

# **A Place Called Home**

*Developing a training package with associated materials for teachers to enable school students to engage with the history and contemporary experience of people living in Palestine.*

**Walsall Kobar Friendship Association in partnership with Walsall Union of Muslim Organisations (UMO) are inviting proposals from individual consultants or organisations who would be interested in carrying out our proposed schools project.**

## **1) Background**

In June 2021 a number of Walsall young people demonstrated peacefully in the town centre regarding the conflict in Palestine. Subsequent conversations with some of those young people, and others not involved, indicated that information they gained came from sources that had biases and which influenced the thinking of the students. This runs the risk of polarised thinking which others can exploit. This project looks to ensure that safe forums are created to discuss to different points of views constructively.

It is apparent that there is a large body of school age young people in Walsall who would benefit from an independent information source. Those involved in the project will be given opportunities to discuss and dialogue both recent and historical events to allow safe spaces to consider the dynamics and consider what they can do as young people to try and influence a positive outcome. This dialogue project will give them critical thinking skills, active listening skills and debating skills that can be used to debate the humanitarian issues conflict can cause within international law and relations in real time learning delivered in an informed facilitated safe space.

This project aims to address this issue by producing a curriculum project and materials which present a balanced view of the facts relating to the history of Palestine and the experience of Palestinians and Israelis over the past century. It aims to empower young people to make choices as to the best way to respond to the issues it raises using appropriate and democratic means.

Our aim is to undertake a pilot project with two Walsall schools which will involve us training teachers to deliver the project using the materials which we develop and will support them to deliver the project. Once delivered, this project can be fully evaluated with teachers and students with a view to rolling it out across all Walsall schools and potentially beyond.

## **2) How we will do it**

### **Project Management.**

**A project manager has already been appointed for this project and will oversee the project from beginning to end. A steering group involving key stakeholders will meet regularly throughout the project and will be a reference group for overseeing the project, commissioning the consultant and signing off the various stages of the project.**

**The Consultant** – We intend to advertise through established networks to appoint an educational consultant with a track record of similar projects to undertake the whole project. Funding will be released in three stages dependent on the successful completion of the preceding stage.

### **Stage 1**

We would expect the consultant to research into similar projects and to look at best practice across the UK. We are already aware of projects and materials such as-Global Learning London: teaching about Palestine & Israel through the lens of human rights (Tower Hamlets Library Service), Defence for Children International: Palestine section, Teach Palestine Project (US - Middle East Children's Alliance). We are also aware of the approach "Connecting Classrooms" facilitated by the British Council which has previously linked schools from the UK with the West Bank. We would ask the consultant to report back to us and to make recommendations about the best way to produce the materials and of the methodology and approaches to be used, either through utilising what is already available or through developing original materials and or approaches. We would expect the recommendations to be made as a result of research into national practices or projects and in discussion with local stakeholders and the steering group. We envisage the project will use a range of media as well as online resources and investigating the possibility of using "real time" options such as peer to peer class room link-ups (modelled on the British Council's "Connecting Classrooms") video diary exchange etc.

### **Stage 2**

Once we have established the best strategy for Walsall we would commission the production of the materials and the associated training project, from the same consultant (if appropriate).

### **Materials**

We envisage that the commissioning of print or online resources suitable for our pilot. These may be based on existing materials or resources or involve the development of original resources. It is possible that the consultant may be responsible for commissioning these materials "in-house" (i.e. doing it themselves or with a colleague) or working with the project manager to commission an appropriate designer. It is important that materials produced can be designed in a prototype form for the identified budget and we recognise that in this "pilot stage" materials may be indicative or draft.

### **Training**

It is the responsibility of the project steering group to identify two pilot schools. The schools will support relevant staff to undertake the training with the consultant and once completed will deliver the project to school students. We envisage that the Consultant will have a hands on approach both to the training of the staff and in supporting the delivery of the project to the two pilot schools. Once complete we would evaluate the project through meeting with students, staff and other stakeholders to assess the impact of the project and to present the findings to funders with a view to developing the project into a suitable format for it to be rolled out.

### **The Schools**

We are in the process of identifying two local secondary schools to host our pilot project. We envisage the materials to be suitable for a range abilities and year levels however we would expect the consultant to identify a target age range with the two schools involved as part of stage one of the project.

We are aiming to engage a total of 90 children across both schools in the piloting of the programme.

### 3) Time scale and Budget

#### Stage 1

September/October 2021 – advertise for and appoint consultant.

October/ November 2021 – sector based research into best practice and available models.

December 2021 – report into findings and recommendations for suitable approaches and the production of materials.

#### Stage 2

January 2021 – commission training and production of materials

February / March 2022 – review draft materials and training package

March - May 2022 – delivery of training and implementation of project in class room settings

#### Stage 3

June/July 2022 – evaluation with participants and recommendations for roll-out.

Timescales may have to be more flexible to fit in with the timetable of schools. We hope to establish a more accurate time line as part of Stage 1 of the project.

Item/ who	Task	Estimated Time allocation	Cost
<b>Educational consultant</b> Fees = £300 per day	<b>Stage one</b> – Research into existing programmes and best practice and production of proposal for the rest of the project	5 days	1500
<b>Educational consultant</b> Fees = £300 per day	<b>Stage two</b> – Production and implementation of materials Training and delivery	20 days	£6000
<b>Educational consultant</b> Fees = £300 per day	<b>Stage three</b> – Evaluation and recommendations	2 days	£600
<b>Graphic designer</b> Fees = £200 per day (may be included in the fees to Consultant if appropriate)	Design and production of curriculum materials in relevant format for paper based and online delivery	5 days	£1000
<b>Printing and material costs</b> (may be included in the fees to Consultant if appropriate)	Printing and production costs		£500
<b>Total costs</b>		Consultancy fees	£8100
		Production costs	£1500

#### 4) The proposal

We are inviting suitable proposals from consultants/organisations/educationalists with the appropriate skills. The successful proposal will be able demonstrate that the person/ people carrying out the project will have the relevant skills and specialised knowledge to carry out the project and recent relevant experiences in delivering similar projects.

Proposals should contain a description of how the proposer intends to carry out the project along with a timeline with milestones. The project has a fixed fee and the proposer needs to address both how they intend to deliver the project within the identified time line and budget and the assumptions and risks associated with meeting the time scale.

Please include a relevant CV of all people who will be responsible for the delivery of the project and if relevant examples/ case studies of relevant projects you have undertaken in the past.

**Proposals should be submitted by email to the project Manager, Mark Webster [mark.webster@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mark.webster@phonecoop.coop). If you would like an informal chat before submitting your proposal please email the project manager before the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to arrange a telephone conversation.**

**Closing date for submissions is 12.00 midday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021.**

**Interviews will take place online in the week beginning October 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**UMO - Walsall**  
Union of Muslim Organisations



**WALSALL KOBAR  
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**



**Walsall Council**