



AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

APAN has now been in existence for nearly 10 years and has grown exponentially every year because of the commitment and energy of its membership.

However, in this time we must sadly acknowledge the plight of Palestinians has grown much worse. While we have made a significant impact on many people in various fields, and solidarity with Palestine in Australia has increased significantly, Australia's foreign policy remains silent on gross human rights abuses perpetrated against Palestinians and inactive in pursuit of Palestinian autonomy. "Insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result." If we keep doing what we have always done in our political advocacy, we cannot expect to see improvement.

Complicating this impotence is the reality that, from multiple perspectives, we are currently living in 'unprecedented' times. While this is an apt description of the world experiencing its first global pandemic in one hundred years, and regions like the east coast of Australia experiencing catastrophic climatic conditions through fire, it is also true for Palestine and Palestinians. Consequences of action or inaction, protest or silence, cannot be predicted on the basis of previous experience. Palestinians and those who advocate for them, are sailing in uncharted waters.

Since the beginning of the Palestinian Nakba in 1948, Palestinians have experienced occupation, dislocation, dashed hopes, colonisation of their land and homes and gross human right violations. What 2020 has brought is attempted normalisation of this activity through proclamations emanating from US leadership, treatise ratified by Arab states and abandonment of any pretence by Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government that they will one day agree to the establishment of a viable Palestinian State. It is clear that Israel does not want to allow a Palestinian State – not now, not tomorrow, not ever.

In one sense nothing has changed. This is what has been the covert reality for decades. But it is no longer covert. Israel intends to cleanse most of Area C of any Palestinian population and in the process make a viable Palestinian State impossible. It is formalising the one-state reality, albeit an apartheid state with the Palestinian population corralled into disconnected Bantustans, forever dependent upon Israel for whatever 'rights' freedoms' or 'prosperity' they might forlornly hope. They will be little islands surrounded by Israel, but never allowed to be part of the surrounding country. The expected pathway following the Oslo agreements is now dead. Although dead, the tools of that pathway in areas A, B, and C and the establishment of what should have been the transitional Palestinian Authority, still exists. This continued existence does nothing for Palestinians but allows a subterfuge under which Israel continually makes irreversible changes to facts on the ground.

Palestinians are being bypassed in any meaningful discussion about their future and must frame new leadership models. APAN exists to give unequivocal support to Palestinians in their struggle for freedom and prosperity, but given the Australian government's hypocrisy in notionally supporting a 'two-state solution' but doing nothing to sanction Israel for its flagrant undermining of this possibility, we need also to reframe our strategy and message.

In the process, the following must now be the focus of our attention:

1. Continue our advocacy for the right of Palestinians to be seen, heard and recognised as a nation people with inalienable rights to a homeland, culture, history, and autonomy. They are not dispensable in the bigger world of Arab diplomacy.
2. Insist on the upholding of international law and universal human rights
3. Build the linkage between Palestinians and Australia's First Nation people as being illustrative of a similar, shared struggle.
4. Challenge politicians of all persuasions who speak glibly of the need for the "parties to negotiate with each other" for a peaceful resolution - as if there is parity of power. This remains the official stance of both sides of Australian politics and is unacceptable. Australia's bipartisan position remains support for a "two-state solution". Considering current realities, this means neither side of Australian politics has a viable Middle East policy. This must be formulated.
5. Find opportunities to listen to and amplify Palestinian voices who are able to articulate meaningful strategies for the way forward, including those articulating 'One State' options.
6. Seek partnerships from within the Jewish community of friends who do not want to be associated with an Israel whose very existence depends upon the subjugation of others in perpetuity.
7. Be resolute in opposing any form of antisemitism but equally resist the weaponising of the accusation in furtherance of Israel's colonising policies.

It is remarkable that in the past year, despite the inconvenience of COVID 19 imposed restrictions, APAN has remained vitally involved in its advocacy work and has maintained a viable financial position through the generosity of membership, seen in the treasurer's report.

This time last year I said I would be standing down at this meeting. This statement was made not out of lost passion and commitment but out of a conviction that the role of President should be regularly revitalised with new energy and vision. I am prepared to stand again because at the moment it remains unclear who a replacement can or should be. It is vital that the work and direction of APAN remain unhindered. However, if a suitable person can be identified I will stand down in their favour.

In solidarity,

Bishop George Browning

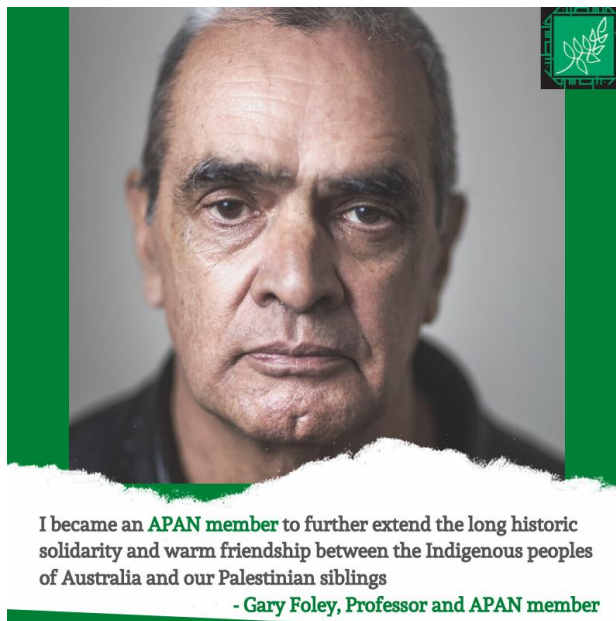
REPORT ON APAN ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

As an Incorporated Association, APAN is fundamentally an organisation of members – and we are so grateful to have a growing number and diversity of members.

APAN has 35 organisational members – 15 large and 21 small organisations. The smaller organisations are predominantly organisations that focus on community building and Palestinian solidarity, and the larger organisations hold concern for Palestine in a broader mandate – such as unions, aid & development organisations, and churches. We were excited to welcome *Tasmanian Friends of Palestine* as a new member organisation this year, and as we write this report, *Free Palestine Melbourne* have become our most recent organisational member.

Individual memberships continue to grow substantially – we have welcomed 139 new members this year, to make a total of 418 members. Most of these members joined in March during a membership recruitment drive. Nearly a quarter of our members pay the concession rate of membership, which is a 50% reduction, and 10 people pay their memberships monthly.



In the second half of 2019, two social work students undertook a member survey as part of their placement, which received feedback from 61 individual members. Members reported being very satisfied with the work of APAN, and saw political and media lobbying work as well as hosting international speakers, as particularly effective. Some people sought to be more actively involved, while others indicated they appreciated APAN's work and were happy with their current level of involvement. A second member survey is currently being undertaken and the results will be presented at the AGM.

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

APAN supports the Palestine solidarity movement locally both by hosting events and campaigns, as well as providing support and promotion of grassroots initiatives around the country.

In 2020 COVID necessitated moving many grassroots activities online. APAN has supported this transition for the movement by sharing our Zoom account with other advocacy groups, and as we gained more experience in running webinars, offering mentoring support to other groups.

Responding to requests from Palestinian young people, APAN hosted two *Palestine 101* webinar series. The first series starting in July 2019 was specifically for Palestinians and June 2020 specifically for APAN members (many of whom were also Palestinians). These series of online sessions introduced participants to Palestinian experiences, from the Ottoman period until today. The program was delivered by Palestinian Australian academics and supported by APAN staff. Over 100 people participated – with feedback indicating the program provided a powerful grounding in the Palestinian situation in its historic and political context and helped people feel more confident in talking about Palestine.



APAN supported the tour of Orly Noy, visiting with the Australian Jewish Democratic Society by co-hosting her event in Sydney which was facilitated by APAN campaigner Sara Saleh.

APAN supported the visit of Dr Salman Abu-Sitta who was in Australia to deliver the Edward Said Memorial Lecture. As well as hosting an event in Federal Parliament, APAN hosted a public event in the State Library alongside the Palestinian Community Association of Victoria.



APAN was proud to work with Professor Gary Foley and Suzannah Henty in co-hosting the first *Australian Black- Palestinian Solidarity Conference*. This conference reflected upon and mobilised the long-standing solidarity between Aboriginal and Palestinian peoples in the indivisible struggle against settler-colonial occupation. APAN played a significant role in attracting financial support, assisting with programming, and support during the conference. Social work student Brianna Hoff, placed with APAN, played a significant role in supporting the event.



APAN again partnered with Australians for Palestine in hosting the *Jerusalem (Al Quds) Peace Prize*. The winner of the prize was Jewish writer Antony Lowenstein, who was interviewed by journalist Mary Kostakidis and introduced by inaugural Peace Prize winner Stuart Rees.



For five years, APAN has been pleased to work with community groups across Melbourne to host the *Palestine National Day* event at Federation Square – in the heart of Melbourne. This year the event was led by Palestinian young people, and included a range of Palestinian performances, as well as stalls with Palestinian products and wonderful food.



In December 2019 the *International Criminal Court's* Prosecutor ruled there is evidence of war crimes happening in Palestine and sought confirmation that they have jurisdiction to prosecute. At Israel's request, Australia joined a handful of countries to submit to the court that it didn't have jurisdiction. APAN worked with The Australian Centre for International Justice to draw attention to this move. APAN established an email petition *Let Palestine have its Day in Court* and nearly 1,000 people wrote to their local parliamentarians condemning the decision. We also worked with *Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine* to host a vigil in Canberra. The Labor Party subsequently stated they did not support the Government's position. In April the International Criminal Court rejected arguments made by Australia and a handful of other countries that they did not have jurisdiction to investigate.



As the Trump administration began releasing details of its proposal for the Middle East, APAN spoke out against this proposal, ensuring that Palestine supporters, parliamentarians and the media knew about the details of this plan and why it was terrible for Palestine.

When the first cases of *Coronavirus* were diagnosed in Gaza, it was clear that Gaza did not have the resources to respond to an outbreak. Over a thousand people joined APAN's campaign to call on the Foreign Minister to insist *Israel end the blockade and urgently let in vital medical supplies*. APAN also promoted Australian organisations providing direct support to communities in Gaza.



In April 2020 APAN hosted social media training for Palestinian advocacy. Twenty people participated, including many people who coordinate social media accounts for grassroots groups around Australia. Participants both learned from APAN staff and shared their own knowledge and experiences.

APAN worked with the *Community Association of WA and Friends of Palestine WA* to host an online Nakba commemoration event, which was attended by hundreds of people around the country. Speakers include Dr Haidar Eid from Gaza; Bassem Tamimi from Nabi Salih in the West Bank; Fayrouz Sharqawi and Tarek Bakri from Jerusalem, and was moderated by Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah from Australia.

In June 2020, the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that Israeli intended to begin Annexation of the West Bank. While there had been widespread international condemnation, Australian political leaders had been silent. APAN supported thousands of Australians to write to their local MPs calling for Australian condemnation. APAN also supported people to write to newspapers expressing their deep concern. Subsequently both the Government and Opposition spoke out against annexation (though not nearly as strongly as they should have).

APAN was proud to work alongside the *Australian Jewish Democratic Society* to release a Joint statement on Antisemitism. This statement both assists the movement to more deeply understand the dynamics of antisemitism, and to provide resources to resist vexatious accusations that aim to shut down legitimate criticism of Israel's policies. The statement was launched with an online event in June, with over 200 people participating. Speakers at the online launch included Nasser Mashni, Jordy Silverstein, Vivienne Porzsolt and Maher Mughrabi.

The work in 2019 of social work students Maha El Saifan and Brianna Hoff indicated that there were many APAN members and supporters who want to be more active in their support of Palestine.

Early in 2020 APAN launched a *volunteer registry* with over 50 people signing up. APAN also shared with these supporters volunteer opportunities with BDS Australia and Palestine Fair Trade Australia. We have also been so excited to have volunteers join APAN on these projects:

- *APAN library*

APAN is so grateful to have received Prof Hal Wootten's donation of his collection of books about Palestine and the Middle East. We are preparing to launch a lending library with the

books. Thanks to AC Hunter for their library expertise, Emma King for coordinating the establishment of our online catalogue and Joanne Thomson and Monty Sallur for cataloguing the nearly 800 books!

- *New APAN website*

APAN has been developing a new website which will be much more user friendly and have a range of resources for supporters – including connecting people to all the wonderful local groups. Thanks so much to Stefan Stefanovic, Gabi Leafe, and Clare Hodgson for uploading archive and reference material to the website.

- *Book reviews*

APAN member and volunteer Mark Furlong proposed that APAN produce reviews on a range of books on Palestine – which has developed into a wonderful team of volunteers providing regular book reviews – so thank you to Claudia Hyles, Brian Newman, and Mark Furlong for being part of this team.

- *Antisemitism video*

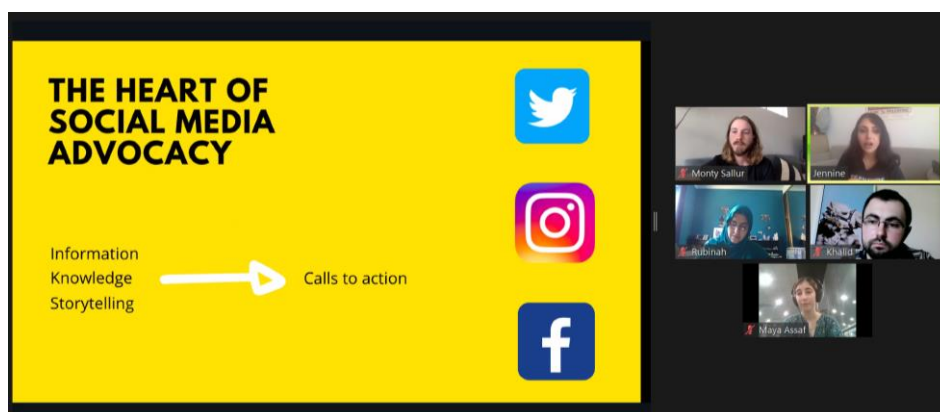
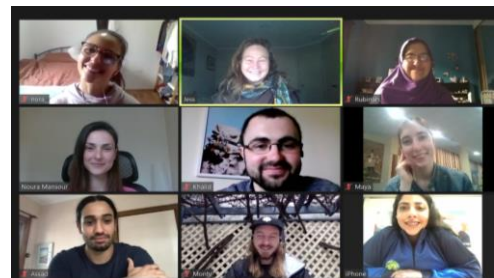
Following our very successful launch of our Joint Statement on Antisemitism, APAN has been working to put together a short summary video for social media. Thanks to Michael Skinner who pulled out some key quotes from the event to integrate into our short video.

- *Fact Sheet development*

APAN's factsheets developed by a wonderful team of volunteers, have been a resource on our website, used in advocacy campaigns and distributed during political lobbying. Thanks to Moira O'Leary and Bruce Francis for coordinating this project, and Mo Othman, Nadia Breik, and Stefan Stefanovic as well as Bruce and Moira for all their painstaking writing and editing.

- *Social Media volunteers*

We are really excited to have a brand-new team of people who are supporting APAN's social media presence. Thank you to Maya Assaf, Asad Kasim-Khan, Monty Sallur, Khalid Al Bostanji, Nora Elsharkaway, Rubinah Ahmad, and Sonia Kayed.



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

APAN has advocated passionately for Palestinian voices and perspectives to be heard in the Australian media. We facilitated Dr Abu Sitta to have an opinion piece published by ABC Religion and Ethics, and supported a Palestinian narrative to be included in an ABC 'earshot' program about a young Australian working with the Israeli military.

We have a large team of supporters who regularly write letters to the editor and submit feedback to media outlets. We were excited to have recently worked with Maher Mughrabi who provided an inspiring upskilling session about communicating with the media.

APAN organised for Orly Noy who was visiting Australia with the Australian Jewish Democratic Society to be interviewed alongside APAN campaigner Sara Saleh for ABC *Radio National's Drive* program.

In November, when the Trump administration announced it was no longer going to refer to settlements as illegal, we were able to secure an ABC24 interview with APAN Vice President Nasser Mashni.

When Australia submitted to the International Criminal Court that they shouldn't have jurisdiction to prosecute – APAN generated media attention about the issue in *Crikey* and *The Guardian*.

APAN has found it more challenging to have *Opinion Pieces* printed this year – while we pitched three to mainstream papers, none were published. APAN has been taking advice about how to improve our approach in this process – and have been successful in having a piece published in the Canberra Times more recently.

APAN has continued to proactively engage with journalists and media professionals this year. In February we met with the *Managing Director of SBS*; and we had a meeting booked with the ABC *Managing Director* which needed to be cancelled because of COVID restrictions.

We undertook a trip to Canberra meeting with 15 journalists from the *Parliament Press Gallery*, including ABC, Bloomberg, SBS, AAP, Newscorp including Sky News and Daily Telegraph, and Channel 10 Network, who were all very interested in our work and understood that Palestine supporters exist at the highest of levels.



DIGITAL MEDIA:

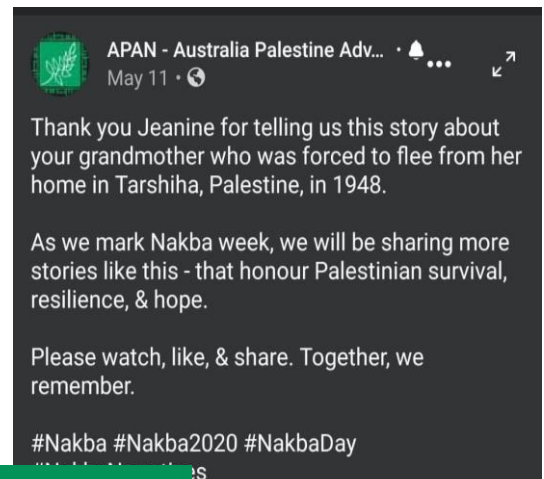
APAN has continued to build our social media presence significantly this year – having a growing presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This year we have focused on generating social media content ourselves - both images and videos.

APAN worked with former Ambassador Jim Ingram AO to document his time serving as a diplomat in Tel Aviv in the 1950s, releasing this on our social media.



APAN has also continued to work with Palestinians to highlight their stories – this year for Nakba day, we worked with a number of Palestinians to share their stories - including Jeanine Hourani who produced a short DIY video about her Tita – her grandmother and her Nakba journey.

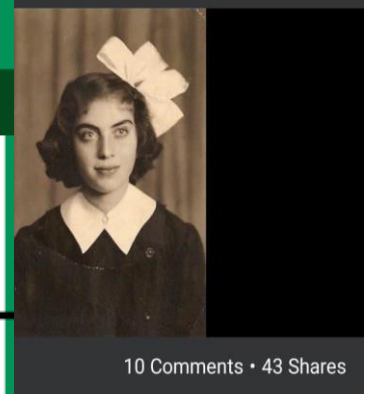
After yet another defamatory media *attack on* UNWRA by the Zionist Federation of Australia, APAN undertook a social media campaign to support their work – producing the following image and sharing it on social media.



FACT CHECK

In an opinion piece that ran in *The Australian* (18/9/19), the Zionist Federation of Australia makes a number of misrepresentations, allegations, and factual errors about UNWRA. We break down a few:

	<p>"New Zealand has pulled funding from UNWRA".</p> <p>New Zealand has NOT withheld any planned funding, and has actually given double its base commitment for the year 2019.</p>
	<p>UNWRA was meant to be a "temporary solution".</p> <p>Indeed, the international community expected Palestinians to have their right to return honoured back in the 1940s, and every year since, as established by countless UN General Assembly resolutions. Israel is perpetuating this situation by refusing to honour Palestinian rights or to negotiate a just peace solution.</p>
	<p>In 2014, there were military rockets stored at and 'most likely fired from UNWRA schools'; and that UN vehicles were used to transport weapons.</p> <p>After a thorough investigation, there is no evidence that UN Personnel or vehicles were used for military purposes, and the UN has strongly condemned the storage of weapons in unused UN schools. It was proven, however, that in 2014 Israel bombed seven UN premises being used as refuge shelters for Palestinians, killing 44 and injuring 227 civilian people.</p>





With a new federal parliament convening in July 2019, APAN undertook lobbying trips to Canberra in July and September – meeting with 67 parliamentarians and their staff across the political spectrum. With newly elected parliamentarians, we ensured they understood the Palestinian perspective and asked that if they chose to travel to Israel, for them to also spend equal time in Palestine. A number of Labor parliamentarians expressed interest in participating in a study tour to Palestine. In lobbying meetings we also expressed deep concern about the Trump proposal, circulating an updated APAN factsheet, and made the case for Australian Recognition of Palestine. APAN members and supporters also met with their newly elected parliamentarians in their electorate offices.

Following our meetings, a number of parliamentarians spoke up for Palestine:

- Senator Tim Ayres (Labor) – condemning Netanyahu’s plans for annexation
- Adam Bandt MP (Greens) – condemning Trump’s plan, and calling on Australia to Recognise Palestine
- Graham Perrett MP (Labor) condemning Israel’s deportation of Human Rights Watch’s Country Director
- Alicia Payne MP (Labor) supporting Palestinians on Human Rights Day



In August APAN was invited to participate in an aid investment review. In conjunction with our Aid and Development member groups, APAN met with the consultants as well as produced a written submission. APAN also produced a supplementary briefing paper *Textbooks in Palestine* as this issue was being raised with DFAT based on some partisan 'research'.

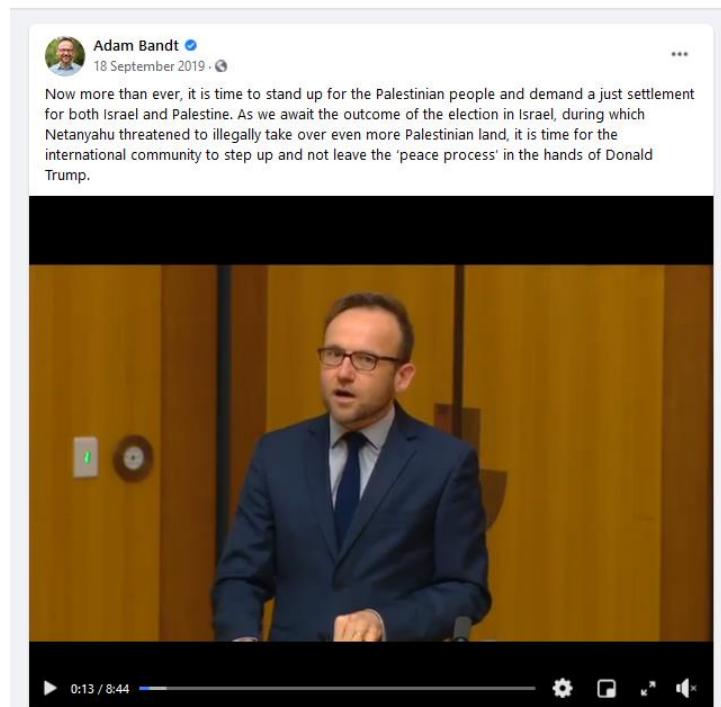
APAN co-hosted an event in Federal Parliament with the Parliamentary Friends of Palestine with Dr Abu-Sitta.

We undertook another lobbying trip to parliament in February 2020. This visit coincided with the visit of the Israeli President, during the time Australia was joining Israel in petitioning the International Criminal Court to frustrate an investigation. APAN worked with Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine to host a vigil attended by 13 parliamentarians and there were speeches from Susan Templeman MP (Labor), Andrew Wilkie MP (Independent) and Adam Bandt MP (Greens).

APAN also met individually with 34 parliamentarians during this visit, raising concerns about Australian Government's intervention in the International Criminal Court. Following these meetings, Tony Zappia MP and Libby Coker MP (both Labor) and Adam Bandt MP (Greens) gave speeches in Parliament condemning the move.

After we encouraged questions in Senate Estimates clarifying that there was no alternative mechanism for Palestinians to seek justice, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs indicated the Labor Party's opposition to Australian advocating for no-jurisdiction (in private correspondence).

During this trip, a number of Labor parliamentarians and senior staff confirmed their interest in a study tour, which had been booked for July 2020 and significant plans were underway before COVID restrictions came into place.



PALESTINIAN YOUTH

APAN has continued to prioritise providing Palestinian young people opportunities and support to flourish in the movement.

We were delighted to have Amin provide a key voice in our membership video. Nada, Loujayn, Sara and Amin all spoke at our Annual Dinner – which was a powerful highlight for all guests.

The Palestine National Day event in Melbourne was coordinated by Palestinian young people, and the MCs and most of the speakers and performers were Palestinian young people.

We were so pleased that many Palestinian young people have also become volunteers and participated in APAN online training events.

Our major undertaking this year in this area was our partnership with *Democracy in Color* to provide a four-day intensive bootcamp to equip Palestinian young people with skills in advocacy and media engagement. Six participants joined the residential program. Presenters included APAN staff members as well as Palestinians who brought expertise in media and debating skills.

Many Palestinians also participated in APAN's other training and volunteering programs. One Palestinian participant in Palestine 101 told us:

Being the third generation in my family to be part of the Palestinian diaspora, and not living in the same country as my grandparents who experienced the Nakba and these

events first hand, meant that for me I didn't know a lot about the deeper issues regarding Palestine which would bother me a lot growing up. Yet I honestly found every answer I needed and more in these webinars and would like to thank you incredibly for this, as not only has this allowed me to strengthen my knowledge on Palestine but also helped me understand my identity deeper which as an 18/19 year old Arab Australian is already difficult on top of not having known much about what my Palestinian identity really meant.



STUDY TOURS

APAN continues to host *study tours* in partnership with the extraordinarily capable and experienced tour-guide Lisa Arnold.

We were excited to host a study tour in January 2020, with 13 participants. The eight-day tour commenced in Amman and included Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Haifa, Nazareth, Nablus, Ramallah and Tel Aviv. They visited Palestinian communities; met with human rights organisations



and diplomats; took trips through the Jordan Valley and into the military courts. We were deeply saddened that one of our Palestinian Australian participant was denied entry by Israel.

We were planning another study tour for the public and one for parliamentarians in the middle of 2020, but these needed to be cancelled because of COVID.

We hope to host study tours when travel restrictions are lifted, so please contact us if you'd like to express interest in a future study tour.





FUNDRAISING

APAN is grateful for all the members and supporters who participate in our fundraising dinners.

APAN had a wonderful dinner in Melbourne in September 2019, which included many supporters generously donating prizes for the auction and raffle. We were very grateful for all our speakers, and the Jafre dance troupe who led some participatory dancing.

We had planned fundraising dinners in 2020, however these needed to be postponed. We look forward to hosting further dinner events when the COVID restrictions are lifted.

We are grateful to our philanthropic supporters. The Broadley Trust has provided a generous multi-year grant which has enabled us to continue to employ a second campaigner. The Wallace Foundation has also provided multiple project grants and generous general support.

Memberships are an increasing income stream, and we are also deeply grateful for those members who are providing a monthly donation.



EXECUTIVE

APAN is blessed to have a skilled, committed and reflective volunteer Executive. Most are actively involved in sub-committees and give their time by writing, editing, lobbying and supporting events and activities as well as attending meetings.

This year we are farewelling three outstanding women from the APAN Executive who have all given deeply from their own skills and passion.

We have been so grateful to have Sara Al Bostanji serving on the Executive this year. We have greatly valued her insights on the Palestinian community, on young people, legal processes, her contribution to strategy discussions and her passion for APAN's work and Indigenous issues.

Ros Harper has been on the APAN Executive since November 2014, and has served as our Secretary for five years. Ros was also involved during APAN's formation. Ros' knowledge of Canberra and its political processes, the aid sector and her attention to detail and process have been deeply valuable. Ros has also allowed her home and her ute to be utilised by the visiting APAN Executive members in Canberra. We're grateful she'll continue to be involved by becoming our public officer.

Wendy Turner has been involved in APAN since the earliest discussions about its formation and has served as Secretary and Executive member since APAN's inception. Wendy is leaving the Executive, but will remain a vital part of our organisation, we hope as a Patron. Wendy is a force of nature, a passionate and strategic advocate whose commitment to the life of APAN has been phenomenal. Wendy has walked the halls of federal parliament for Palestine on many occasions, and she is deeply respected and listened to by our elected representatives. There is no doubt that the improvements in the Australian Labor Party's position on Palestine would not have happened without her leadership and tenacity.

We are also grateful for those remaining on the Executive this year, all who give generously of their time and energy. Nasser Mashni and Bruce Francis as Vice President and Treasurer respectively give countless hours in not only steering the organisation but also being involved in many of the daily activities. Peter Slezak takes up the mantle now of APAN's longest serving Executive member and gives solid advice on strategy and politics and Hiba El Farra keeps us in touch with the Western half of our country and our grassroots members more broadly. Jon Jureidini is thoughtful and systematic in his approach and analysis, and we are grateful he is moving up to Secretary this year.

Bishop George Browning keeps threatening to resign, but we haven't yet found anyone who can fill his huge shoes. George's background and experience opens many doors in parliaments and beyond, and his analysis and pastoral approach to APAN ground and help provide cohesiveness to our work.

We look forward to welcoming new Executive members.

APAN Executive 2019-2020

President	Bishop George Browning
Vice President:	Bassam Dally (until 9 Sept 2019) Nasser Mashni (from 9 Sept 2019)
Secretary:	Ros Harper
Treasurer:	Nasser Mashni (until 9 Sept 2019) Bruce Francis (from 9 Sept 2019)
General members:	Wendy Turner Peter Slezak Hiba El Farra David Forde (until 9 Sept 2019) Bruce Francis (until 9 Sept 2019) Jon Jureidini (from 9 Sept 2019) Sara Al Bostanji (from 9 Sept 2019)



STAFF

Having read the foregoing you will be reflecting, how can so much be achieved with relatively modest resources? The answer of course is because of our highly skilled and dedicated staff.

Jessica continues to be the backbone of the organisation. She is tireless in her energy and strategically determined in the delivery of our aims and objectives. It is utterly unreasonable to expect all skills to reside in one person, but in her role Jessica has mastered many skills, an achievement which would be daunting to most of us. She is constantly seeking to further develop her skill base, and we owe it to her to resource this leadership. She continues to flourish, however, the almost limitless demands of the role will tire even the most resilient. Melbourne's COVID restrictions have added to the personal pressure. The Network owes her a great debt of gratitude.

We continue to be very blessed to have on the staff a person of Sara's stature and experience. She has made extraordinary headway in the nurturing and education of young Palestinians and her various webinars have proved very popular. Sara's skills as a writer and communicator extend well beyond APAN. She is media very savvy and we have learned to rely on her advice when seeking linkage with major media outlets. We look forward to her imminent return from three months' leave she has taken to work on other projects. Sara's wage has continued to be largely funded by the Broadley Foundation which has given stability to her work. We are incredibly grateful for this generosity.

During Sara's leave we have been fortunate to have Noura Mansour working with us. Noura has managed APAN's social media, coordinated our Palnews email, connected with Palestinian young people, and onboarded a wonderful team of volunteers to support our social media moderation. Noura has brought political insight, community networking skills, positivity and flexibility to her role – and we're so grateful to have her nominate for the Executive.

Michael continues to play an important role for APAN as we consider our engagement with media, including participating in the lobbying trip to Canberra. We are grateful that APAN can benefit from his skills in writing and analysis.

Alongside APAN's paid staff is a wonderful community of advocates and supporters, many of whom give substantial volunteer time. In 2019 we had two social work students – Maha El Saifan and Brianna Hoff who collectively gave 800 hours of time – focusing on the Black-Palestinian Solidarity Conference and membership development. There have also been many wonderful volunteers, formal and informal who have put in their time, energy and expertise along the way.



TREASURER'S REPORT

APAN had a good year in 2020 from a financial perspective especially considering the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The profit and loss financial statement for the year shows a deficit of \$3,660.58. However, this included the expenditure of \$20,000 in funds for the Black-Palestinian Solidarity conference that was received in the 2019 financial year.

Income for the year totalled \$323,070.59. Highlights of the income for the year included \$47,000 from memberships (up from \$33,600), almost \$30,000 in donations (up from \$28,500), and nearly \$67,000 for our Melbourne fundraising dinner.

Our very successful study tour to Palestine in January showed a small profit of around \$5,000. Overall we expended around \$30,000 more on events than we raised, however this included a donation of \$20,000 received the previous financial year for the Black-Palestinian Solidarity conference.

Total expenses for the year were \$326,731.17. Staffing – our most valuable asset – was a major expense accounting for a little less than half APAN's expenditure. Staffing, events and the study tour accounted for just over \$290,000 (88%) of total expenses.

APAN's total assets at the end of the financial year were \$102,309.50, reserves of six months operating expenditure, which is a sound financial position.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021

APAN's sound financial situation has made it easier to plan to offset the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, which has particularly affected our capacity to fundraise. Our annual dinner has had to be cancelled for this calendar year and there is no guarantee when we will be able to hold such a fundraiser. Our continuing growth in memberships is helping to bolster our financial situation in the current difficult climate. JobKeeper is also playing a significant role in enabling us to retain our staff. The removal of JobKeeper will be a difficult time for APAN financially.

The executive is monitoring the situation very closely to ensure APAN stays both viable and vibrant in undertaking advocacy for justice, equality and self-determination for Palestine and Palestinians.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

APAN PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT JULY 1 2019- JUNE 30 2020

	Jul 19 - Jun 20
Income	
Grants	
Government Stimulus	22,000.00
Broadley Trust	40,000.00
Total Grants	62,000.00
Events	
Abu Sitta	431.33
Canberra Members Dinner	200.00
JPP Event	
Sponsorship	21,715.62
JPP Event - Other	15,967.60
Total JPP Event	37,683.22
Palestine National Day	8,410.21
Palestinian Youth Bootcamp	750.00
Total Events	47,474.76
Fundraising - Melbourne	
Auction	4,025.00
Donations	12,050.00
Pledge	21,900.00
Raffle	1,900.00
Sponsorship.	10,000.00
Tickets	16,800.00
Total Fundraising - Melbourne	66,675.00
Fundraising & Donations	
Membership donations	3,785.00
Donations	19,459.61
Digital Fundraising Campaign	6,600.00
Total Fundraising & Donations	29,844.61
Interest Income	103.42
Membership	
Individual	31,365.00
Individual Concession	4,250.00
Large Organisation	8,000.00
Small Organisation	3,400.00
Total Membership	47,015.00
Study Tour	
Lawyers tour	500.00
Study Tour - Other	69,457.80
Total Study Tour	69,957.80
Total Income	323,070.59
Expense	
Campaign expenses	
Printing and Reproduction	409.00
IT Support	6,664.08
Media Release	557.72
Total Campaign expenses	7,630.80
Office expenses	

Bank Charges	1,443.72
General	
Communication	1,364.27
Miscellaneous	2,777.93
Venue hire	<u>67.36</u>
Total General	4,209.56
Insurance	3,302.18
Office Supplies	<u>1,447.03</u>
Total Office expenses	10,402.49
Travel	
Accommodation	210.45
Land Travel	2,208.81
Air Travel	<u>8,712.29</u>
Total Travel	11,131.55
Staffing	
Accounting & Bookkeeping	340.00
Payroll Expenses	
Salaries and wages	135,776.86
Superannuation	<u>12,771.89</u>
Total Payroll Expenses	<u>148,548.75</u>
Total Staffing	148,888.75
Advertisement	699.68
AGM lunch	0.00
catering	886.36
Consulting	
Lisa Arnold	<u>0.00</u>
Total Consulting	0.00
Events.	
Abu Sitta	1,323.64
Black Solidarity Conference	26,487.68
Bootcamp	0.00
Canberra members dinner	375.00
JPP Event	34,683.22
Palestine 101	1,600.00
Palestine National Day	
Venue Hire	0.00
Palestine National Day - Other	<u>6,599.59</u>
Total Palestine National Day	6,599.59
Palestinian Youth Bootcamp	<u>6,082.78</u>
Total Events.	77,151.91
Fundraising costs	
Melbourne	<u>5,133.60</u>
Total Fundraising costs	5,133.60
Postage	182.73
Sponsorship	500.00
Study Tours	
Lawyer's Tour	500.00
Study Tours - Other	<u>63,607.30</u>
Total Study Tours	64,107.30
Subscription	<u>16.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>326,731.17</u>
Net Income	<u>-3,660.58</u>

APAN BALANCE SHEET JULY 1 2019- JUNE 30 2020

	<u>Jun 30, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
APAN Business Account	10,590.36
APAN NAB	5,719.72
APAN Saving Account	<u>87,196.79</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	103,506.87
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	<u>100.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>100.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>103,606.87</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>103,606.87</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>653.23</u>
Total Accounts Payable	653.23
Other Current Liabilities	
ATO Integrated client account	-8,846.00
Payroll Liabilities	
PAYG Tax Paid	-66,050.32
PAYG Tax Withheld	78,298.92
Superannuation	<u>1,867.67</u>
Total Payroll Liabilities	14,116.27
Tax Payable	<u>-4,626.13</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>644.14</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,297.37</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,297.37</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>102,309.50</u>
EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity	104,180.29
Retained Earnings	1,789.79
Net Income	<u>-3,660.58</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>102,309.50</u>

AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK INCORPORATED
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

Report on the financial report

We have reviewed the accompanying 2020 financial report of Australia Palestine Advocacy Network Incorporated (APAN), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, and the profit and loss statement for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Committee responsibility for the 2020 financial report

The Committee of the APAN are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 2020 financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the 2020 financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the 2020 financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. As the auditor of APAN, ASRE 2410 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of a 2020 financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Basis for qualified conclusion

As is common for not-for-profit organisations, it is not practicable for the association to maintain an effective system of internal control over income including donations and fundraising activities until their initial entry into its financial records. Accordingly, our review on the association's income was limited to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We are therefore unable to express an opinion whether the income including donations and fundraising activities is complete.

Qualified opinion

Based on our review which is not an audit, with the exception of the matter described in the preceding paragraph, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of APAN as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Date 14 October 2020



Adrian Harris CPA
Mastin Harris Accountants
385 Tooronga Road
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

APAN EXECUTIVE DECLARATION

The APAN Executive has prepared and approved this Annual Report and considers it a full and honest account of our work this year.

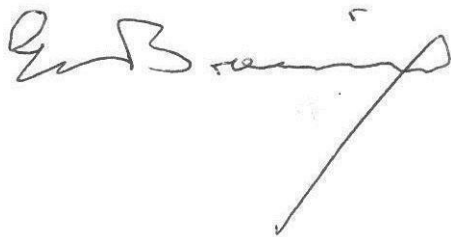
The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared.

In the opinion of the committee:

1. the financial statements and notes, present fairly the association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The committee is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and the disclosure of all material and relevant information.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Bishop George Browning
President



Mr Bruce Francis
Treasurer

