



PRESS RELEASE
13th February 2009

**Twinning groups
welcome
Palestinian women on
speaking tour of Britain
for International
Women's Day**

Eleven Palestinian women from all ages and all walks of life will be in Camden on 4th March at the beginning of a speaking tour that will take them all over Britain, from Bristol to Cambridge and Brighton to Newcastle. Two other women will be in Scotland for similar events.

Five students together with workers in education, health and social services, members of women's groups and members of local twinning committees are being brought to London by different twinning groups that are members of the Britain-Palestine Twinning Network. They will be joining in International Women's Day celebrations and public meetings on Palestine, as well as visiting universities, schools and workplaces to promote Britain-Palestine Twinning.

"Public attention has turned towards Palestine since the Israeli attacks on Gaza in January," said Nandita Dowson, secretary of the Twinning Network, "This is very important because the human rights violations in Palestine are the centre of a knot of trouble that not only affects the Middle East but involves all of us.

"But January 2009 in Gaza is just one part of the story. These women will be telling of the difficulties caused to normal life by the Separation Wall and the brutalities of the Israeli Occupation in the West Bank, which is all part of the Israeli pressure on people in Palestine to leave, because they want the land but not the people in it.

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“This tour will take these women’s stories to an audience of thousands across the country.”

Women coming include

- **Hiba Ayyad**, a student whose mother was killed by Israeli soldiers in her own house last September (from Abu Dis, with links to Camden),
- **Sirien Sawafteh**, who has been involved in building a school for children in the Jordan Valley in a place where Israel says it is illegal for Palestinians to build (from Toubas, with links to Brighton),
- **Najat Abdurahme** whose village Bil'in is convulsed with problems as the Israelis build the Separation Wall and shoot at peaceful demonstrators every Friday (from Bil'in, with links to Liverpool)

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. **MORE INFORMATION** from Nandita Dowson, 0845 458 1167 or 07791 536 620; contact@camdenabudis.net

2. **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

with eleven of the thirteen visitors – and with twinning people from groups all over Britain: Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont Street WC1 6.30 on 4th March 09.

3. **INTERVIEWS POSSIBLE**

(Biographies of all the women are available)

4. **WOMEN’S VISIT BLOG**

is at <http://tnwomen2009.blogspot.com>

4. **Britain Palestine Twinning Network**. There are now some thirty Britain-Palestine twinning and friendship links, with more enquiries coming all the time. The Twinning Network website is www.twinningwithpalestine.net