

# Friends

Deze contactbrief is een uitgave van de Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth

[www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl)

English edition

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onze  
studenten  
bedanken u  
voor uw  
donatie!

Studiebeurzenproject  
Geen beurs in eigen land

Studenten vertellen  
over studie en leven  
in Israël

Vriendenbijeenkomst 2014

Sana Foundation  
onze partner in Israël

Vrienden van Nazareth  
Palestinian women  
empower their future

A holy place, a place of religion.  
A sacred place.  
A place I want to have my future, my  
future life.  
I studied my high school education and  
university degree in Jerusalem.  
In my dream it is a place of freedom.  
A place to live for all humanity for every  
one, especially for us.  
A place where people live and work and  
be free.

By Hana, from Bethlehem  
[www.friends-nazareth.org](http://www.friends-nazareth.org) - Tel: 02 274402



## Faded dreams

I got finished my university and I  
have my degree to become a  
doctor. But that was not what I  
wanted to become in life. I  
wanted to become an artist and  
inspire people and tell the story of  
Palestine. But my parents didn't  
see any future in that and I was  
forced to study medicine. Now I  
have my degree but there's no  
work. I have lots of time now  
because I can't find work. I  
decided to pick up my faded  
dream and work on my art.  
Finally I'm an artist.

By Hanna, from Bethlehem  
[www.friends-nazareth.org](http://www.friends-nazareth.org) - Tel: 02 274402



UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS  
DONT WORRY TURKEY IS  
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A

### **Amina**

*Amina studies medicine. Sana F. sent us the recommendation for her.*

"We are ninety students in my class, seven of us Arabs and the rest Jews, and most of us get on well. Ben-Gurion University is known as leftist, it supports minorities and fights racism, therefore most of its lecturers and student have this attitude. I experience this with my own classmates; we don't treat each other according to our nation/ color/ religion, even though there are people who are rather assertive about their political views. Some see Israel as a country for Jews only with no place for Arabs, whom they consider a threat for them as individuals and the country. Some choose to stay away from Arabs; others try to annoy us by mean racist words or actions. In general my Jewish friends and I don't talk about politics in daily life for various reasons. But when there is a war here in the south of Israel against Gaza this becomes more complicated and relations are negatively affected. Afterwards it takes a while before relations are back to normal."

similar Master B.P.T in physiotherapy. It has been a very difficult term. More stress than last year, more subjects to do and more competitiveness in class. Most of the subjects deal with new 'anatomy', which is not easy. The fact that I like doing it and love the subject makes it bearable and is an incentive to work hard and get high marks. I meet so many people, both Arab and Jewish fellow students. Most teachers are Jewish and pleasant to deal with. By now I have got used to Hebrew, it is no longer a handicap."

### **Mona**

*Mona, studies Business Management and Education*

"Dear Friends, I am sorry you had to wait so long for this letter, but I have some good news. After a difficult course and various exams I was engaged by Leumi Bank. I am very happy with this job, because this is a great step for me on my way to an ideal career. This bit of good news is something I wanted to share with you."

### **Noor**

*Noor is a student of Musicology in Haifa*

"To begin with, wow, your magazine is so smashing! And the photographs, Gerdien is so professional, I like them immensely. For six weeks now I have been working as a volunteer in an Old People's Home and so far it has been fine. The conditions are super and so far it has been fine. Thanks very much."

### **Montaha**

*Montaha studies Dentistry in Tel Aviv and has an eighteen-month-old son.*

"I was glad to hear from you. This year, the fifth, has gradually led me towards the radical change: I now work in a dental clinic and have real patients (no fake plastic teeth as in the fourth year). This year the examinations are extensive and lectures intensive. In order to get the DMD certificate we are expected to do a lot of research. I will engage myself on a screening of the anti-bacterial qualities of material used in the root-canal. All the best."

From their emails: read their full email messages on [www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl)

## Students on their lives and studies in Israel

### **Halima**

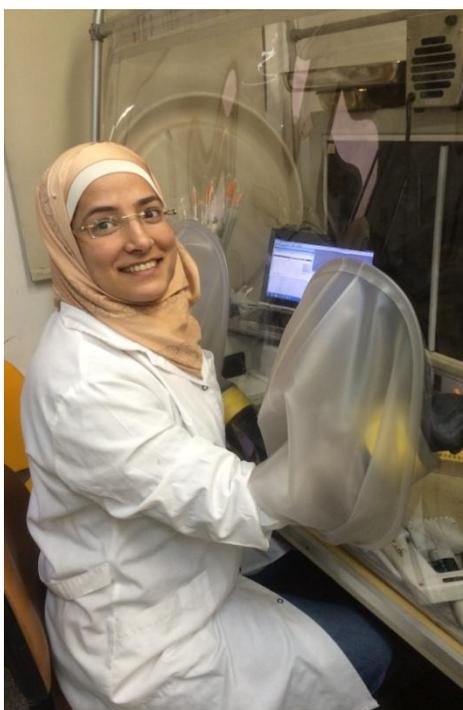
*On 24 Februari Halima writes:*

"I am now in the fourth and final year of nursing school. I have no reason to complain of any bad experiences during my studies. In the first place I got used to the school which has become a part of me, and in the second place I have found a different way of dealing with problems. Education made me a grown-up."

### **Khuloud**

*Khuloud studies physiotherapy*

"Dear Els, I started my first year in Tel Aviv but decided to continue my study in Zefad, nearby Sakhnin. Tel Aviv is a very expensive town and my grant was spent on accommodation only, in Zefad I pay half as much for it. I am doing a



### **Marlen**

*Marlen is doing a Masters study in Occupational Therapy*

'As you know, I took my first degree and now work two days a week in Tel Aviv and live in Maker. I only earn € 425,-. I am trying to find a new job, but haven't succeeded yet. My Masters study takes a day a week, and besides I attend an obligatory half day course in Haifa. Fees are € 3,590.- a year, which only cover admission to lecture and no other unforeseen costs. Of course I will refund the loan. Can I start with a small installment and increase this once I have found a new job? Many thanks.'

*Montaha working in the laboratory*



# FRIENDS OF NAZARETH

"I am one of the few female dentists having a practice in Israel. I am proud of that for this profession is still male-dominated here. My profession gives me a lot of satisfaction: I enjoy working with my hands and get a lot of pleasure out of my contacts with people."

The Foundation Friends of Nazareth is a Dutch voluntary organization committed to improve the position of young Palestinians within Israel, thus contributing to a peaceful solution of an ostensibly insolvable conflict between Palestinians and Jews.

Our mission is 'to enable young Palestinian women to study in their own country and give them the opportunity to be interlocutors worthy of their Israeli peers'.

Already more than 25 years the Foundation, thanks to donations for the scholarship project of our Friends, can give young Palestinians the opportunity to go to university or college.

## The future

Foresight is the essence of good government. Thus, although the present board is wholeheartedly committed to this job, we are also on the lookout for young people able to guarantee our initiative's future. Does this challenge appeal to you? Please get in touch with us.

## Portrait Ola

'Palestinian women empower their future' title of a photo series by Gerdien Wolthaus Paauw commissioned by the board in support of our mission.

Gerdien took photographs of ten of 'our' Palestinian students and graduates. More than 125 young Palestinians have graduated in the last 25 years on grants provided by Foundation Friends of Nazareth.

The portrait of Ola is one from this series. The diptych shows a bit of the world in which she lives.

## Meeting of Friends 2014

Saturday 27 September is the date set for the Meeting of Friends starting at 2.00 pm. Please set aside that afternoon. 'Friends' of the Foundation will receive personal invitations. You can become a 'Friend' by transferring € 10,- on NL42 INGB 0001 4439 82 giving your address, and then will receive FRIENDS, our newsletter, by mail every six months.

## Sana Foundation Our partner in Israel

In 2009 the Foundation Friends of Nazareth initiated the start of a partner organization, Sana Foundation.

Both Foundations share the mission 'giving grants to young Palestinians, primarily women' to give them the opportunity to be interlocutors worthy of their Israeli peers'.

Graduates refund the loan (which is 25% of the grant) given to them by the Foundation Friends of Nazareth to Sana Foundation. Thus this money doesn't leave the country, which is a good thing since transferring money to Israel is expensive. The first refunds have been made and with our help the Sana Foundation Board has awarded grants to five students.

## Next steps to be taken

The first attempts to turn Sana Foundation into an active NGO have not been successful. The young board members, recently graduated ex-students supported by the Foundation, have too little experience with a

voluntary organization the way we have in the Netherlands.

The idea of being a board member and using one's organizational talents on a voluntary basis, as unpaid work, is unfamiliar to them. The plan of action drawn up has not been taken up as we hoped it would be. We realize that implementation would not be a matter of course. The board members are young women at the start of their careers, busy with relationships and children. Together with these women in Israel we keep looking for similarities between us from which to find solutions to the current situation.

# Scholarship project

No grant in your country

Young Palestinians are not entitled to grants in their own country. A person not entering military service is not entitled to a government grant. It is primarily girls who apply for a Foundation grant to study within Israel. For one thing, boys take precedence over a sister where education is concerned. Moreover, Palestinian boys tend to accept grants abroad more easily than girls. Girls wanting to do so are frustrated in their plans and definitely not encouraged. For this reason the Foundation Friends of Nazareth started a scholarship project in 1989 in order to enable young Palestinian women to study in their own country.

## Stipulations

Students apply for a grant via our contacts in Israel. After being carefully screened the student signs a contract

and agrees with the sum of the grant (about 50% of the fees and costs involved), the refunding of the 25% given as a loan, and doing work as a volunteer during their years of study. At the moment ten students are studying on Foundation grants. Annually the Foundation spends € 40,000 on grants.

## After graduation

After graduation most of the women stay in Israel. They hold responsible positions in various sectors of Israeli society. For example, graduated female Palestinian doctors and nurses play an important part in the medical assistance given to Arab speaking Palestinian patients in hospitals, where Hebrew is the official language. The first female Palestinian Bedouin doctor graduated in 2008.



Halima and colleague

## Declaration of intent Periodic Donations

Subject to specific conditions a donation is fully tax deductible in 2014. To comply with these, the transmission of a set amount of money during five years is to be put down in a written statement to the Foundation. This is profitable for both parties as the donation is fully tax deductible and the Foundation is spared legal fees. So far 20 of these declarations have been signed by Friends of the Foundation. We are pleased with these long-term commitments since they guarantee a grant to a student for the duration of her education.

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al-watan  Stichting  
Vrienden van Nazareth

### What are your views?

What do you think of  
FRIENDS?

Please send your remarks  
and suggestions to  
[info@friends-nazareth.nl](mailto:info@friends-nazareth.nl).

See also  
[www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl)  
and respond.

Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth  
P.O. Box 2256, 5001 CG Tilburg  
[info@friends-nazareth.nl](mailto:info@friends-nazareth.nl)  
[www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl)  
ING Bank NL 42 INGB 0001 4439 82

Sana Foundation  
2<sup>nd</sup> of Novemberstreet 2/7  
5646 Haifa, Israel

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