



Sabeel-Kairos UK Annual Report, 2024-25

Forward by Charlotte Marshall, Director.



If you had told me last year that on writing next year's annual report there would still be a genocide happening in Gaza, I would have thought this unfathomable.

Yet here we are, nearly 2 years into one of the most horrific acts of violence against a besieged, starved, displaced and torn-apart population, and still the majority of world leaders stay silent, and those in civil society that do try and take action are slandered, dismissed, jailed, and even sanctioned for their humanity.

In light of the above, it is difficult, painful even, to write this report. To talk of success and achievement when Gaza is still burning, with over 64,000 souls lost, 160,000+ injured, many of them having endured amputations without anesthetic, and 11,000 missing, with families not even able to mourn and grieve them properly, is impossible. At the same time the noose is tightening on the West Bank, where settlement building, violence by settlers and the IDF, arrests and illegal detention, home demolitions, and the silencing of human rights defenders are at an all-time high.

In this upside-down world we currently live in, international law, truthful journalism, facts from reputable sources, and eyewitness testimony is being attacked. As the rule of law is disregarded completely by Israel, and its ally the USA, the rest of the world has a decision to make. As our friend and colleague Omar Haramy said to me earlier this year – *“Do people want to live by the rule of law, or by the law of the jungle?”* We cannot have it both ways. A reckoning is coming.

In spite of this bleak account of the reality on the ground, we choose to have hope in the darkness. Our Palestinian partners are a living example of this great hope, that is inspired by and sustained through their faith in Jesus Christ. Despite all they are going through, they still live out an unwavering commitment to the gospel values of truth, justice, love, reconciliation, and hope. If they can have hope in the most desperate of times, we can and must do the same.

So where is the hope in the work that we do?

This year we can celebrate the fact that our partners, with our support, have continued to reach out to and support their own communities. A wonderful example of this was our 2024 Christmas Appeal, which raised over £11,800 for the work of Bethlehem Bible College's charitable arm, the Shepherds Society. Thanks to your donations, over 80 Christians locally were employed from January-April, providing vital income for their families at a time where the economy has plummeted, and tourism is non-existent.

Closer to home, we can celebrate the work we have done to bring attention to, and advocate for, the voices of Palestinian Christians crying out to the global church for support and solidarity. This work often feels frustratingly slow – we drip feed information, sometimes for little return. But we have seen some seismic shifts in the willingness for Churches to not only speak out but



take tangible actions in pursuit of justice. Others have much further to go, which means our work is not done yet.

We have also been one of the only organisations to take people out to Palestine once again, on visits designed to forge close links for participants, boost morale in Palestinian society, and inspire delegates to advocate for justice for Palestine on their return. More on this to follow in the report – but what a privilege it has been to take part in these visits led by Sabeel Jerusalem.

Thank you for your enduring support for our work, for your prayers for us and our partners, for your activism for Palestine, and desire for justice. As you read this report, I would like you to keep in mind the words of this poem, which have inspired me to keep going this year, knowing we are not alone in this struggle for justice. Thank you.

Prayer for the morning, by Audette Fulbright Fulson

*Did you rise this morning,
broken and hung over
with weariness and pain
and rage tattered from waving too long in a brutal wind?
Get up, child.
Pull your bones upright
gather your skin and muscle into a patch of sun.
Draw breath deep into your lungs;
you will need it
for another day calls to you.
I know you ache.
I know you wish the work were done
and you
with everyone you have ever loved
were on a distant shore
safe, and unafraid.
But remember this,
tired as you are:
you are not alone.
Here*



*and here
and here also
there are others weeping
and rising
and gathering their courage.
You belong to them
and they to you
and together,
we will break through
and bend the arc of justice
all the way down
into our lives.*

Church Campaigns

This year our campaign efforts in the denominations have been focused on the Church of England, United Reformed Church, and Methodist Church. Our campaign groups have continued to be the backbone of our efforts in these churches, and we are grateful to each and every member that is part of one of them.

Our partnership with the United Reformed Church has gone from strength to strength. We find in the URC a church which not only engages with us in our work but actively supports and promotes our messages. This year we have joined their 'IOPT in Focus' series, leading a session on apartheid and occupation and the Christian response to this, and following that up by leading a service in partnership with yoURChurch on solidarity with Palestinian Christians. As this report goes out, we are also working with the URC to host an event in Manchester with Revd Ashraf Tannous who comes to the UK in October.

The URC are also pushing forward their commitment to responsible investment, despite some setbacks with implementing the 2021 resolutions they passed on companies profiting from the occupation. We have pursued a new route for this work, with members of the URC encouraging Synods to follow the 2021 resolution guidance and offering practical support in how this can be achieved. So far 3 synods have changed their investment fund managers to enable them to fulfil this commitment, and we are seeking to build on this in the coming year to reach more synods in 2026.

In the Methodist Church, three memorials were put to the 2025 Conference on the topics of HSBC/Barclays involvement in the occupation and their links to Methodist finances, support to



the Tent of Nations, and challenging Christian Zionism. Two of the three were passed, and at conference itself representatives joined the #FastforGaza and wore red to symbolize their solidarity with Gaza.



Our campaigning work in the Church of England has had many ups and downs this year! After many years of supporting the Carlisle Diocesan Synod motion on Kairos Palestine, we expected this to finally arrive at General Synod in 2025. Alas, it was not to be, a deliberate delay from February 2025 Synod (in order for a new version of the motion to be approved by Carlisle) was then compounded by the decision by the business committee not to schedule it on the agenda for July Synod, which was a great

disappointment. Our partner Kairos Palestine [expressed their frustration in the Church Times](#), and we joined others at synod in protest of this delay, holding a silent vigil. We also continued to work with Embrace and Christian Aid to support the motion during both Synods in 2025, organizing a prayer breakfast event led by +Rachel Treweek in February, and in July an event with Archbishop Hosam from Jerusalem, which was attended by a large audience. In more positive news the Sheffield Diocese endorsed the Carlisle motion, meaning when it does come to synod (hopefully in Feb 2025), it has the backing of two Dioceses.

In addition to our work with the denominations, we have continued to pursue relationships with Churches in other networks. This year we have spoken at events organized by Churches Together in South London, the One People Commission (part of the Evangelical Alliance), and an event in Croydon in a Pentecostal church. We continue to pursue new opportunities to reach church audiences wherever we are given an opening.

Political Campaigns

We have continued to work alongside others to challenge the UK Government on their complicity in the genocide in Gaza. This includes issuing joint statements on a [Unified Call to Confront Famine in Gaza | Sabeel-Kairos](#), an [Open letter to UK Govt calling for Gaza inquiry | Sabeel-Kairos](#), challenging the [UK Gov response to Israel 'gravely inadequate' say 15 human rights groups | Sabeel-Kairos](#) and criticizing the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation - [Leading Aid and Human Rights Organisations Condemn the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation as a Dangerous, Politicised Sham | Sabeel-Kairos](#).



We have also continued to engage with key campaigns such as Stop Arming Israel - [Stop Arming Israel: 230 organisations demand action from Governments | Sabeel-Kairos](#) and very recently, a joint campaign to ban trade with illegal Israeli settlements - [Stop Trade with Settlements! | Sabeel-Kairos](#). We continue to raise awareness and support [Layan Nassir](#) in her battle for justice in the Israeli military court system, and were privileged to host a webinar with the Amos Trust interviewing Layan and her lawyer.

Events and Trips

We have had an extremely busy year of events, which are too numerous to name individually here, but include our 2024 Advent series, a Christmas event with Healthworkers for Palestine, Greenbelt, two trips to Palestine, and a series of events in partnership with participants returning from those visits. We have also continued to run regular webinars with three of our trustees reporting back on recent visits to Palestine. Claire has also worked with the Student Christian Movement to run 2 divestment workshops in universities. Read on for some of the highlights!

This year we have successfully managed to run two trips to Palestine in partnership with Sabeel Jerusalem through their Influencer Project. The first of these took place in February, with a group of 12 delegates from Ireland and the UK. Sabeel Jerusalem did an amazing job of organising an itinerary which included solidarity visits alongside those using the creative arts as resistance and as a way of preserving Palestinian culture and heritage and also trying to find some sense of normalcy/joy amidst such suffering. The delegates spoke of it being ‘the privilege of a lifetime’ to be a part of the trip.



Following this inspiring visit, Claire has worked tirelessly with the delegates to put on many events to raise awareness, including an online fundraiser for Sabeel Jerusalem, two events called ‘Brutiful Tales’ telling the stories of people they met on the visit, support for Wayne Campbell’s Photography exhibition at the P21 gallery, and an online event ‘Israel and Palestine. What is going on and why should I care?’ Other outputs have included a new partnership with Grapevine Theatre resulting in some new resources on divestment and a beginner’s guide to Palestine, and joint collaboration at Greenbelt (see more below on that).



Claire was hardly back from one trip before she had to start preparing for the next! In early September another group of 13 influencers flew to Jordan before crossing into the West Bank. This trip consisted of journalists, actresses, and other people from the creative arts industry. We were delighted to take Owen Jones on this trip – whose reporting on Palestine this last 2 years has been brave and principled, and even more delighted that he was actually allowed into the West Bank (although not without challenges!). Once



again, this delegation met some amazing and inspiring people including Palestinian activist Issa Amro, film maker Basel Adra (No Other Land) and Educational bookshop owners Mahmoud and Ahmad. Their return to the UK has already resulted in several media interviews, including Denise Gough's podcast with Medi Hassan and a [wonderful video](#) produced by Owen Jones. We are looking forward to seeing many more outputs from this fantastic visit.

As always, Greenbelt has been one of the highlights of the year for us. Following the success of our stall last year, Claire and the team of wonderful volunteers (thank you!) produced another great stall, with visual props, keffiyehs to sell, resources, campaigns for people to join and more. Our event in partnership with the Iona Community at the Wild Goose Tent was packed, as was the joint event on decolonising pilgrimage with the URC. Grapevine theatre put on a great show with their flying checkpoint, showing people what life is really like for Palestinians in the West Bank. We reached thousands of people, gained 11 new members, and generously people donated £2000 to our work. Thank you to all that took part and contributed!





Working with partners

This year we have continued to strengthen our relationship with our Palestinian partners, working closely with Sabeel on the Influencer project, whilst continuing to support other initiatives such as Kumi Now, and promoting the voice of Kairos Palestine, particularly in our work in the denominations. We worked closely with Father Fadi Diab on the Carlisle DSM, with Fr Fadi speaking at several online webinars in the lead up to General Synod.



We had a wonderful meet up (in person!) with several key members of Kairos Palestine (Revd Munther Isaac, Rifat Kassis, Shireen Awad and Lamma Mansour) at a peacebuilding summit in the UK in June, where we also met and forged new relationships with organisations from all over the world, some of which we are exploring new ways of working with now.

We remain a key part of the Global Kairos for Justice network, and the international Friends of Sabeel network. In the former Charlotte has co-chaired the advocacy group within GKJ and sits on both the communications taskforce and the International coordinating committee. Karen remains a part of the global theology group. Charlotte remains on the steering committee of the influencer project with Friends of Sabeel Canada and USA, alongside Sabeel Jerusalem.

In our UK partnerships we have continued to work closely with a wide range of human rights, humanitarian and development organisations to lobby the government, issue statements and calls to action, and challenge policies. We also work in close partnership with Christian Aid, Embrace, Amos Trust and this network of Christian alliances has grown this year with initiatives such as the [21st September call to prayer for Gaza](#).

Membership and fundraising

We are really delighted that our growth in membership in 2024 has continued right through 2025. In that period of time we have gained over **98 new paying members**, giving our regular, reliable income a real boost! Thank you to all those that have joined, and a special thank you to Ruth for her diligent approach to this. If you have joined us recently you will have experienced Ruth's personal, friendly and super organized approach!

We are also continuing to grow financially, which is no easy task in the charity sector at this time. As more and more organisations are having to cut staff due to funding cuts globally, we are so pleased to be financially secure at this time. We may be small, but your generous donations and membership provide great financial stability for our work to continue. Our income grew from **£60,000 in 2023 to £86,000 in 2024** and has continued to grow again this year. We cannot thank you enough for your consistent support in this area of our work.



As mentioned earlier, we were also delighted to raise over **£11,800 for the Shepherds Society** in our Christmas Appeal. This made a tangible difference to the lives of 80 Palestinian Christian families in Bethlehem, and we are again very grateful to you all for your generosity in this.

Social media and communications

In our small but wonderful team, Claire holds the responsibility for our social media, and what a brilliant job she has done this year! It isn't her favourite part of the job, but she has worked so hard in collaborating with new people, getting her head around new social media channels, and learning technical skills, all of which has paid off with the statistics below.

We made a decision following the American elections, and the influence of Elon Musk in that political process, that we would remove ourselves from X. The campaign to silence organisations campaigning on Palestine online is of course more widespread than just X, and we are not suggesting that the other owners of social media channels are much better, but the unholy alliance with Trump was a step too far for many. We have not missed it!

We have continued to prioritise our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, whilst starting to build a profile and followers on Bluesky, which seems more sympathetic to our line of work. The social media world is all about who you know and are networked with, and this became very apparent in Claire's last influencer visit, where being tagged by Owen Jones in posts **tripled our Instagram following** in just a few hours! Here is an overview of our growth, reach and impact over the last year:

Sept 24-Sept 25	Facebook numbers	%	Instagram numbers	%
Reach	53K	Up 80.4	288.2K	Up 1.9K
Content interaction	17K	Up 83.2	43.9K	Up 100
Link Clicks	1K	Up 5.6	62	Up 100
Visits	21.9K	Up 126.3	21.1K	Up 1.1K
Follows	2K	Up 647.9	4.7K	Up 655
Total followers	3.6K		5.2K	

As well as social media, we have continued to send out regular emails through mailchimp, including the weekly wave of prayer, and our monthly newsletters, which Ruth has done a fantastic job of producing. Our audience subscribers have grown by 10%, not a huge increase but a steady one.

We continue to update our website weekly with all the latest events, campaigns, letters and partner updates, to try and provide people with an accurate picture of our work, and a place where they can find resources, campaigns and information for their churches.



That brings us to the end of our 2024-2025 annual report. We hope that this has provided both insight and inspiration into the work that your membership funds, and that you continue to partner with us throughout the rest of 2025 and beyond. Sabeel-Kairos is a movement, and a family in many ways, and we remain both grateful and indebted to you for your part in it.

In solidarity,

Charlotte, Ruth, Claire and the Board of Trustees.

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