



CADFA Trustees' Annual Report 2015-16



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Introduction

CADFA continues to do very exciting work, bringing people from the UK and Palestine together in order to raise awareness of human rights and work to improve the human rights situation in Palestine.

This year was a very active and positive year for CADFA with many exchanges, volunteers and local

work in both Abu Dis and in the UK as well as work on human rights campaigns.



It was a difficult year financially for CADFA as explained in the financial part of the report. However the friends we have gained through our widening activities helped us through and we continue to be determined and focused on our aims and proud of the impact of our work which is spreading awareness of human rights and bringing in new people to be active.

The human rights situation in Abu Dis

Abu Dis in the West Bank was a suburb of Jerusalem till cut off from the centre of the city by the Israeli Separation Wall from 2002 onwards. The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem (in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound) can be seen from many parts of the town, on the other side of the



Separation Wall but not far away. It is not many years since people from Abu Dis were able to walk there. But now the way there is through some of the checkpoints called 'terminals' – very like international frontiers – that the Israelis have made in the Wall, where they divide people according to their IDs, so these can be passed by only some Palestinians from the West Bank.

As long as CADFA has known Abu Dis, the people in the town have been forced to live on a fraction of the land belonging to the town, cooped up between the Israeli Separation Wall to the west (this actually cuts through Abu Dis), the huge settlements mainly to the east, a major checkpoint to the south and settlement roads to the north; inside the town itself, a house on a high point has been taken over by the Israelis as a military camp. Our monthly human rights reports (since 2006) give an indication of the constant pressure on the Palestinians from movement restrictions and separation, army violence and imprisonment, the development of the Israeli settlements around them and the fear of further expansion.

The systematically unequal treatment experienced by the Palestinians has increasingly been compared to apartheid. The Palestinians are being controlled by military rule but given no say in the government that controls them, while the Israelis are building new towns and villages across the West Bank, where they are governed by separate laws. While the mayor of Abu Dis told us of the serious problems they have, prevented from building infrastructure for dealing with sewage, settlers have the infrastructure they need, many times the water allocation allowed to Palestinians, luxurious housing, separate roads.

The situation is getting worse. During this time we have seen the building of Israeli roads in a network across the hills near the town as the Israeli government has prepared to go ahead with the internationally-contentious E1 settlement project. Israel has been pressuring the Bedouin who are living on the land they want for the E1 project, pushing them out of their areas into the land close to Abu Dis. During 2015-16, Bedouin villages in the area of Abu Dis suffered over thirty house demolitions including Abu Nowar school, which was knocked down and rebuilt three times. Buildings knocked over included donations from the EU.

This year saw increased movement restrictions around Jerusalem. In July, the Israelis made a steel gate at the main entrance to Azzayem. This part of Aizariyeh town (next to Abu Dis) has about 2500 people living in it. It was separated from Aizariyeh in the 1990s by the Israeli road between Jerusalem and Maale Adumim settlement. It has become an island ghetto, now gated off and guarded by the army who can close it whenever they want to.



In Ramadan the Israelis gave some extra 'permissions' to people to go to Jerusalem but not for everyone, and hundreds of people desperate to pray in Al Aqsa took the risky route over the wall. A boy from Qalandia was killed trying to climb the wall.

Palestinians are constantly aware of the threat of violence from settlers. In 2015-16, families were still very frightened still by what had happened to Mohammed Abu

Khdair (a youth kidnapped and burned to death in summer 2014). There were repeated kidnapping threats in Jerusalem by settlers. In July 2015, Israeli settlers set fire to the house belonging to the Dawabsheh family in Duma near Nablus. Their baby was burned to death;

his mother and father died soon afterwards. In protests after this, 3 young people in Abu Dis were wounded with live ammunition.

Thousands of Palestinians were in prison. During this year, there were many arrests in Abu Dis including several held under administrative detention (imprisonment with no trial) which then was renewed. Inside the prisons, there were very long hunger strikes against administrative detention. Mohammed al-Qeeq was on hunger strike for 94 days – this finished with an agreement in February he had been held under administrative detention and had no charge against him.

It was a hot and stressed Ramadan in 2015 with nightly reports of tear gas blowing through the town; no-one, young or old, could escape it even inside their houses. Then the situation heated further.

Palestinian society is very young. A large percentage of the Palestinian population as a whole are under 25, and in Abu Dis this percentage is boosted by presence of the Al Quds University main campus. Young people in Abu Dis are the third or fourth generation under Israeli occupation, and they have never known anything other than the pressure of military rule, confinement by the Separation Wall, checkpoints and pass laws, sudden news of invading

DAY RELEASE... FROM ABU DIS TO JERUSALEM, ONE DAY AFTER TWELVE YEARS

“The most painful thing is to feel like a stranger in your own city ... 12 years of not being able to visit the city to walk on the streets and markets ...

To get into Jerusalem by passing through the checkpoints is a hard process, waiting on the terminal, passing through the electronic gates from one to the other, watching others who were not allowed to go through... honestly when I was on the other side it was like being released from jail, not just passing to the other side of the Wall.

Even with the permission in your pocket, you still have the fear inside you, you can't tell where it is still safe to go or not to go. The whole system has changed, there are settlers everywhere.

The first stop for myself was the Mount of Olives which is the last part of the city behind the Wall, I don't remember seeing all these huge Israeli flags on top of house roofs around this neighbourhood ever. Now they are everywhere you look. The streets were changed - they even have different names. The shocking part which was very difficult was to see all the settlers wandering around comfortably in Salahuddin Street, around Damascus Gate.

I remember the bus station which used to be a big, wide place and serve the whole of Palestine. Now it has shrunk, there are buses only for a few places, the neighbourhoods inside the Wall. It's very confusing getting across Jerusalem now, I had to keep asking people, because so much has changed – there are buses and a new tramline, and it isn't clear which buses are safe to go in – are they Palestinian, or Israeli? I got into a bus to return to Abu Dis and it was about to leave when I discovered that it now goes to Abu Dis on the west of the Wall, because the Wall goes across Abu Dis. Imagine if I had stayed on it, it would take hours to get back to a point where I could cross the Wall to get to the Abu Dis on the east of the Wall.”



soldiers from the military camp in the middle of town, child arrests, tear gas and the sound of bullets. Boys and young men (much more rarely, women) are regularly arrested and put in Israeli jails; when they are released after months or years, there is no special help: many fall out of the education system.

Young Palestinians told us that they had been brought up after the Oslo agreements to think that this situation may be coming to an end – but instead, the situation is getting worse. They are now themselves the focus of violent treatment by the Israeli army.



Since September /October 2015, Palestine has been going through an increasing time of uncertainty and fear. About 200 people were killed in 5 months, particularly on the checkpoints most of them young people shot by the Israeli army and settlers.

While the Israeli news suggests each time that the young people who are killed have been using violence against settlers and the army, Palestinians don't agree. There are videos of soldiers planting knives next to wounded or killed young people. Palestinians say that even having a hand in a pocket or walking near a checkpoint can make a young person a target for shooting and killing. They say that the Israeli army have given permission to its soldiers to shoot and kill, that even if anything is wrong they could arrest a wounded Palestinian not return to kill him (as they have been doing), and that all Palestinians are at risk.

Abu Dis itself suffered badly in these newest troubles. There were regular clashes, almost -daily tear gas , regular attacks by the army. Many young people were arrested, many shot, and two people from the town were killed, one of them a student in Abu Dis Boys' School. Between September and November 2015 , three Al Quds University students were killed and dozens arrested. The Israeli army invaded the Al Quds University campus on several occasions shooting tear gas, searching and messing up offices.

On our CADFA visits in February 2016 (when we were also struck by the on-going spread of the settlements), we saw how frightened Palestinians are of the roads and the checkpoints, how people are trying to keep their sons away from clashes, how common the smell of teargas is in the streets and the sound of gunfire in the night, how sad and empty the normally-bustling markets of Jerusalem – except for soldiers, and settlers sometimes aiming for the Al Aqsa Mosque.

It has been a time of huge grief and worry. It is almost impossible to stop this big number of people killed becoming another list as this is happening at such a rate, but of course they are real human beings with friends, lives and families.

We were deeply sad to hear that our volunteer from last year, Nadine, lost her cousin in October (one of these young men). We have been told that there is a video of him being shot in Jerusalem, with someone shouting as background to the video, 'Someone is being killed in front of my eyes! He was doing nothing!'

CADFA's work in Palestine.



CADFA's work in Palestine is centred on the Dar Assadaqa community centre in Abu Dis, which is the base for the Palestinian side of our exchange and volunteer projects, the source of human rights information collected monthly in human rights reports and used as the basis for our campaign work and a venue for local work with women and young people (school and university students).

Dar Assadaqa has been going for ten years now and CADFA's work with Abu Dis for longer. In recent visits, we have met very many old and newer friends and been told about the effect of this work on local people. Children who have joined our visits in previous years have become young adults and many people have good memories of their experience with CADFA; it was very interesting to hear from them.

Dar Assadaqa works to build a peaceful, creative space for young people and women to raise their skills and work to promote human rights. Dar Assadaqa has worked in co-operation with CADFA in London since 2006. Together we have built a model of grassroots twinning that has included made opportunities for young people from both countries to meet, take part in creative projects and build awareness of the human rights situation in Palestine. Together, in this time, we have run exchanges of several hundred young people on exchange visits in both directions – these are not only a huge experience and learning opportunity for the individuals involved but a creative and powerful way of spreading awareness of human rights internationally and encouraging people to work for the rights of their Palestinian friends.

During 2015-16, Dar Assadaqa was very



busy with the Palestinian side of our projects. This included a group visit to Abu Dis in April (which allowed people over 30 to join in, unlike the Erasmus + youth projects) and several Erasmus + exchanges to the UK described below. Before exchanges, this meant arrangements (including visa applications) and preparation for participants; after exchanges, it meant feedback and follow up from participants and work to help strengthen the links between women, students, youth and teachers in both countries.

Dar Assadaqa was also the sending organisation for our EVS volunteers from Palestine to the UK. During this period, six young people from Palestine joined CADFA in London through our EVS project. The opportunity for 3-5 months in London, learning about a very different culture and helping CADFA by speaking out about Palestine, opens new doors for young people from Palestine, and there were many requests to take part.

We have sent UK volunteers to Palestine since 2006, among these around 60 EVS volunteers since 2011. They are all based at Dar Assadaqa. Our second big EVS project to Palestine finished in summer 2015. We continued to have self-funded volunteers and the summer camp in Dar Assadaqa in 2015 is remembered for the exciting activities – including climbing – initiated by a very good group of self-funded volunteers.

Bringing young Europeans to Palestine is in many ways complicated because there are big cultural differences. It is important that young volunteers from the West listen to the advice they are given. Most of our visitors and volunteers in Abu Dis are wonderful and we are very grateful to them (and to those helping them in Palestine) for their efforts. In a minority of cases there were sadly differences of view between young volunteers and the administration of Dar Assadaqa which brought their volunteering service to an end. Following the



summer group in 2015, there has been a pause in EVS owing to administrative changes at the end of Youth in Action and the beginning of Erasmus +. CADFA and Dar Assadaqa have together reviewed this programme and what had been learned and very much want to continue it as soon as possible, as it is a wonderful opportunity for young people as individuals and helps to forward our work by raising their awareness of the human rights situation there and encouraging them to work to improve it.

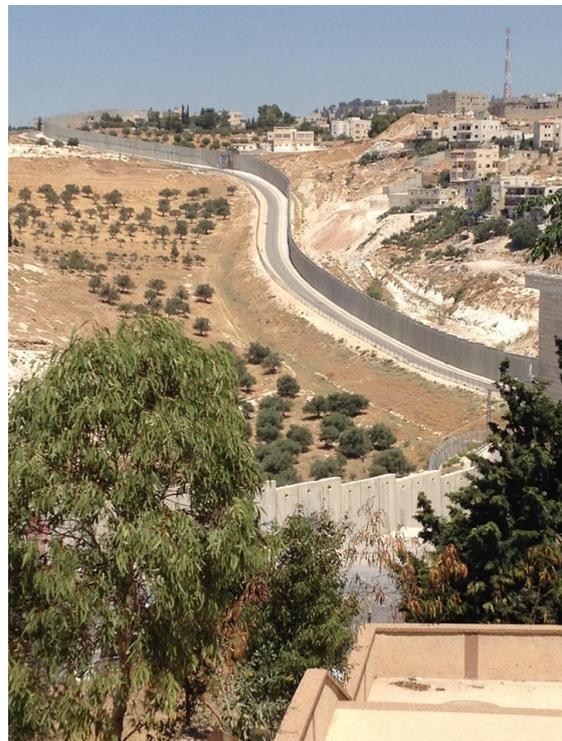
Through the special opportunities offered to young people in Palestine by exchanges and volunteer projects, through the work of our volunteers and meetings with our visitors, Dar Assadaqa and CADFA continued to become more widely known in Palestine where people want the opportunity to meet with people from outside and to have them understand the situation. Our work is increasingly respected and we have found new organisations wanting to be partners – the Al Quds University asked to formalise its links with us, and the Higher

Council for Youth and Sports helped Dar Assadaqa to relivence with a stronger focus both on youth and on international exchange.

During the time that we have been working together, we have learned that young people from Palestine can benefit from help in expressing themselves effectively for foreign audiences. This is not only language but ways to organise their speaking and help with visual and media tools. While many enjoy their phones and computers where they are available, most women and young people in Abu Dis have no current opportunity to develop their media skills in a formal way or to see it presented and listened to/ watched internationally. Cut off from Jerusalem and from the cultural centres of Ramallah and Bethlehem, the young people of Abu Dis have no access to theatres, cinemas or cultural centres. There is a sports club and a music centre but no formal media training for young people or women apart from the efforts of Dar Assadaqa.

Dar Assadaqa has begun to create opportunities for young people to find the skills and confidence to amplify their voice and tell others across the world of their experience. Dar Assadaqa is proud of the work that it has done using only the basics. The last ten years have proved the need for this work and the local interest, indeed excitement, in taking part. As one young boy aged 14 in the Dar Assadaqa twinning club said:

“ This twinning club is great for us as school students. It is the first time that anyone has given me the chance to talk about the problems we are facing with the Israeli occupation. I think our society has got so used to them that no-one thinks it is important to discuss it.”



However, Dar Assadaqa has been poorly resourced since the beginning – often depending on volunteers - and the past few years have taught us that this work needs more resources and more focus, in order realise its potential.

During this year, Dar Assadaqa was based in its third venue since it began ten years ago, on University Street : an old house full of character but based in a part of Abu Dis close to the university and also often central in clashes with the army. As this year went on and particularly as the situation heated after October 2015, we got more frequent reports of tear gas and shooting around the centre, and the centre was not a good place for young people or women to gather for leisure activities. Our friends in Dar Assadaqa began to look for alternative accommodation, and moved into a better place after the year end.

During 2015-16, together with them, we reviewed its activities. We aim to improve facilities and staffing so that Dar Assadaqa can sharpen its activities as a human rights media school, using its international links as a stimulus and taking the voice of the Palestinian young people via these links to become material to pressure for human rights. In 2015-16, to this end, we launched an appeal called 'A New Start for Dar Assadaqa' and a plan to make a crowdfunder (which went live in 2016-17).



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF ABU DIS, January 2016

Adel Salah in front row second from right, during a visit of CADFA leaders to Abu Dis Town Hall.

"We were very pleased to meet the Mayor of Abu Dis, Adel Salah. Adel is an old friend of CADFA, and knows of its work in Abu Dis during the past twelve years. He talked of how important it is to people in Palestine to have these international links and for people to see the real situation in Palestine. He told us of the importance of the issues of education and the environment in Abu Dis. The town has been trying to expand the schools but there is a problem of space. He told us of the problems Abu Dis faces with the quality of groundwater and with the issue of sewage: the town is growing but Israel will not allow the municipality to build a proper infrastructure to deal with the problem. As previous Abu Dis Mayors have done, he sent a greeting to Camden Council and said how much they would like to formalise the friendship between Abu Dis and Camden that has built over the years."

The context in the UK

During this year the context in the UK (and Europe) become more dangerous with a focus on the war in Syria , the number of refugees fleeing to Europe, fears of terrorism and radicalisation of young people in the UK. Over the past few years, awareness of what is happening in Palestine has spread, but this year – despite the worsening situation there since October – the Syrian crisis sometimes hid it from the news; while in some cases young people wearing badges or talking about Palestine were reported by people concerned that they might be radicalised. Our teachers' conference in January 2016 came to focus on 'Prevent,' a government anti-radicalisation policy which seems often to be hitting the wrong target.

In this context, CADFA has several concerns: (1) to work to raise awareness of the human rights situation in Palestine and not allow this to become hidden or forgotten; (2) to extend its care for human rights and anti-discrimination to Britain itself and ensure that there is a safe place for discussing and working against human rights violations in Palestine; and (3) as a charity to have its own Prevent policy.

This year we discussed this at length, revised our policies and produced a statement on Prevent. We believe that in contrast to the way that the Prevent policy has often been operated – denying people’s right to talk about things they know and feel – the sort of work we do is the real way to counter radicalisation because that thrives on hypocrisy, contradictions, racism, perception of injustice and denial of free speech. Young people (especially those with ethnic minority backgrounds) often know that there is something wrong in Palestine, and if they do, it is important to give them a safe space to discuss what is happening in Palestine honestly and objectively, focusing on human rights and peaceful activity for change.

CADFA’s work in London

By 2015-16, CADFA had become a well-known small organisation, constantly fielding requests for information and participation and with a real buzz of activity in our small office in Kentish Town where volunteers from Palestine, Germany, Spain and France worked along with our small staff and local volunteers to run events, give information, prepare campaigns and communicate locally and internationally through blogs and other social media as well as leaflets, petitions and outreach.



CADFA has developed a strong model that we are proud of. We have developed particular expertise in good and creative exchange visits. This year saw a continuation of the Twinning in Action project as well as the beginning of our Teachers in Action project, both funded by Erasmus+. This work is developing and strengthening links, raising awareness and awakening interest all the time.

Our volunteers supported school twinning groups in a number of Camden schools and young people also joined our youth links group outside school . We’re particularly proud of the energy of the young people in CADFA youth links, who worked hard to prepare for the June 2015 exchange visit from Palestine and following it helped with fundraising through a day’s fast, joined street activities including the Gaza commemoration and worked to involve more young people through such activities as a Picnic for Palestine.

The women’s links group in Camden began to run a weekly stall in the Brunswick Centre on Saturdays and a strong team kept this up regularly right through a wet, cold winter.



Students' links were brought together and stimulated by the work of our Palestinian volunteers and a visit to Palestine in February 2016. In Leeds University and Goldsmiths College for example, results of our student visits from Palestine in early 2015 were twinning campaigns with Al Quds University. We now have good links to students in many other universities across the country and are helping with their links to students at Al Quds.

We were very pleased this year finally to have our new website cadfa.org go live. We continued to have regular local events and outside activities to involve new people in our work. Our campaigns outdoor demos, letters, petition

With the help of our volunteers and ex-visitors, we arranged a number of small events across the country where people could listen to Palestinians and people who had visited Palestine. These took different forms, often included film or music and food, and brought new people into our work. At the office, our volunteers ran small Arabic classes for CADFA members which people enjoyed.



Adam Johar's story (heard during our youth visit in October) inspired a part of a play 'Endurance' written by Robbi Stevens and performed at the Tristan Bates Theatre in Covent Garden at the beginning of the month. We had strong feedback from a number of CADFA members who went to the performances and very much hope that the play will be put on again.

Our German and Spanish volunteers helped us to reach people in other European countries through blogs in their own languages and we worked with a new partner in France to write an exciting project ('Zajil') – (this was put on a reserve list by Erasmus and not funded during the year)



Our work was having an impact, spreading awareness of human rights and bringing in new people to be active. Through our many projects, word was spreading about what we were doing; the year saw a constant stream of new people wanting to work with us. The year saw new and newly-formalised partnerships. Though not part of the Twinning Network any longer,

we did a lot of work with our friends in other Britain-Palestine twinning groups.



CADFA's exchange projects

CADFA was very busy with exchanges during 2015-16.

This year, our exchange visits were

- **Group visit from UK to Palestine - April 2015**
- **Youth visit from Palestine to UK - June 2015**
- **Planning visit for the Teachers' in Action project – October 2015**
- **Teachers' exchange from UK to Palestine – January 2016**
- **Leaders' visit from the UK to Palestine – February 2016**
- **Student visit from the UK to Palestine – February 2016**



Youth visit from Palestine to UK- June 2015 **See the project blog at twinninginaction.blogspot.co.uk**



Our biggest-ever Erasmus + project, Twinning in Action, continued with a youth visit to the UK in July 2015. This was a wonderful exchange involving young people from Palestine and the UK in a residential in Norfolk, events in Norwich and Cambridge, and many activities in London. It included workshops, visits, sports, drama activities and the final event was a performance by them all at the Etcetera Theatre in Camden.

CADFA youth links – a group of students from Camden schools, working with our EVS volunteers – helped to prepare for the exchange and continued to meet after it, working to tell others about what they had learned, to campaign for human rights and to fundraise and prepare for the return visit to Palestine.

The youth visit, leaders' visit and students' visit were part of our great **Twinning in Action** project (2014-16). The teachers' visit was part of the project **Teachers in Action** * (* also known as 'Out of School') Both of these were funded by Erasmus + with fundraising help from our members, support from the Higher Council for Youth and Sport and the Al Quds University and (in the case of the teachers' project) from the NUT. The April visit was a self-funded fact-finding tour, that allowed people outside the age-range stipulated by Erasmus+ youth funding to travel to Palestine, meet and discuss with local people, visit a range of places and discover the human rights situation in Palestine.

**Leaders' visit from UK to Palestine
- February 2016
See the project blog at
twinninginaction.blogspot.co.uk**



FEBRUARY 2016 began for CADFA with the first part of the Twinning in Action project held in Palestine. This was: a 'networking and training visit' for the leaders of our twinning work with young people and followed our successful leaders' visit to the UK in December 2014. This visit brought people from the UK and Palestine together in a residential in the north of the West Bank and then in Abu Dis. Together we looked at the twinning exchanges, communication and links work and made plans for the next stages.

Included in the Twinning in Action visit were people from some of the twinning groups that we have been working with recently, for example in the Teachers in Action project, and the whole group were able to visit a number of Palestinian places which have twinning partners in Britain and to discuss next steps.



Erasmus+

Erasmus + exchanges

Despite all the problems with funding (see the discussion below on finance), we want to extend our thanks to Erasmus + very strongly. These projects have helped us to deepen and spread our work. It has been a great privilege to work with so many people and share with them the discovery of a new country, culture and situation, and with them work out ways to go on being active. They have each involved hundreds of people directly, thousands indirectly, broadened our leadership team, built on and extended previous work that we have done, inspired people, encouraged good work, helped us build new local partnerships, strengthened links between the two countries, developed our expertise and helped us to disseminate what we are doing more widely.

Erasmus + exchanges to Palestine

We designed the Twinning in Action and Teachers in Action projects to have two parallel parts:

exchanges to the UK and exchanges to Palestine. In both cases, Erasmus agreed the exchanges to the UK at the beginning, but it took an appeal and a whole year of uncertainty before they agreed the exchanges to Palestine. This meant that the exchanges to Palestine had to bunch up close together in 2016, because they couldn't extend the project finishing dates – but it was wonderful that they agreed them in the end!

Growing expertise

We have been running group visits since 2005, and although we have always found our visits successful, we realise now how far we have come. We have a huge amount of experience now in running powerful exchanges safely and creatively, and while we sometimes repeat activities that we have found successful, we are proud of the careful individual planning that enables each exchange to reach its own objectives. These projects have helped us bring our work together and keep links up between exchange visits. By now there are so many people in each country who feel a strong connection to good people and organisations in the other place! A whole school generation of people in Abu Dis have grown up with broader horizons as a result of this work – even though the Israeli occupation is hemming them in with checkpoints, settlements and the Israeli separation wall. And in the UK, this work has created a window on Palestine through which innumerable people now see people there as friends, the situation as urgent, and want to join in peaceful action for human rights.

Teachers from Palestine to UK - January 2016 **See the project blog at teachersinaction2016.blogspot.co.uk**

JANUARY 2016 saw 14 teachers from Palestine join 14 teachers from the UK on the Teachers in Action project. This began with a residential in Shropshire to learn about the ways that the other group works, and to plan for visits to linked schools in Liverpool, Pendle, Llanidloes, Northampton, Tower Hamlets as well as Camden. The Palestinian teachers also made visits to other schools, in Chester, Knighton and mid-Wales and Hackney, many of them now interested in making new links to Palestine.



Fact-finding visits

Our successful exchange in April 2016 was open to people both under and over 30 (unlike the Erasmus + youth exchanges) . We organised visits to different places and organisations in Palestine and visitors met a range of local people, learned about about the situation and about our work and possible next steps. This was one of 'self-funded' visits which had no external funder. Because they are important to our work, we have been subsidising these visits for years – providing the arrangements and staffing while participants pay for their travel, accommodation and subsistence.

Partner twinning groups

Working with partners has been important to CADFA for many years now and it's clear that our contribution to Britain-Palestine links has been strong not only in Camden and Abu Dis but (particularly through the exchanges we run and the experience we have built up) to twinning links across the country. Our work has gradually grown beyond Camden and Abu Dis to reach across England and Wales and also Palestine. Our partners often cite the events or visits that are a part of our projects as a high point for their own work.

During this year, we worked to encourage Britain-Palestine twinning links with groups in Norwich, Cambridge, Hackney, Camden, Knighton, Llanidloes, Chester, Pendle, Liverpool, Northampton, Tower Hamlets as well as with university students from all over England and from Scotland and with their partners in Palestine – as well as people from many more places.

Students' visit from UK to Palestine - late February 2016

See the project blog at
twinninginaction.blogspot.co.uk



IN LATE FEBRUARY, 12 students from Britain joined students from Palestine in an exciting exchange based first in a residential in Jericho and then at the Al Quds University in Abu Dis. The students learned about each other's lives, shared workshops, visits, made media and produced presentations which they delivered to other students at a student twinning conference at the end of the visit. Before the exchange finished, each student had made a personal action plan aimed at helping to strengthen student twinning links between universities in Britain and the Al Quds University.

CADFA's twinning volunteers

Our EVS volunteer projects (funded by Erasmus+) were

- **Camden Abu Dis Twinning Volunteers – in Palestine – 2013-2015**
- **Ta'awun – Co-operation – in the UK 2014-2016.**

As with the visits, we keep open the possibility of non-funded (self-funding) volunteering opportunities to Palestine.

CADFA's volunteer projects in both Palestine and the UK have become well-known as they are a very exciting opportunity for young people from both countries and also from Europe (in this year, from Germany and Spain). These volunteering opportunities are unusual because they include Palestine – CADFA has had to fight very hard for this over the years since 2011 - and so they give young people a unique international education. helping them build experience, friendships and opening for them learning opportunities of many sorts .



The volunteers help with a range of CADFA work and events, but key for us is the support they offer individuals and our twinning clubs, strengthening communication and awareness and keeping links with the other country.

Campaigns



CADFA campaigns for human rights directly, writing to policy makers, meeting and talking to them, and also works to bring in new people and to encourage our visitors, volunteers and members to find a way to be active in campaigning for human rights in Palestine.

Asking our government to exert pressure for Human Rights

We have often run urgent action campaigns, taking up the case of an individual denied the right to move or unjustly imprisoned (for example). This year, however, we found it hard to single out one person's issue when so many were needing to be dealt with (see 'Context in Palestine').

We asked our policy makers (MPs, MEPs) to find ways to pressure Israel to achieve human rights for Palestinians. We collected and delivered petition signatures to the Foreign Office on the issue in general (see box for text) and had many 'stands' in public, collecting petitions signatures, discussing with people, encouraging people to feel that something could be changed. Some of these 'stands' were at particular anniversaries – the Nakba or the anniversary of the 2014 onslaught in Gaza. But our volunteers were regularly out of doors with these demands and we found that the responses were becoming more informed and more positive than they used to be.

Child prisoners

It is shocking to us to realise that we have been

Dear Foreign Secretary

Please take urgent action in defence of human rights in Jerusalem and in Palestine more widely. The situation there is fast getting worse and more dangerous. Since the beginning of 2014, thousands of Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli occupation forces and settlers, tens of thousands been injured or lost their homes, millions are suffering great pressures as a result of human rights violations. The effect of this conflict and the double-standards people see within it is a major cause of unrest elsewhere in the world. The need for a solution is urgent.

The British government and the EU should be consistent and pro-active in effecting a solution which respects human rights, by

- (1) **Being clear that all people are equally entitled to human rights:** urgently telling the Israeli government that provocative acts around the Al Aqsa mosque must stop, the siege on Gaza must be lifted and Israeli settlement on the West Bank must be ended. Pushing for a solution that takes down the Separation Wall as demanded by the International Court of Justice, ends movement restrictions, child imprisonment and other abuses and allows all people their human rights.
 - (2) **Challenging the racism of the illegal settlement movement:** while Israel continues to hold on to Palestinian land and to operate settlements on it, the UK should put Israelis and Palestinians in the same legal bracket. This would mean a change, **for example**, to current UKBA rules that make visas unnecessary for Israelis and difficult for Palestinians.
- As long as Israelis are settling Palestine and living on its land, the UK should make them subject to the same visa rules.**
- (3) **Enforcing Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement** (2000) which says: *Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.*

Israel should be suspended from this trade agreement with the EU until it accords the Palestinian people their human rights.



active on the issue of child prisoners since 2006 – and the situation is no better. During the visit of young people from Palestine in June 2016, this was one of the issues that most concerned them. The young Palestinians impressed on us the urgency of this issue and the number of young people from their schools that had been or currently were in Israeli jail.

We did ‘prisoner marches’ to raise the issue in Norwich, Cambridge and London, and were particularly pleased that young people from a Norwich school with whom we had no connection before, came to ask many questions and then joined the march. In Cambridge, this got into the local paper.

We met with MP Keir Starmer during our youth visit to London, and the young people from Palestine asked him in particular to take up the issue of child prisoners. Keir promised to table a Parliamentary Question on the issue and made steps to visit Palestine in the following year. At around the same time (before he became Leader of the Labour Party) Jeremy Corbyn came to one of our events in Islington and we discussed the same issue with him.

Visa equality

The seeds of our visa equality campaign – which in 2016-17 became more central to our campaigning work – were present in point two of our petition.

Protesting against settler violence



Our volunteers in Camden made a painting (special thanks to Shelagh McCarthy for her help) to protest against the burning of the baby in the Dawabsheh family (see above) and

this was used many times to draw attention to the dangerous situation in Palestine. Again we met Keir Starmer MP to deliver him a petition and he promised his support.

Urgent actions about the situation after October 2015



As the situation got worse in Palestine after October 15, we held ‘stands’ in the street in Camden to protest and raise awareness of the issue. We wrote letters to policy makers and encouraged our members to do so.

During our visits to Palestine, we helped participants not only to find out about the human rights

situation but to see that they had a role in campaigning for things to be put right. Here is the text of a letter written to their MPs by people on the leaders’ visit in February 2016, and later used also by the people on the students’ visit.

Dear...

We have just taken part in the Twinning in Action programme and have been in Palestine for twelve days. During this time, we have visited villages, towns, refugee camps, the countryside, Jerusalem, a Bedouin community, universities, schools, youth clubs, an ex-prison, been through military checkpoints, seen the growing Israeli settlements (including many new settlements) all over the hills, and heard numerous stories from people of all sorts whom we met through the programme or people that we met by chance. We have heard of people’s mothers, husbands, children, friends, killed, injured, imprisoned – We see a whole community constrained by pass laws reminiscent of apartheid South Africa.*

It is now 68 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and we are appalled to see the suffering of people here, the systematic violation of their human rights, the deep divisions along ethnic lines and to find so many feeling so hopeless.

Information on all of these issues is in the public sphere and must be well-known. It is clear that there have been years of statements and fine speeches, but the urgent issue is for real action to make international law apply here and for human rights to be respected equally for all people including Palestinians.

This is a matter of urgent priority and we are asking for your help – See the CADFA petition attached, for example. We would be happy to come and to speak to you further on this issue if it would help to make it central to your concerns.

Yours sincerely



People news

<p>Congratulations on your marriages to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarmaid (CADFA administrator) + Suma, who got married in Ireland in September. • Ayesha and Khalid both from Palestine, who married following the CADFA student visit to the UK! • Iman and Ismail both from the UK, who married following the CADFA student visit to Palestine! 	<p>Congratulations on the birth of Sofia!</p> <p>Ahmed and Sarah were the first (of a number now) of Camden-Abu Dis marriages – Sarah, a teacher at Maria Fidelis School and Ahmed Afana from Abu Dis married several years ago.</p> <p>Lovely to hear of the birth of their little girl Sofia in June 2015!</p>
	<p>Wishing you well, Hazem: volunteer co-ordinator at Dar Assadaqa until August 2015 , now working at the Popular Arts Centre in Ramallah.</p>
	<p>And goodbye to NICOLA SEYD, founder member of CADFA, Secretary of Camden Trades Council, hard-working socialist and all-round excellent person, Nicola died in December 2015.</p> <p>We very much appreciate her association with us as one of the first trustees of CADFA.</p>



Nicola Seyd (second from left) on a CADFA trade union visit to Palestine, 2008

Financial report



2015-16 was a difficult year for finance in CADFA for a number of reasons. Our expenditure was constant while our income fell under several different headings.

As we have explained above, we are very grateful for Erasmus + funding which has enabled our work to flourish in 2015-16. At

the same time, our dependence on big grants from Erasmus + was a difficulty for CADFA in several ways and we aim to diversify.

In general, Erasmus + is proving to be very slow in making decisions (particularly it seems in relation to projects in Palestine) and in making payments .

Their system is to pay 70% at the beginning of a project (sometimes in 40% and 30%) and then up to 30% based on a final claim when a project is finished. In 2015-16, we were in the mid-year of three big Erasmus + projects (Twinning in Action, Teachers in Action and Ta'awun) which had made their first payments in 2014-15 and were due to make final payments in 2016-7. We hoped that another project (Zajil) would come on-stream during the year, but Erasmus put it on a shelf pending new funding. We therefore expected no big payments from them this year. We did however have some adjustment payments for amounts they had with-held in relation to exchanges to Palestine (see above).

These big projects all depended on travel from Palestine to the UK which is very expensive as Palestinians have to travel east to Amman before flying west from there – and as Amman is not a major tourist airport, the tickets are very expensive. Erasmus has a different way of dealing with flight expenses from Youth in Action which preceded it, and pays on the basis of fixed ‘distance bands’ rather than (as before) a percentage of actual costs.



When writing the projects, CADFA argued for a higher 'distance band' for the Palestinians – who have to take two days in travel in each direction and whose costs are therefore very different from those of Europeans, or even of Israelis living in a settlement on Abu Dis land. The latter can come straight to the UK from Tel Aviv airport and use cheap tourist flights. Our claim for a greater 'distance band' was accepted and we went ahead and organised the flights for (67 people from the Twinning in Action project, 6 from Ta'awun and 15 from Teachers in Action). During the year, however, Erasmus+ revised their view and (despite our appeal) asked us to sign new Grant Agreements reducing the amount we would receive. The extra combined losses for these projects were around 25000 Euros, towards travel and air tickets which had already been bought and very much exceeded what we had been allowed!

This problem appeared this year but will result in decreased income next year when the projects have finished. During 2015-16, however, Erasmus finally completed their assessments of some old Youth in Action projects – these were the Common Ground youth exchange (summer 2013), students' exchange (early 2014) and also the end of our two-year EVS project to Palestine (2013-15). They required us to pay back money on each of these. For the first two, we had been expecting visitors from Gaza as well as the West Bank but they were not able to travel: we were therefore short of participants.

For the volunteer project, we had had the participants we expected but encountered an unexpected problem when several of them did not complete their final reports for us. Although we asked for these several times, we could not get these in time, and ended up having to pay all of their costs (flights, accommodation, living costs and support). It is difficult to put ourselves in the hands of others in this way.

We have also encountered a problem in hosting EVS volunteers in London. Erasmus + give an allowance for EVS which varies by country. We think that there should be a special London allowance, because the cost of accommodation in London itself is typically higher than the total amount that Erasmus grant per individual and it would not be a problem to the same extent if we were based in another part of the UK. This year we had to take the decision not to bring all of the EVS volunteers that we could have done under the Ta'awun project, although CADFA and the volunteers themselves benefit greatly from the experience when we can afford it.



CADFA is a small organisation working very hard on a variety of activities and it seems that we concentrated this year on the outcomes of events, exchanges and campaigns to a greater extent than the fundraising itself. Again asking volunteers to take a lead in organising events was very good learning for them - and it was good for us to have many local events - but although they covered their costs they did not contribute much to our income, It was excellent to have the work of the women's links group who are keeping a weekly stall going; this year however they were investing in setting up and building stock so this did not result

in much net income. The year also saw a fall in regular donations to CADFA and though we put in some big funding bids, we were unsuccessful in many.

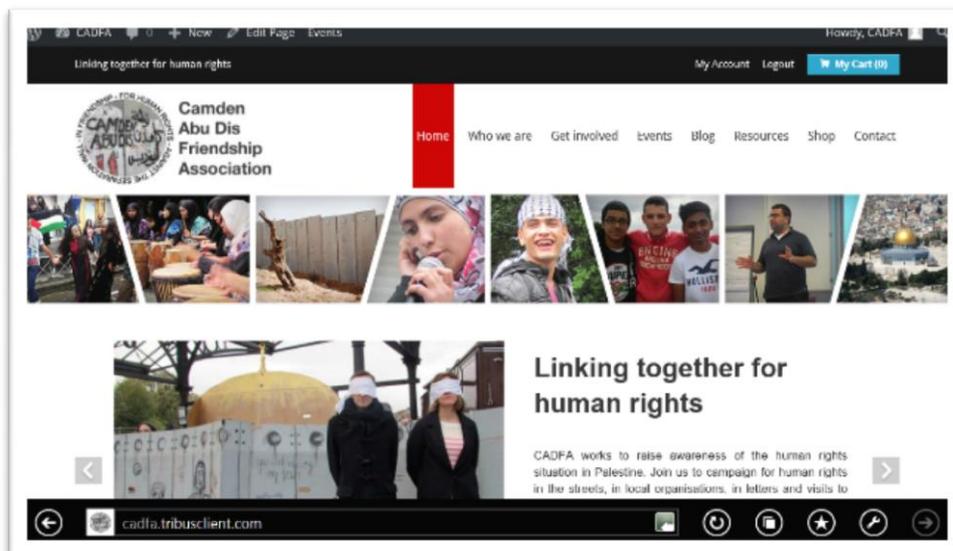
We were very grateful to the NUT for a donation of £5000 towards the Teachers in Action project. Many people helped with raising small amounts of funds and we found our online charity page at virginmoneygiving.com particularly useful. We would like to thank a number of individual friends who have helped us.



We ended the year with a deficit in real terms larger than that shown in the cash-based accounts, as there were some staff and core payments that were made after year end. We were at that point expecting in-

payments from our main funder, Erasmus + and some promised contributions towards our summer projects.

Our budgeting, reporting and accounts recording system is good and we continue to improve our understanding and control . We would like to thank our staff and volunteers who are responsible for keeping our financial systems going well (Nandita, Abed, Diarmaid, David, Annika, Sheila and Jonathan).



However, writing in autumn 2016, the challenge remains.

Following the Brexit vote after the end of the 2015-16 financial year, there are new questions about our dependence on Erasmus +, and the sinking of the pound has hit us

badly because our major costs include airfares and money spent in Palestine. At the same time, though Erasmus + pays us in Euros. We are therefore dependent on a good Euro: pound exchange rate, but the exchange rate is fixed at the beginning of a project and our



major projects are fixed at a rate where we get fewer pounds per Euro than we would at the moment.

CADFA's strongest resources are our focus, experience and skills, our determination and the support of our friends. We now need a concerted drive to get the funding of the organisation on to a more solid base. As we are able still to apply for Erasmus + projects, we have put in new applications. We are looking at possibilities for income generation. We are reconsidering the pricing for the fact-finding visits that we have previously subsidised. We have new partners including the Higher Council for Youth and Sport, MSN Trust, a new grant from Interpal, and are looking more widely for funding. Our forecast for 2016-17 shows a positive outcome which we expect to achieve thanks to concentration and effort on the part of everyone who wants this work to succeed.

Reviewing CADFA's objectives for 2015-16

This summarises our achievements against the objectives we set ourselves last year:

In Palestine: to seek funding to strengthen and develop Dar Assadaqa as a centre focusing on media, human rights and international links.	We looked for new premises for Dar Assadaqa (achieved after the year end) and set up a new appeal for human rights media work there under the name 'A New Start for Dar Assadaqa.' Our first big donation towards this appeal (from the MSN Trust) reached us after the year end.
In Britain: to extend our human rights, media and linking work for young people both in Camden and also (working with local groups) in the areas we have reached with our exchange visits.	We were proud of our CADFA youth group who worked together before and after the youth visit in June. We took our young visitors from Palestine to meet young people in several places outside Camden (Hackney, Norfolk), and hope to do much more in the next year.
Links between the two countries: to maintain on-going links throughout the year in our three main areas: women, university students, youth	Yes, we have done well here.
To run exchanges in both directions	Yes, we have done well here.
To ensure that our youth focus doesn't push people over 30 out of our work, and to include them also in our exchange visits	Youth have remained a particular focus but we have made progress. People over 30 were included in the Leaders' visit in February (and later in the return visit in September 2016), while the women's links group have been particularly vocal in this regard and kept this on the agenda for us,



	making an aim of their stall raising money for people over 30 to be included in a women's visit to the UK.
Campaigns: To continue with well-informed and focused human rights campaigns	Yes, we have done this.
Media: To have the new website up and running,	Yes, we have done this.
To make better use of short film on social media	YES, needs more work but we focused increasingly on media in the Twinning in Action projects.

Objectives for 16-17

We aim to strengthen our work and reach more widely; to strengthen our organisation and make it sustainable.

- Work with young people in particular and provide a safe space to talk objectively about what is happening in Palestine
- Continue with high-quality educational exchanges
- Strengthen our media work and improve dissemination
- Strengthen each CADFA links area
- Disseminate the work through a conference in September 2016 and other public events
- Broaden the active membership of CADFA
- Inform more people about the human rights issues in Palestine and involve more people in our campaigns and other work
- Widen our partner work, including work with Europe
- Renew and rejuvenate Dar Assadaqa
- Find new premises for CADFA
- Broaden our membership, explore income generation and lessen our dependence on the big funders

Thank yous

Thank yous are difficult for us as so many good people have helped us through this year.

We hope that any we have missed will forgive us (and remind us, as we would like to thank you properly)



The Trustees would like to thank the many organisations that have helped us during 2015-15

Erasmus +

MSN Trust

National Union of Teachers

Camden School Improvement Service

Kentish Town
Community
Centre

Northampton Al
Bireh Palestine
Friendship
Association

Al Quds
University

Higher Council
for Youth and
Sports



Ministry of Education, Palestine

British Council, Jerusalem

Our project partners in Norwich, Cambridge, Hackney, Camden, Knighton, Llanidloes, Chester, Pendle, Liverpool, Northampton, Tower Hamlets and Islington.

We would also like to thank the following individuals

Dr Nandita Dowson for leading CADFA in London and Abdul Wahab Sabbah for co-ordinating the work in Abu Dis.

We have had many people working with us during this year in the CADFA office, London and in Dar Assadaqa, Abu Dis: volunteers and helpers as well as full-time EVS volunteers, permanent and temporary staff.

Thank you for working for us: Diarmaid and Sheila(in London), Najah, and Hazem (in Abu Dis).

Thank you to our interns Hannah and Rabab

Thank you for joining us as EVS volunteers during this year: in Palestine: Isobel, Max, Robert B., Marguerite, Edward (in Palestine) Momin, Nadine, Emilio, Dunja, Noor, Wadea, Fayiz, Suha (in UK)

Thank you for your voluntary help at Dar Assadaqa : Hussam, Shareef, Roisin, Marie, Sofia

Thank you for your help with volunteer and visitor accommodation: Ed and Shosh, Michael and Alison, Annika, Sally, Jonathan and Carmel, Gill and Salaam, Elizabeth, Dawn, the family of Khalid al-Jamal, Mike and Frances, Will and Julia, Ed C.

Thank you for sustained voluntary work with CADFA: Annika, Stuart, Andy, Nina, Frances, Jonathan, Paloma, Stuart, Nasima, Shaz - and there were so many more helping in particular at CADFA events or at the times of exchange visits.

Thanks for your help during our visits to good friends in Cambridge, Chester, Hackney, Pendle, Llanidloes

Very many more good friends in Palestine

We would like to thank all CADFA members for the contribution that they have made to building and supporting Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association during this year.



Join us for the next step..

Join CADFA for delicious Lebanese food and a chance to hear from the recent exchanges of teachers youth workers and students... See our pictures, film and hear our stories and contribute to discussion of CADFA's next steps. £10 to include meal

7:00 - 9:00 pm, Marth 9th
Te Amo Grill
194 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2AE



APPENDICES

CADFA came into being during 2004, was constituted as a charity in June 2005 and gained recognition as a charity in January 2006. There is more information about CADFA and our activities on our website **cadfa.org**.

- CADFA's objects
 - CADFA's trustees 2015-16
 - CADFA's main events 2015-16
 - Annual accounts 2015-16
-

CADFA's objects

As amended at AGM 21st November 2013

CADFA's charitable objects are to promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in Palestine by all or any of the following means:

- Raising awareness of human rights and humanitarian issues relevant to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general and to the situation of Abu Dis in particular;
 - Researching and monitoring abuses of human rights and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;
 - Educating the public about human rights and humanitarian law;
 - Promoting public support for human rights and the observance of humanitarian law;
 - Working to eliminate abuses of human rights and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;;
 - Working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely and their families;
 - Providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely.
-

CADFA trustees 2015-16 - April 2015- March 2016.

AGM was 10th October 2015.

Chair	Daniel Guedella
Vice Chair	Mike Fletcher
Secretary	Cristina Piccoli
Treasurer	David Ash
Trustees	Una Doyle

CADFA's main events 2015-16

April 15	12 th - CADFA cricket fundraiser End of April - CADFA visit to Palestine.
May 15	15 th – Nakba day event
June 15	Twining in Action Youth exchange to Britain 8 th Norwich event 9 th Cambridge prisoners' march 11 th Event at the Edge, Hackney 11 th Event at Samuel Lithgow Youth Club 11 th Islington event with Jeremy Corbyn 12 th Hackney event 13 th Camden event at Etcetera Theatre 13 th Football tournament at Calthorpe Project
July 15	4 th - Youth links sponsored one day fast 4 th - CADFA iftar / fundraising meal 20 th Youth links events 8 th – Gaza commemoration 15 th - CADFA's new website launched 20 th - Picnic for Palestine 23 rd - Eid event
Aug 15	1 st summer camp starts in Abu Dis 20 th CADFA Camden summer event 21 st -23 rd August, pop up fair
Sept 15	24 th - CADFA student event
Oct 15	10 th - CADFA birthday event (and AGM)
Nov 15	26 th -Meal for Palestine Start of the weekly women's stall
Dec 15	10 th -Human Rights Day. 11 th – Palestinian film night 12 th – CADFA table William Ellis School – run by CADFA youth links 11 th December Palestinian film night
Jan 16	Teachers in Action VISIT Teachers to Britain 14 th January Celebrating Palestinian women 15 th Hackney event 15 th Camden NUT event with Palestinian teachers 16 th Conference at NUT
Feb 16	Twining in Action Leaders' exchange to Palestine Twining in Action Students' exchange to Palestine 27 th Student twinning conference at Al Quds University
Mar 16	9 th CADFA meal and report back from the visits to Palestine 13 th International women's day event at Kentish Town Community Centre

CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

	2014 / 15	2015 / 16
Balances Brought Forward	6,607	23,220
RECEIPTS	£	£
Project Funding	101,411	43,335
Fundraising, Donations & Memberships	58,962	48,816
Events	1,967	1,616
Sales	2,703	4,666
Gift Aid Received	9,427	3,435
Bank Interest Received	7	8
Travellers to Palestine	243	396
	<u>174,720</u>	<u>102,272</u>
PAYMENTS	£	£
Visits to & from Palestine	84,476	68,412
Projects in Palestine	4,784	5,423
Events	1,007	1,480
Publications & Printing	1,052	0
Advertising	60	60
Purchases for resale	780	5,159
Bank Charges & Exchange (Gains) / Losses	1,888	134
Other Running Costs	11,511	8,774
Staff costs	52,549	45,442
	<u>158,107</u>	<u>134,883</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	<u>16,613</u>	<u>-32,611</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) Carried Forward	<u>£23,220</u>	<u>-£9,391</u>

Staff Costs

Staff costs cover remuneration paid to:

- the Cadfa Director, part-time administrator and bookkeeper in Camden
- the Abu Dis Co-ordinator in Adu Dis

BALANCE SHEET

	As At 31 March 2015 £	As At 31 March 2016 £
UK Bank Balances	24,723.27	-6,088.72
Cash in hand or in transit	-1,503.40	-3,302.51
Net Assets	<u>£23,219.87</u>	<u>-£9,391.23</u>
Surplus at 1 April	6,606.87	23,219.87
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	16,613.00	-32,611.10
Surplus at 31 March	<u>£23,219.87</u>	<u>-£9,391.23</u>

SUNDAY 13th March 2016

**KTCC and CADFA invite you to
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

At Kentish Town Community Centre, 17 Busby Place, NW5 2SP



**(2pm - 5.30pm) Skills share
craft work, henna, language, music
(5.30 - 7pm) Food and film
(7 - 9pm) World music event with
the SOULA ENSEMBLE and others**

All welcome - Suggested donation £5/£2
This event will raise funds for both organisations.

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association | جمعية صداقة كامدن
أبوديس | *Linking together for human rights* | NOTE NEW ADDRESS: PO
Box 74047, London NW5 9HH | cadfa.org | FB: CADFA (Camden Abu
Dis Friendship Association) | Twitter: @camdenabudis | Charity number
1112717