

News Letter 2015

The minister's Visit:

On the 18th of June, we had the honor to meet the British Secretary of State for communities and local government Eric Pickels along with the British Consul General Dr. Alastair Mc Phail, where they visited our center in Al Tur.

Dr Ryad Amin our board chief illustrated an over view of what the network is about and what it provides.

After that three of our beneficiaries had the occasion to share their successful stories with them.

The Secretary of State was happy to see the progress our organization has made in the couple of years since it was opened.

Open Day in Augusta Victoria and Al Maqased Hospital:

Jcan organized an open day for the sick children in both Augusta victoria and Almaqased hospital.

The event was prepared and done by a number of students who are Jcan's volunteers who study social work in Bethlehem University along with our staff member Tamar hassassian and Jcan's director Manar Nijem.

At first Mohamad Al Tawil our Social worker welcomed the children and their mothers by giving them a small hint on what Jcan is all about and what it provides. He also thanked both hospitals for welcoming and allowing us to share our experience with them.

The Open day consisted of fun activities such as painting on the faces and children playing with the clown.

At last, we distributed gifts to the children which made them very happy asking us for more activities in the future.

Activities in Jcan centers:

Our social worker organised a course called Life skills. This course included students from universities .

The goal of this course is to enhance and empower students on how to deal with life problems.

It also empowers the students on how to solve these problems in many ways that are possible. The course also builds up self confidence in students by letting them be more selfaware and strong enough to deal with all difficulties in life. It was an 8 day course approxiamtely 25 hours.

Hebrew courses : JCAN's centers organize a course of basic Hebrew for woman between the age 18-50 in total of 8 lectures per month .

Empowerment of women courses: These courses tend to raise the self awareness of women and their reaction towards different life events. It is given in all our centers to women between the age 22 -55 years .

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University and the Jerusalem Community Advocacy Network.

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The Jerusalem Community advocacy network signed a memorandum of understanding with Al-Quds Open University at the latter's headquarters in Ramallah.

On behalf of the University Dr. Younes Amer signed the memorandum and Dr. Riad Amin on behalf of the JCAN board.

The signing was implemented in the presence of the Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dr. Marwan Darwish along with Dr. Israa Abu Ayash the Director of AL-Izariyh branch of the university. Also present were Dr. Ala Al-Shakhshir Assistant to the President and Ms. Lucy Hishmeh the Director of Public Relations.

The memorandum included the holding of workshops in the area of community awareness in Jerusalem and the surrounding neighbourhoods. In addition to human resource development and community and social awareness among the students, in order to participate in the social work in Palestine and in developing private programs, and in providing the opportunities to the student of the family and social development faculty, to get training in the centres of the organization in order to integrate them in the social work to serve the civil society.

The memorandum emphasised the importance of developing the culture of legality and spread them amongst the university student body and the Jerusalem community at large.

Furthermore, it stressed on introducing legal and advisory services which covers all the sectors of the Jerusalem Communities, in particular, the peripheralized segment of the society. It high lights the needs of these segments and the negative ramifications which are intern the results of the ignorance of their rights, and to connect the work of JCAN with the university teaching program.

This could be implemented through the teaching of same legal and social topics, that affect the life of the individual Palestinian in general and the Jerusalemites in Particular.

Dr. Amr stated at the fringe of the signing that Al-Quds Open University is a Palestinian National Academic Institution that offers teaching methods within the philosophy of open university, and it encourages scientific research and renders services to society through engagement in order to achieve permanent sustainability and help improve the conditions of the Jerusalemites.

This memorandum emboldened the development of the relationship by enhancing social work and development of the services to help the residents of Jerusalem in their steadfastness and in their defiance the siege of Jerusalem.

However, Dr. Amin on his part said that JCAN is a non-Profit Palestinian organisation, registered officially in Jerusalem and has three branches:

- 1: Al-Tur
- 2: Sour Baher
- 3: Kufr Aqab

and it specializes in legal services that empower the residents of Jerusalem especially those who are

neglected and their rights have been abused at all levels: socially, economically, culturally and politically which culminate in their abject poverty destitution and neglect.

Opening a new branch of Jerusalem's advocacy and Community Network in Shufat.

JCAN has opened its new branch in Shufat under the British consulate funding. The British Consul Dr. Alastair Mcphail along with a crew of the consulate attended the opening. Many legal and social organizations from Jerusalem have also attended the event.

At the beginning of the event , Director Manar Nijem welcomed the guests and thanked them for their efforts to support the Jerusalemites to know and get their full rights from the Israeli government institutions.

Dr. Mcphail said that he was pleased to open the fourth branch of JCAN and thanked both JCAN's crew and volunteers for their hard and productive work.

He also added that this is only the beginning of providing both legal and social services in Shufat and that's because JCAN plays an essential role in providing the rights of the Jerusalemites.

He also said that the workers in the British consulate are proud of JCAN's work which is considered one of the essential goals that British consulate wants to achieve in order for the Jerusalemites to gain their rights.

Alquds Open University's vice president welcomed the attendants and spoke a little bit about the coordination with JCAN.

People who benefited from JCAN shared their success stories and thanked JCAN'S crew for their support and continuous help.

The branch in Shufat is the fourth center of the network along with Al toor , Surbaher and kufur Aqab's center.

JCAN specializes in advocacy and empowerment of marginalized residents. It provides free services such as legal consultations and social support for Jerusalemites.

Adding to the fact that JCAN's crew(social workers and lawyers) organize awareness lectures that help in raising the knowledge of Jerusalemites to get their rights from the Israeli institutions.