

# Annual Report

## FOBZU 2009



The Friends of Birzeit University Ltd ('FoBZU'), Registered Charity No: 1114343, Company No: 5713430

## **FOBZU's vision is for the right to education of Palestinians**



*One female student, Dema El Helou talks about the day she was late for an exam by being detained at a checkpoint. “In a desperate effort to calm my nerves to concentrate in the last hour of my tawjihi exam, I found myself moving my pen between my fingers as if it was dancing. It was an Arabic exam. I was supposed to get there like all the students, two hours earlier, but, unfortunately, I was able to catch only the last hour of it. I tried to catch the last piece of hope; my education. I reached the exam one hour late but tried to do my best. I had studied hard for it. Besides, that’s the kind of a character you build when you live under such circumstances.”*

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## FOBZU in 2009

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### Welcome from the Development Director and the Acting Chair

We're pleased to report that 2009 has seen FOBZU supporting more Palestinian students in their right to education. While one significant project has been completed, we are in an exciting period of growth. Other proposals for innovative development projects are in the pipeline.

During the academic year 2009/10, with your help, we have enabled 26 students to study for a first degree or Master's degree as part of our **annual scholarship programme** which provides crucial support to students who experience financial hardship. Many people in the UK and across the world want to find a way of providing support to young Palestinians in a sustainable way. The sponsorship of a scholarship provides a tangible way of ensuring Palestinian young people and their families have a better future.

We have been able to strengthen our commitment to **mental health** development and **child protection** through the training of 'Mental Health Counsellors and Supervisors'. During this 3-year project while working with our partners, we have enabled the training of 60 Mental Health Counsellors, 60 Counselling Supervisors with over 36,000 children benefitting from this project. We are working hard to ensure the continuation of this important project.

In our **campaigning** role over 30 years supporting Palestinian education, our work at Birzeit University to raise awareness of the equal **right to education** of Palestinians remains as vital now as it did at our inception in the aftermath of military incursions from 1989 to 1992 which, at times, closed the university down. To this day students continue to be harassed at the military checkpoints resulting in daily obstructions and access to the University. It is the injustice of the situation and the admirable survival of Birzeit against incredible odds, and the resourcefulness of all who work and study at the university, that makes us strive to help. Together we have been able to do this.

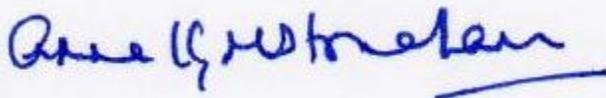
We are pleased that FOBZU has been able to support the production of a **documentary film** about the right to education of Palestinians, with maximum student involvement, that will reach across the world. This film, to be completed by 2011, will consist of two complementary projects: short documentaries produced by Palestinian students, and a campaign producing a long documentary on the Right to Education. It is hoped that this will be an inspiring education tool to raise awareness internationally of the barriers to education faced by Palestinian students.

2009 also witnessed the launch of a remarkable book about the history of Birzeit University which describes many traumatic years. 'Peaceful Resistance' was written by the former President of the University, Dr Gabi Baramki, whom we were really pleased to welcome to the UK for the launch of his book. His inspiring talk at our AGM in 2009 described how putting peace at the heart of Birzeit's teaching is its greatest strength.

Our level of activity is poised to develop further in the coming year. This is due to the generosity of our supporters, and the commitment of FOBZU staff, superb volunteers and dedicated Trustees. Our thanks to you all.



**Jocelyn Hurndall**  
Development Director



**Anne Stoneham**  
Acting Chair

July 2010



# THE PEOPLE WE REACHED



*In a letter to his sponsor, one student describes what his sponsorship meant to him, "I have dreamed of attending the engineering department ever since I was young, and now as I have been named as one of the recipients in your scholarship programme my dream has come true. I am glad to have the opportunity to thank you personally for your generosity. Without your scholarship (programme), there would be many students unable to pursue the career they've dreamt of. My plan for the future is to be a famous Palestinian architectural engineer who can help his community to grow up as other communities and also I hope to participate in the revival of architecture in my country, and I will try to help other students to take their opportunities to study at University as I have had.*

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## FoBZU's Aims and Activities

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The Memorandum of Association defines the Charity's objects as follows:

*'The advancement of education of the students and staff of Birzeit University in such ways as the Directors of the Charity think fit.'* We work closely with Birzeit University to identify how the Charity can advance most effectively the strategic aims of the University.

FOBZU undertakes to raise awareness of the Palestinian students' right to education and to raise funds in the UK to give financial assistance to students at Birzeit University.

Birzeit University is internationally renowned for its quality of teaching, freethinking environment and commitment to community development. As well as playing a leading role in academic and cultural life in Palestine, Birzeit University's research, publications and community projects have contributed to the development of wider society.

Established in 1975, Birzeit University now has more than 9,200 students and offers undergraduate and post-graduate courses in subjects ranging from Engineering and Water Resource Management to Women's Studies and international Relations.

The activities carried out by the charity can be broadly categorized into the following programmes:

- **Academic Scholarships:** we raise funds in the UK for the provision of student academic Scholarships and for a student hardship fund to cover books, travel, housing and tuition. We ensure that our efforts are closely coordinated with the Scholarship Department at the University. The Scholarships are publicized on the Birzeit University website and occasionally through fliers distributed and affixed in refugee camps, schools, medical practices and other public places.
- **Community projects:** Over a period of 12 years FoBZU has secured over £1.6 million from British and European funding agencies for key community development programmes run by Birzeit University.
- **Raising awareness of the Right to Education:** FOBZU actively supports Birzeit's Right to Education Campaign through awareness raising activities in the UK and lobbying the British government.
- **Educational exchange:** Links between Birzeit University and academic institution in the UK and around the world have created exciting opportunities for research and exchange as well as sending an important message of solidarity and support to Birzeit staff and students.

# GIVE EDUCATION, GIVE A FUTURE

## Achievements and Performance

In 2009, as part of our Annual Scholarship Programme, FOBZU sponsors supported 26 students in total – 5 Endowments scholarships and 21 Annual Scholarships..

### *Endowed Scholarships*

FoBZU uses the interest from 3 Endowments to fund the specific cost of the units of the Scholarships. Due to the economic downturn and current low interest rates, the Board made the decision to use additionally raised funds or Charity's unrestricted funds, if necessary, to ensure the continuation of the number of scholarships sponsored should this be necessary.

- Adela Every Scholarship Fund. The interest from the capital of £10,000 donated by the late Canon Edmund Every is used to fund scholarship for female students from villages or refugee camps. Additional funds have been raised by FOBZU since the establishment of the donation to increase the number of beneficiaries.
- Doreen Ingrams Scholarship Fund. The interest of the capital of £10,500 is used to fund one scholarship targeting female students with special needs.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship Fund. The interest of the capital of £43,717 left as a legacy by Peter Holliday to benefit Palestinian education is used to fund scholarships for female students facing financial hardship.

### *Annual Academic Scholarships and Hardship Fund*

Donations ranging from £1,000 to £1950 enable FOBZU to transfer £1,000 to £1250 per scholarship to Birzeit. In order to develop the work of the Charity the Board made the decision to raise the cost of the Annual Scholarships to £1950 of which £1250 is transferred to Birzeit University. The excess is used to develop the various core activities of the Charity: administration, fundraising and advocacy.

Annual Scholarships covered tuition fees, registration and administration, plus the additional cost incurred by Birzeit. The donors are consulted on any specific criteria requirements for the scholarship such as: gender, place of residence, academic record, faculty or subject, special needs. Sponsors are kept informed of their student's progress.

The Hardship Fund provided small grants to cover books, accommodation, transportation and housing.

## Project Development

FOBZU received a £300,000 grant in August 2006 from the Big Lottery Fund to improve the mental health of children and families in Palestine through the training of Schools Counsellors and their Supervisors at Birzeit University's Centre for continuing Education. The project assisted those with special needs, those

who are experiencing poverty, violence, political conflict, and abuse. These children have all benefitted from appropriate, timely and relevant assistance and support provided by trained Schools Counsellors.

#### *Mental Health Project*

This three-year project covered the period from July 06 to July 09. A considerable benefit in the outcome of this project is that it also promoted a sector-wide strategic approach to the development of psycho-social counselling services focusing on child and disability rights, protection, violence and advocacy.

By the end of the project in 2009, 36,000 children benefitted from this scheme, 60 Schools Counsellors completed the Diploma in Ramallah, 60 Counselling Supervisors completed the Diploma in Counselling Supervision. Advocacy and children's voices have been a core feature of this project. Many children report on the way this project has strengthened their lives and that of their families.

The Schools Counsellors and Counselling Supervisors have worked in 120 schools in the West Bank.

**60 Schools Counsellors have been trained**

**60 Counselling Supervisors have been trained**

**120 Schools have been involved**

**36,000 children have benefitted**

#### *New Proposals*

Following the end of this vitally important project FoBZU sought funds for its continuation. A Concept note was submitted to DfID for this project which was accepted and we were, therefore, able to proceed to the proposal stage. The proposal was submitted to DfID on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010.

### *Campaigning and lobbying*

Raising awareness in the UK of the difficulties experienced by the students in a situation of Occupation is an important part of our work and one we would like to develop further. We work with the Right2Education Campaign which is part of the Publicity Department of the University. We maintain contact with some British Parliamentarians and have facilitated direct communication between the Right2Education team and British Parliamentarians.



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## Communications and Fundraising

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FoBZU recognizes the increasing importance of communications work to realise our goals to widen our work in support of Palestinian education. As a fundamental part of FoBZU's growth, we are delighted to be developing a new website which we hope to launch early in 2011. It will illustrate more effectively our work and continue to raise awareness of the difficulties experienced by Palestinians in achieving their right to education. We hope visits to our new website after it is launched will grow and we are increasingly looking at new media tools such as Twitter and Facebook.

The development of the website will be combined with our new email newsletters in which we will be able to keep our members and supporters updated on all aspects of Palestinian education in the Occupied Territories.

Our fundraising efforts in 2008/2009 have meant that we have increased our profile with FoBZU's work recognized by many, many more people who have never previously been involved with the cause. However, with the recession taking hold across the world, this next year will be challenging financially. The volatility of exchange rates and the weakened pound has increased the costs of our work.

Our three main fundraising appeals every year are combined with ongoing fundraising efforts to develop further the Scholarship programme. We have also drawn to the attention of our supporters the value of leaving legacies to the Charity. Whereas it may be difficult for people to afford a substantial cash gift during their lifetime, many can make a huge difference when leaving a legacy donation.

We have continued to develop and strengthen our support of Birzeit University in 2009 thanks to the generous support of members and supporters. We are grateful to the Arab-British Centre for providing office accommodation and support.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

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There is much to be done in helping Palestinians without access to education. We have based our plans on the following:

- We will promote our Scholarship programme.
- We will promote and increase the support for the academic development and capacity building of the University through fundraising activities.
- We will focus on achieving higher levels of institutional and voluntary income.
- We will continue to develop a new website.
- We aim to increase our organisational effectiveness

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## Financial Policies

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### **Investment Policy**

The Trustees have power to invest in such assets as they see fit. In practice, investment activity is restricted to the investment of surplus cash funds, consisting of short-term deposits placed with FOBZU's bankers.

Treasury activities have the objective of providing adequate liquidity for FOBZU's needs and of minimising risk in a cost-effective way. It is the responsibility of the Trustees following advice from the Treasurer to assess the appropriate level of deposits at any time, taking into account the predicted cash needs.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees aim for the level of reserves to be equivalent to approximately one year of management and administrative costs in unrestricted funds to provide for unforeseen circumstances.

### **Risk Management and Internal Controls**

The major risks facing FoBZU are identified as follows:

- Financial performance, notably the continuity of incoming funds to sustain operations in a stable manner;

- Operational performance, including risks to staff of operating in a highly volatile, politically unstable environment;
- The profile and reputation of the Charity.

The Trustees review risks to satisfy themselves that adequate systems and procedures are either in place or planned to manage the risks identified. Where appropriate certain risks may be covered by insurance.

In assessing risk, trustees recognise that some areas of our work require the acceptance and management of risk if our key objectives are to be achieved. Birzeit University is in a conflict zone and the projects at Birzeit University require visits to Palestine that involve risks.

### **Going Concern**

The Board of Trustees is of the opinion that FOBZU has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

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## **Our Organisation**

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### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Friends of Birzeit University was initially established according to a set of rules, becoming a charity on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1979. It was registered with the Charities Commission on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1979. On the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2006 the charity was incorporated and became charity number 1114343. FOBZU is a company limited by guarantee and the members undertake to contribute £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

FOBZU has a Memorandum which sets out the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed in accordance with the Articles of Association.

### **Organisation Structure**

FOBZU is a UK-based Charity that has one office in London where the Development Director and Consultant Financial Administrator are based, supporting our scholarship programme, campaign and policy work. A Project Manager based in Jerusalem, who has been employed on a consultancy basis to work on proposal development, reports to the Development Director.

FOBZU also works in partnership with the Centre for Continuing Education in Ramallah, West Bank, to reach the children and families affected by mental health and child protection issues.

### **Membership**

Persons who support the aims of the association are eligible for membership on payment of an annual subscription subject to acceptance by the Board of Trustees.

## **The Board of Trustees**

In 2009 13 Trustees have guided FOBZU in its work and development. Each Trustee is appointed for a 3 year term that may be renewed. The Board of Trustees governs the organisation in line with its vision, aims and charitable objectives and provides overall policy direction. The Board is responsible for compliance with the legal and statutory requirements of a UK charity and of a registered company. Management of the charity is delegated by the Trustees to the Development Director who is accountable to and supervised by the Board, with the Vice-Chair acting as Development Director's line manager.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow for up to 15 Trustees to be appointed but no less than 5. At each annual general meeting one-third of the Directors or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third must retire from office. The Directors to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment.

New Trustees are appointed by vote at the AGM. The Board of Trustees may co-opt additional members during the year, but these must be ratified at the following AGM if they are to continue. They are individuals who have become known to the Charity's activities and have shown that they possess the interest and skills required to make a contribution in the fulfilment of the Charity's objectives. They are given an introduction to the work and ethos of the Charity by the Chairman and/or the Development Director and provided with the information necessary to fulfil their duties.

The Board of Trustees meets a minimum of 6 times a year. Additional meetings are held to review the overall strategy of the Charity.

Following a review of Board affairs, the Board of Trustees created a finance sub-committee in early 2010. The **Finance Committee** has responsibility for financial reporting and internal control. It also oversees the organisation's risk management processes. This committee has terms of reference and meets regularly.

In addition, the Board of Trustees has working groups set up from time to time to review and formulate appropriate policies to enhance the governance of the charity and appraise and consider the performance and development needs of the staff.

The Trustees who held office during the financial year and at the date of this report are set out on page [\*\*].

FOBZU also has a number of Patrons who are set out on page [\*\*] of this report. FOBZU is grateful for the guidance and help given.

## **Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees**

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies, as described on page \*\* and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the *Statement of Recommended Practice: accounting and reporting by charities 2005*. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Statement of disclosure to auditors**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

### **Auditors**

A resolution proposing the reappointment of Mercer & Hole will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

**Anne Stoneham**  
**Acting Chair**

**Date: September 2010**

# TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

## Trustees

(who are the directors of the Limited company)

|                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Paul Bennett             |                                    |
| Jamil Bullata FCA        |                                    |
| Chris Doyle              | Resigned as Chair April 09         |
| John Ferguson            | Treasurer – (Appointed January 10) |
| John Grigg               |                                    |
| Kamel Hawwash            |                                    |
| Professor Adah Kay       | (Appointed February 10)            |
| Dr Makram Khoury-Machool | (Chair April 09 - Sept 09)         |
| Neil Moge                | (Appointed February 2010)          |
| Helen Murray             |                                    |
| Dr Aimee Shalan          | Vice Chair                         |
| Anne Stoneham            | (Acting-Chair September 09)        |
| Dr Brian Sykes           |                                    |

## Company Secretary and Development Director

Jocelyn Hurndall

**Registered Office** 1 Gough Square  
London  
EC4A 3DE

**Auditors** Mercer & Hole  
76 Shoe Lane  
London  
EC4! 3JB

**Principal Bankers** Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham B1 2HB

COIF Charity Deposit Fund  
80 Cheapside  
London  
EC2V 6DZ

**Solicitors** Thomas Eggar

The Corn Exchange  
Baffins Lane  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1GE

**Honorary position**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Sir Michael Atiyah FRS                       | Patron |
| HH Professor Judge Eugene Cotran             | Patron |
| Professor James Coveney                      | Patron |
| William Dalrymple                            | Patron |
| Professor Khalil Hindi                       | Patron |
| Professor Eric Hobsbawm                      | Patron |
| Professor David McLellan                     | Patron |
| Rev Duncan MacPherson                        | Patron |
| Professor Steven Rose                        | Patron |
| The Rt. Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL | Patron |
| Juliet Stevenson                             | Patron |