

**Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay,
Director-General of UNESCO,
on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People**

29 November 2022

Every year, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People provides an opportunity for the international community to show its support for Palestinians' dreams of a peaceful future.

Because building peace is UNESCO's *raison d'être*, the Organization promotes access to education, culture and information for Palestinians. It demonstrates its solidarity through action on the ground, thanks to the work of the UNESCO Office in Ramallah and the support of its partners.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had a lasting impact on the functioning of educational institutions and has deepened all existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. UNESCO is backing efforts to guarantee the right to education for all. UNESCO has thus provided technical expertise to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in order to address educational challenges. This year alone, we have trained over 1,700 teachers.

Our solidarity with the Palestinian people is also reflected in our efforts to preserve Palestinian heritage and cultural life in all their diversity. For example, the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund has helped to renovate the Al Wahidi House in Gaza so that it can host cultural events. We also assist artists in Gaza who contribute to musical and theatrical life and who develop youth initiatives.

UNESCO and its partners are working together to advance freedom of expression and freedom of information in Palestine because these freedoms are essential to the democratic life of a society and to the building of a peaceful future.

UNESCO will continue to carry out activities within its mandate in order to enable Palestinian young people to realize their full potential and in order to foster dialogue and harmony and shape the future.