

PALEXPO



PALESTINE EXPO 2019

6TH & 7TH JULY 2019

Event Review

FOA

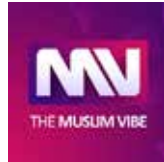
PALESTINE EXPO 2019 SUPPORTERS



FOA



Artists for Palestine UK



مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Centre



Palestine Expo held on the 6 and 7 July at Olympia London attracted over 10,000 visitors, making this the biggest cultural Palestinian event in Europe. Palestine Expo brought together a diverse range of people to celebrate Palestinian history, culture and be educated on the Palestinian issues.



Culture and Heritage

The exciting and rich culture of Palestine was showcased with a colourful display of pre 1900 dresses, a coffee corner, Palestinian spices workshop and date picking. There was also an energetic Dabke performance from Palestinian groups Fatafeet and Hakaya. As part of the Palestinian reality of being refugees, artefacts within a camp such as weighing scales, cooking pots and a kerosene burner were on display. A colourful mock wedding ceremony, with couples dressed in traditional Palestinian wedding outfits, was also conducted.

"Absolutely loved the intricately decorated wedding dresses display and the Dabke dances."

– Pam



"Palestine Expo is one of the most spectacular events on Palestine I have ever seen"

– Zwelivelile Mandela MP (Nelson Mandela's Grandson)



Conference Floor

Palestine Expo had a dedicated conference floor that hosted over 50 speakers on 40 thought provoking panels. Attendees listened to talks ranging from The Great Return March, Nation Law and Jerusalem to topics on Cultural Boycott and Faith & Activism. Renowned speakers included Palestinians Majd Masharawi, Issa Amro and Dr Ramzy Baroud as well as inspiring talks from Chief Zwelivelile Mandela MP and Gideon Levy.

*"Informing talks, thought provoking discussions.
I'm motivated to do more"*

– Gareth



*"I loved learning about the Prophets,
it was fun!"* – Omar, 7



Kid's Village

The children received a special treat at Palestine Expo from a wide range of activities. This included the bustling Arts & Crafts area, face painting, a 'boycott Puma' mini football pitch. As well as colouring in a hand carved wooden Palestine map, thumb painting on an oversized Palestinian ceramic and dramatic storytelling based on the 'Prophets in Palestine' children's book.

"On the Palestine map I coloured in houses and a mosque. I also made my own badge to put on my school bag and was painting the vase in red and blue. These were my favourite!"

– Adam, 9



Tech Hub

Visitors at Palestine Expo were impressed with the specially commissioned high tech area. They had a go at virtual graffiti on the apartheid wall where they could leave messages of hope and they went on a breath-taking realistic tour of al Aqsa sanctuary with VR headsets. The tech hub was part of the educational project where the visitor, from two 60 inch interactive touch-screens, came to understand occupation. Visitors eagerly awaited their turn for this memorable virtual reality experience.

"I've never learnt about Palestine like this. Writing my message of hope for the Palestinians on a virtual Apartheid Wall was crazy!"

– Adnan



Creatives' Corner

There was a dedicated staged area where 22 talented artists performed about Palestine. Some of the Palestinian artists included the 16 year old qunoon sensation, Abdelazia Abushark. Attendees were enchanted by Hakaya, the amazing Dabke group from Bethlehem and Simona Abdullah who left the crowd speechless with her durbekkeh drums performance.

"This was a buzzing space, heard so many talented acts performing with passion about Palestine."

– Lexi



Art Gallery

Palestine Expo saw the work of a variety of Palestinian artists. Hiba Yassine, a Palestinian refugee, uses graphic design to show the beauty of Palestine. Malah Mattar, a teenager from Gaza's paintings focus on hope. Live graffiti artist painted a stunning bird in flight to represent freedom. A monumental section of the gallery was over 70 metres of tapestry stitched by Palestinian women. This was the first time all 94 panels of the intricate and beautiful tapestry was displayed in its original form.

"I took my time on the tapestry, a beautiful way to learn about the Palestinian history. I also took my time on the artwork."

– Alaana



Interactive Installations

Visitors at Palestine Expo had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the daily life of Palestinians. There were the eleven exclusively built interactive installations emphasising daily life under occupation.

"The installations were very engaging and unique. I learnt about how families are directly affected by the Wall, I walked through a checkpoint to see its impact on vulnerable Palestinians and even went to an A&E in Gaza."

–Yunus

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