



Palestine - October 2010

The *World Education Forum* (WEF) will be held October 28-31, 2010 in Palestine, as part of the overall World Social Forum programming for 2010. It will address issues in education as well as the challenges faced by women and men fighting for peace and social justice around the world and especially in Palestine.

The Forum will provide a space for:

- debates about the role of education and its economic, social, political and environmental impact at the local, regional and international levels;
- exchanges of practical experiences;
- cross-border dialogue.

The objective is also to help “*make a new world possible*” by protesting Israel’s practices in its occupation and colonization of the Palestinian population.

WEF web site

www.wef-palestine.org

CJPP support committee for WEF mobilization

quebec@wef-palestine.org, 514-982-6606 ext. 2276
389 rue Hermitage, Pointe-Claire, H9R 4Y5

Co-ordinating Committee in Palestine

info@wef-palestine.org

WEF support group on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=306199442968&ref=nf>



The project

The purpose of the WEF 2010 is to bring together people directly involved in the world of education, including popular education: educators, practitioners, teachers, students, academics, facilitators, leaders, etc., as well as journalists, trade-unionists and social activists in solidarity with the Palestinian people who will be participating. More than 5,000 Palestinians and 300 delegates from various countries are expected to take part in this enriching event, share their experiences and learn from each other. The Forum will take place on a number of sites, with activities in Haifa, Ramallah and Gaza, as well as in Lebanon.

Occupied Palestine as the host site

The idea of a WEF in Palestine was born out of Palestinian teachers' need to participate in contemporary debates in education. It will also celebrate the power of education to help narrow the gap between cultures and practices and its capacity to free peoples from oppression and relative isolation.

Thus the Forum is also a tangible gesture of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

We hope that this Forum will put the right of Palestinians to a free and democratic environment for quality education in the forefront of international debate on education. The Forum also seeks to involve all Palestinian refugees who are interested in participating. Since the severe travel restrictions imposed by Israel mean that the majority of them will not be able to enter Palestine, all activities will be available by video-conference, regardless of where they are held – Gaza, the West Bank, Israel or Lebanon.

The objectives of the WEF

1. Provide a meeting space marked by a diversity of participants and themes but a convergence of hopes and struggles for a society and world of greater justice, democracy and solidarity.
2. Generate new knowledge and innovative educational tools for promoting greater social justice and equity among nations.
3. Explore how individuals and organizations involved in the WEF can become agents of social change by contributing to better educational policies and practices and the dynamics of teaching, schools and communities.
4. Build solid new alliances between social movements and national, regional and international educational bodies to strengthen mobilizations.



5. Launch global campaigns – against the commercialization and privatization of education, poverty, AIDS, and the use of education for partisan purposes, for example, and in favour of women’s rights, human rights in education and the national rights of Palestinians; also, new campaigns on alternative non-violent actions to support the struggle of the Palestinian people, such as the BDS campaign.
6. Promote international solidarity with Palestinians in their legitimate struggle for freedom, self-determination and the attainment of an independent State.

Program

Activities and events will be spread over four days, from October 28 to October 31. The first day will consist of registration during the day and opening ceremonies in the evening, with speeches by well-known figures in the field of education, Palestine and elsewhere, followed by cultural performances. On the following days, participants will have opportunities to take part in various activities: talks, workshops, discussion groups, expanded activities, public events, networking and communications, advocacy and campaigns and cultural events.



Seminars (mornings)

- **Links between education and society:** education and democracy, neo-liberalism, colonialism, conflict resolution, poverty, gender, environment, etc.;
- **Formal education:** curriculum and techniques; inclusion and quality; violence and national security in teaching institutions; administrative

level; centralized/decentralized education; teacher training; learning, curriculum and pedagogy, teachers’ skills and motivation, tests;

- **Higher education:** knowledge economy; education and the market; higher education between competition and inclusion; problems and perspectives in higher education, technical and medical education; skills and work.
- **Other issues in education:** adult literacy; traditional forms of education; popular education; education of the oppressed.

Self-managed workshops (afternoons)

As has been the case in other social forums, these self-managed workshops will be organized as initiatives by Palestinian and international organizations to present experiences and actual practices, methods applied successfully, specific experiences like the Wall and education, the academic boycott, education in Jerusalem, Palestinians inside the Green Line (in Israel) and challenges in education. To find out more, visit the web site: www.wef-palestine.org

Expanded activities (afternoons)



People from all over the world with an interest in education will organize “expanded activities” in their countries during the World Education Forum in Palestine that will unfold as if they were physically present at an activity at the Forum. These “expanded activities” may be panel discussions, workshops, debates, cultural activities, campaigns, street actions, etc. Video-conferencing will be used to facilitate communication back and forth between the expanded activities and people participating in the WEF in Palestine.

Cultural activities

There will be daily cultural activities during the entire Forum: concerts, photo exhibits, films, documentaries, dance performances, drama, cultural heritage (*debka*, clothing, food), etc., as well as creativity workshops for children.



The groups organizing the WEF



The organization of the World Education Forum in Palestine is supported by a Palestinian Co-ordinating Committee and an International Advisory Committee. So far, the following organizations have announced their support for holding the WEF:

In Palestine

Alternative Information Center, Teacher Creativity Center, Stop the Wall, PNGO, Ittijah, General Union of Palestinian Teachers, OPGAI, PACBI, Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BDS), Birzeit Right to Education Campaign, Al Quds Open University Human Rights Clinic, Tamer Institute for Community Education, Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling, Union of Agricultural Relief Committees, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Union of Health Work Committees, Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water & Environment Resources Development, Relief International, Mothers' School Society, Sawa center "All the women together", Partners for Sustainable Development, Early Childhood Resource Center, Hurrayyat.

In Québec

Alternatives, Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (CCMM), Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine (CJPP), Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ), Ligue des droits et libertés.

Elsewhere in the world

Alternatives International, IPAM - France, Hao Ran Foundation - Taiwan, BGVS - India, FMAS-Morocco, Alternative Citizens' Space - Niger, Terrazul - Brazil, Paulo Freire Institute - Brazil, Frantz Fanon Foundation, World Education Forum, Rosa Luxembourg Foundation – Germany, Oxfam Novib - Netherlands, Oxfam International, World Alliance for Arts Education – Brazil, Sustainability Frontiers, Associazione di promozione sociale (ARCI) – Italy, International Council for Adult Education, DVV International - Germany, Centre for Education Rights and Transformation – South Africa, Un Ponte Per... - Italy, Ciranda International Shared Network Communication , Action for Peace – Italy.

How can you support the WEF?

We invite all organizations and individuals who support the charter of the WSF (http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/main.php?id_menu=4&cd_language=2) and are interested in education issues, or who support the Palestinian people, to support the Forum. How?



- By **publicizing the WEF** through e-mails and articles about the WEF or WEF themes in journals and on appropriate sites, with copies to Palestine and Québec, using the e-mail addresses below.
- By **mobilizing** organizations and individuals to participate and support the WEF, through talks, newsletters, magazines, newspapers, the media and relevant web sites.

A **CJPP support committee for WEF mobilization** has been created. **Resource people** are available to present the project, provide information about how to participate and support the participation of people from Québec. The Committee can be reached by e-mail at quebec@wef-palestine.org

- By **participating in the WEF**, organizing an activity and/or supporting a delegation from your organization or collective.

Organizations are asked to provide support by seeing to the participation of **people from their group or affiliated with them, on a self-managed basis**. But to facilitate participation, the *CJPP Support Committee*, with the assistance of *Alternatives*, **can organize registration for the Forum**, reservations for air and land travel and accommodations. You should budget about \$3,000 for the entire trip to cover all costs. Registration for delegates from Northern countries is set at \$500. Accommodations and all meals cost about \$400. The balance is for transportation (air and local travel), including taxes.

Organizations are invited to organize their own mobilization and funding. To arrange logistics, you are invited to contact the committee by filling out the **attached form** and **sending an e-mail** to this effect to the committee's address. Someone from the committee will contact your group.

- **By contributing financially to support participation by others.**

The CJPP will set up a fund to help support participation. The fund will not be to finance the Forum itself. That will be done by other means, notably registration fees. This fund will be used to support the participation of individuals and

organizations interested in the Forum who don't have sufficient financial resources on their own.

We are appealing for financial contributions to help broaden participation in the Forum. Similarly, we invited anyone who is interested in participating in the forum and who would like financial support to apply to the committee for it.

Cheques should be made out to the CJPP, with the mention "WEF2010", and sent to the following address:

CJPP, 389 rue Hermitage, Pointe-Claire, H9R 4Y5



Contact form

I'm interested in finding out more about the World Education Forum and/or supporting the WEF.

My situation is circled here:

1. I am interested in participating in the WEF, individually or as part of a delegation from an organization, and I would like to be contacted to find out how to register and make the necessary reservations for travel to the Forum.
2. I represent an organization and would like to be contacted as such to receive more information, in particular about how to send delegates.
3. I will need financial support.
4. I agree to provide financial support for the project and participation in the WEF by participants from Québec.

Name _____

Full address _____

Phone or cell phone no. _____

E-mail _____

Correspondence can be sent by e-mail to: quebec@wef-palestine.org
or by regular mail to: **CJPP, 389 rue Hermitage, Pointe-Claire, QC, H9R 4Y5**
Cheques should be made out to the **CJPP, with the mention "WEF2010"**. Phone no.: 514-982-6606 ext. 2276.
This is not an offer under commercial travel rules.
Photos: AIC, Jean Bédard, TCC and the FME-Palestine 2010 web site

