



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay,

Director-General of UNESCO,

**on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People**

29 November 2018

While recent years have seen Palestine admitted as a UNESCO Member State and as an observer State at the United Nations, the Palestinian people continue to be subject to serious violations of their inalienable rights. Each year, 29 November provides us with an opportunity to show solidarity with those who face this reality, in the Palestinian territories and in countries where the Palestinian diaspora has found refuge, sometimes in difficult conditions. As an agency of the United Nations system mandated to promote peace through education, science and culture, UNESCO is using all the instruments within its fields of competence to help ensure that Palestinians have the material and intellectual conditions for a dignified life. This is what the Organization is working towards through the strengthening of educational facilities, particularly for displaced and refugee populations, and the promotion of Palestine's cultural heritage. Our joint work with other international agencies must be pursued relentlessly and widely, including in the area of freedom of expression and information, and the protection of journalists. This is one of the pillars for building the awareness of free and informed citizens, and thus a key element in the construction of peaceful societies.