

Musalaha UK Newsletter No. 11

Summer 2019

A vision for Reconciliation

Since its radical reorganisation in 2014, Musalaha UK (MUK), in following its five “Charitable Objectives”, has experienced increased growth each year as services, programmes and finances have expanded.

Such expansion has come from the prayer, vision, encouragement, practical actions and financial giving of our supporters whose numbers have now grown to over 1000 .

Many of you will be able to recognise and appreciate your own contributions to our progress. Single actions often seem tiny, but collectively they have power. We believe Musalaha UK is the agency through which God has brought your resources together to create this growing movement for reconciliation.

May the resources we offer Him enable this vision to become a reality.



Above: Women of Distinction Tour at Spring Harvest. - See Page 2



Ten women from N Wales - See Women of Reconciliation Page 3

Growth in 2018—2019

Not only did our turnover increase from £16,000 to £76,000 (462%) but so did our giving to Musalaha Jerusalem.

In addition:

- 1) The Andrew Christian Trust successfully transferred its responsibilities for Musalaha to Musalaha UK.
- 2) 10 UK Christian women joined 20 Israeli & Palestinian women Believers exploring reconciliation in an all-women’s Study Tour to the Holy Land.
- 3) 19 Christian Leaders from a large Anglican Diocese engaged in a pioneering Musalaha Holy Land Study Tour exploring conflict resolution.
- 4) The Governors from a large UK city-centre Academy met with Head Teachers from Israeli and Palestinian Educational Institutions to explore bilateral cultural youth exchange programmes and “live-time” interactive classroom tuition.
- 5) 16 Israeli and Palestinian/Israeli young adults attended a week-long Cultural Exchange Programme in Sutton Coldfield, England funded by the EU.
- 6) 15 UK young adults are being received by both Israelis and Palestinian communities in the return programme.
- 7) Dr Salim Munayer, a Founding Director of Musalaha spoke at key venues in Oxford, London and North Wales.
- 8) Hedva Haymov (an Israeli Jewish Believer) and Shireen Awaad (a Palestinian Believer), who together head up Musalaha’s Women’s Department, came on a pioneering UK speaking Tour.

Musalaha Study Tours

We would be delighted to explore with you the prospects for a bespoke Musalaha Study Tour for your Group.

Please contact John Drake on 07850 682683 at any time.

Women of Distinction UK Tour

April 2019

Spring Harvest Bradford & Lancaster

After speaking in Oxford & Cambridge in 2018, Hedva & Shireen were invited to speak at Spring Harvest 2019

'They were both so authentic and their stories were very moving.'

'A really unusual take on Israel/Palestine.'

- from Lancaster



Left :
Hedva &
Shireen



Right:
Spring
Harvest

Hedva Haymov is a Messianic believer living on the Golan Heights in Israel. She was born in New York and served in the U S Army.

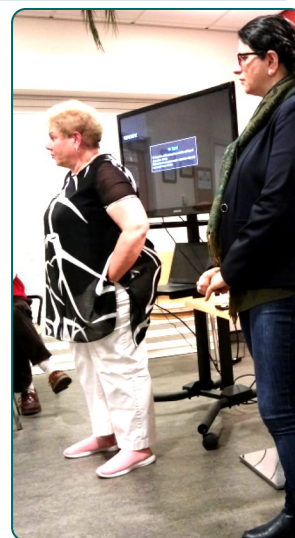
Shireen Awaad is a Palestinian Christian living behind the Wall in the West Bank. She is the Dean of Students at Bethlehem Bible College.

In April Hedva & Shireen spoke on **Palm Sunday at Bradford Cathedral** and at the **Cornerstone Café in Lancaster**. They then presented at **Spring Harvest in Harrogate and Skegness**. In all they addressed over 4000 people.

They spoke movingly, honestly and powerfully about their personal journeys and the joys and challenges of their ministry with women in Musalaha.

At the request of various churches, schools and other bodies Hedva and Shireen will be **back in the UK in February 2020** in another Women of Distinction speaking tour, probably focussed on Birmingham & Central England.

Details will be placed on the website, in the next Newsletter and from John Drake on 07850 682683.



At Lancaster

Autumn 2019 and into 2020

Musalaha UK

- In June 2019 a group of 15 UK young adults left for another **EU funded Youth Exchange Programme**.
- Dr Salim Munayer will be back in the UK in December 2019 with potential speaking engagements in **Oxford, Maidenhead, Lambeth, Thames Valley and London**.
- MUK is currently exploring new **Holy Land Study Tour programmes** for groups from Stoke on Trent in Nov. 2019, and Birmingham & Norwich in 2020. Groups from Lancaster, North Wales, Blackburn and London are planning a combined tour in June 2020.



Executive Director Dr Salim

Munayer, co-founder of Musalaha in 1990, has developed effective ways to build grass roots reconciliation. In these quotations from a recent article he calls us to be active in the work of peace-making.

"The Israel-Palestine conflict is known for being one of the most intractable and irreconcilable conflicts. The conflict in the Holy Land has destroyed relationships and even divided Christians, both locally and internationally.

"Peace-making is an essential aspect of the mission of the Church. We are called to

be peacemakers. In church we might even share the peace of Christ with our neighbour. Yet, we are often blind to the things that make for peace. Our governments spend our resources to invest in weapons and war, instead of waging peace and reconciliation. Our churches try and address the symptoms of war and conflict, but rarely talk about the causes. We talk about peace, but we do not enact peace.

"Through our work at Musalaha, we have developed an effective way to promote and facilitate reconciliation.

"We have seen women, often the first victims of conflict, become leaders in

their communities where they sow peace and justice.

"We have seen young children grow up to have hope because they have been given a different narrative that does not include hate or violence.

"However, Christians, a declining minority group in the land, cannot do this work alone.

"We need our brothers and sisters around the world to see and to hear. To pay attention and bear witness. To not only pray for peace, but engage in the work of peace.

"We invite you to partner with us in being a participant in peace-making."

Musalaha UK

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Musalaha UK

Musalaha UK is a registered charity governed by British law.

Our Trustees are John Drake MBE (Chair), Tina Clay (Treasurer), Tanas Alqassis, Cathy Noble, Mark Pearson (SE Regional Officer), Revd. Jo Smith (North West Regional Officer) and David Taylor (Thames Valley Regional Officer).

Officers: Colin Briant (UK Office).

All serve as volunteers.

The Objects of Musalaha UK

The promotion of religious and racial harmony for the public benefit by:

- (a) Promoting reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians as demonstrated in the life and teaching of Jesus
- (b) Encouraging and advocating reconciliation amongst Palestinian and Israeli believers and then beyond to their respective communities
- (c) Facilitating bridge building amongst different segments of Israeli and Palestinian societies according to biblical reconciliation principles
- (d) Advancing education and raising awareness in the UK of the barriers to peace in the Holy Land and of the biblical principles of reconciliation and
- (e) In particular by supporting the ministry of reconciliation of Musalaha, a non-profit organisation, registered in Israel.

Articles & information on the Musalaha websites.

<https://www.musalaha.uk/> <http://www.musalaha.org/>

Look under *Programs* and *Blog* for Summer Camps & Women's work.

There is even an account of Hedva and Shireen speaking at Spring Harvest (*A Trip Across the Pond*).

Publications contains a video "The Work of Musalaha" which includes a story from the women's work.

Growth and Resources

Musalaha UK is growing vigorously at this moment.

This has taken our collective resources: - prayer, patience design, vision, trial & error, unceasing energy, persistent application, the incredible grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the financial resources of you His people working through an ever growing band of supporters.

Perhaps one of our significant ventures is bespoke trips to the Holy Land and the fresh unique vision that forms in participants as they explore ancient and living stones.

To better service our mission Musalaha UK now needs:

1. **Additional Prayer Partners**
2. **The skills of a Fund Raiser**
3. **The knowledge of a Bid Writer**
4. **Area Support Officers**

We also urgently need

5. Volunteers with admin skills for

- a. Office Work: typing up text/lists; entering data; implementing mailouts;
- b. Advice & research: eg Database; MS Office 365; computer/office equipment.

• What basics are needed?

Skills: Basic computing eg MS Word, Excel / email, Internet

Time: One-off 3hrs to 1 day/wk

Place: Can be distant from Tring

• What qualities are needed?

Vision for MUK

A willing spirit

These are not gargantuan tasks, needing super-skills. Roles can be shaped to fit a particular person.

To grow we need supporters who will explore with us how they might become volunteers.

Please contact
Colin Briant 01442 502255 or
John Drake, 07850 682683
to explore possibilities.

Colin Briant,
Head of Management Services

Can you or your group consider supporting this year's **Musalaha Summer Camps** by sponsoring two 7–13 year olds, each selected from the 'other' side as they take the risk in the adventure of Reconciliation. This is a 5 day fully residential camp and we aim to subsidise each person by £75.

To fulfil our 5th Charitable Objective (See left) we have invited you to support Musalaha's Children's Camps. A more detailed description of their work and influence can be found at <http://www.musalaha.org/>