

## **Policy plan 2020-2022**

### **Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth** (Foundation Friends of Nazareth)

The name 'Vrienden van Nazareth' (Friends of Nazareth) refers to Nazareth, the largest Palestinian-Arab town in Israel. Thus, Friends of Nazareth exemplifies the Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel, who make up 20% twenty percent of the population of Israel. To Palestinians Israel is still their Al-Watan, Arabic for 'home'.

Since 1985 Friends of Nazareth's aim has been to ask for attention to and support for the Palestinian citizens of the State of Israel. One of the activities is a scholarship programme. This enables a number of Palestinian students, primarily women, to study at the universities of Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Beer Sheva.

Foundation Friends of Nazareth activities address the objective:

*'to ask for attention to and support for the Palestinian citizens of the State of Israel'*

- in order to end the disadvantage in which this particular group of the population has been since the proclamation of the State of Israel in 1948;
- in order to promote democratic relations between the different groups of the population;
- for the promotion of peace and reconciliation between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people.

The starting point of Friends of Nazareth is the position of the Palestinians citizens as formulated by them. Before 1948 the Palestinians, now a minority of over one million Israeli citizens, were the original inhabitants of the territory of Israel. The current demographic minority position is the result of the mass exodus of Palestinians from Israel in 1948 in the wake of violent incidents and also by the increase of the Jewish population as a result of Israel's immigration policy.

#### **Policy targets for the next two years are:**

1. *Deepening of Partnership with Sana Foundation in Israel.*
2. *Scholarship programme: finalization of the scholarships already granted and the issuing of future scholarships by Sana Foundation.*
3. *Publicity about 'the other Israel' by way of the Foundation's website and newsletter FRIENDS.*

### **1. Deepening of Partnership with Sana Foundation in Israel**

The objective of Sana Foundation is a scholarship programme in Israel. Sana Foundation receives direct donations for the scholarships from Friends of



Nazareth. Friends of Nazareth funded students already graduated are required to support Sana's programme in kind or financially. When awarded their grant these students agreed to the stipulation to reimburse the study loan, i.e. 25% of the amount received. This is also part of the Sana programme. Thus, Sana can take responsibility for the scholarship programme and provide the basis for a network of highly qualified Palestinian women.

### **2. Scholarship programme**

Ever since the formation in 1985 Friends of Nazareth has worked on a scholarship programme. Launched in 1989 its objective is the academic education of young Palestinians. The participation in higher education in Israel by young people of a Palestinian-Arab background promotes not only the development of intellectual power within the community, but also the communication with Jewish-Israeli peers. Thus, Friends of Nazareth contributes to a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The objective of the scholarship is an exchange between student and Friends of Nazareth on an equal footing. Students are required to do 160 hours of volunteering a year and write a report about it. In our contacts with students this volunteering often leads to intensive exchanges, which allow us to give them also moral support.

The grants already awarded to current students are to be continued until the end of their studies as jointly agreed by student and Friends of Nazareth in the '*Document of agreement*'.

### **3. Publicity**

FRIENDS, the newsletter of Friends of Nazareth, also in English, publishes impressions of the Palestinian students on their lives, studies and volunteering in Israel. Each year Friends of Nazareth and those interested receive an Annual Report including an account of the financial situation based on the report consolidated by an external auditor. The website [www.friends-nazareth.nl/en](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl/en) is an essential means of communication.

### **ANBI-instelling**

The Dutch Tax Authorities have designated Friends of Nazareth as an ANBI (An Institution for the Promotion of the Public Interest). Board members and volunteers are offered expense allowances. The amount is within the legal framework of the Tax Authorities regulations. It is common practice to donate the amount received to Friends of Nazareth.