58        |                  |



Frank Thomas  
Treasurer