

Highlights of CFOS Activities during the last Decade

As we prepare for 2020, we reflect on the previous decade of solidarity work towards justice and peace in the Holy Land. We at Canadian Friends of Sabeel have worked hard across the nation to educate Canadians about the plight of the Palestinian people through storytelling, academic lectures, and online resources; giving voice to Palestinians enduring the occupation.

Reflecting back on the last decade, **I would like to share with you only a few highlights for me.**

In 2014, **we hosted a multi-city tour with Palestinian peacemaker, Nora Carmi.** She spoke to Canadian church leaders on the importance of divestment so as not to allow the church to be funding the violence of the occupation.

In 2015, **we held a conference in Vancouver with the goal of tackling Christian Zionism.** Fifteen speakers from across the continent made up our plenary sessions and offered workshops. The conference drew hundreds of attendees from Canada and abroad.



In 2016, **we participated in the first World Social Forum** to take place in the Western Hemisphere. We hosted 7 workshops, one which featured Elder Barbara Hill and Nora Carmi who discussed the realities of dispossession and the intersections of theologies of liberation and Indigenous spiritualities. Following the Forum, **we fundraised for Elder Hill to attend the Sabeel Conference in Bethlehem,** further building bridges between the two communities.

In 2018 **we hosted a Canada wide book tour with Rev. Naim Ateek,** founder of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center – Jerusalem, and Dr. Magi Abdul-Masih. It was the Palestinian Liberation Theology founder's first tour in North America.



In partnership with our 2018 James Graff Memorial Lecture speaker Dr. Tarek Loubani, **we responded to crushing circumstances in Gaza by fundraising for solar panels at Al Ahli Hospital.** Your contributions penetrated the siege and aerial bombardments. The installation has reduced the hospital's electrical spending and allowed them to meet their mission of care.

In December 2019, we produced the North American premiere of **Tales of a City by the Sea**, a play about love and loss in the besieged Gaza Strip. Written by Samah Sabawi, and directed by Palestinian director, Rahaf Fasheh, **Tales of a City by the Sea** won the hearts of its audiences in Toronto with back to back sold-out nights, standing ovations, and rave audience feedback. It opened the hearts of thousands to the stories of the Gazan people.



As we celebrate an empowering decade, we are reminded of the realities on the ground and the continued need for strong solidarity work. **We need your support** to continue the movement for a just peace in the Holy Land!

We will be providing immediate tax receipts until midnight.

We thank you for your prayers, your commitment, and your gifts.



The Rev. Robert Assaly
Chair, Canadian Friends of Sabeel