



Education in Gaza, a seed for peace

Campaign by the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia – Unescocat to support the right to education in Gaza

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?

Mahatma Gandhi, "Non-Violence in Peace and War"

The humanitarian situation affecting the civilian population in Gaza is unsustainable from all points of view. One of the areas most affected is education:

- In the short term, the bombardments interrupt normal schooling and, therefore, constitute a serious offence against the right to education for thousands of children and young people living in the territory.
- In the medium term, the destruction of school buildings through bombing makes it impossible to guarantee the right to education in the case of a ceasefire, as there would be insufficient facilities to meet the minimum requirements to promote quality education.
- In the long term, the profound psychological consequences and the pain deeply affecting children and young people makes it difficult for us to imagine a future with citizens educated within a culture of peace and free of violence for at least two generations.

As defenders of Human Rights in general and, specifically, the universal right to education (defined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child), we cannot remain impassive in the present situation. Unfortunately, this is not a new situation as it has occurred in different parts of the world throughout time. However, this situation can be considered exceptional due to the level of harshness and extreme injustice.

The UNESCO Centre of Catalonia – Unescocat is undertaking a humanitarian campaign to support Gaza's educational system, so that the right to education for children and young people living in the territory is not irreparably affected by the unfortunate and violent events taking place. With the slogan "Education in Gaza, a seed for peace", Unescocat is coordinating the collection of funds to develop a plan which will include three programmes:



1. A programme for the reconstruction of school buildings in coordination with the Ministry of Education of the Palestinian National Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
2. A programme for school exchanges and training support for teachers, in coordination with teacher training schools.
3. A programme for additional educational activities for children and young people in coordination with the Palestinian National Commission for UNESCO.

We know that these are important medium and long term programmes but that other aspects are more urgent at present. However, building for a peaceful future begins here and now. It is the inalienable aim of all people and organisations that defend human rights at present, and it needs to be carried out with dignity and respect because tomorrow may be too late.

Donations can be made through:

Bank : La Caixa (Av. Diagonal)

Holder: Centre UNESCO de Catalunya – Education in Gaza

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