

THE HANDS UP PROJECT



ADVICE FOR **Teachers and Volunteers**

for online storytelling & English language learning with Palestinian
& Syrian children in Gaza, The West Bank & Jordan



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The **Hands Up Project** is a registered charity, and was set up in 2016 by Nick Bilbrough. It grew out of his work for the British Council, training and supporting teachers. Now it's a global network of trained volunteers (currently 90+) who connect in weekly online sessions with classes of children and their teachers, to practise their English and to share stories.

So whats Involved?

You or your class, from anywhere in the world, can meet and chat live with a class of kids in Palestine, using **Zoom** software. You can see, hear, and chat with them in real time, as if in the same room!

Why should I participate?

- benefit from live exchange, and meaningful language with kids of same age
- bring real time reality from another country into your classroom
- help make the Palestinian children visible to the world
- use drama and storytelling to improve your students' English
- broaden your students' minds
- develop global citizenship and delight in cross cultural friendship.

How much work or commitment is involved?

A session can be 20 minutes to an hour. It is best kept simple eg: Storytelling, playing vocabulary games, 'show and tell' or describing a picture, for example. There are shared free resources to help you on the Hands Up website.

What happens when the two classes first meet online?

A simple thing to do is some activities that introduce classes to each other; they can talk about a person they like; a favourite thing; music they like; you could even ask them to perform their play.

How do you arrange a time slot that suits both classes?

You'll need to link to the teacher in Palestine to set it up at a time which is convenient for both of you. (Palestine is one hour ahead of most of Europe)

Will I get some help setting it up?

HUP will help you connect with a teacher, usually through email or through WhatsApp or Facebook messenger. There is also training available if required... so don't worry you won't be alone! At HUP we are always there to help.

What ages are the children?

We help children between the ages of 9 and 15, from complete beginner to B2 level, in class sizes of anything between 6 and 60 students. There is always an experienced teacher (with a good level of English) in the room with the children, so the sessions are mainly about working collaboratively with the classroom teacher to provide opportunities for the kids to interact and put the English they are learning to use.

Now what?

If you would like to volunteer we suggest that you:

1. Explore the HUP website and visit the links to develop your idea of what you'd like to do, based on what others have done.
2. Decide whether it's just you meeting and working with a class in Palestine for one or a series of lessons, or whether you want your class to meet and exchange with a Palestinian class.
3. Then email HUP info@handsupproject.org to introduce yourself, ask any questions, and to set up a class, a time, meet the teacher, and so on.

You can read about 'remote theatre' and 'using Zoom' on the page opposite and download it onto your device to familiarize yourself in readiness for your online sessions.



REMOTE THEATRE

What is Remote Theatre?

The Hands Up Project has established drama clubs in Palestinian schools where children can practise, create and perform plays remotely in English. We do this through training teachers in drama techniques and providing ongoing online support through live link ups. We encourage children to perform their plays remotely at conferences and other events around the world.

What is the play competition?

We run an annual play making competition in English for Palestinian children. The 18 finalists of this competition are funded by us to perform their plays at theatres in the West Bank (they are mostly from Gaza).

How easy is it to produce a play?

We have easy guidelines for entering the competition. Plays are maximum 5 minutes long with a maximum of 5 people and the main language of the plays should be English. They should be written by the children (with teacher assistance) and then filmed in one take on a static mobile or device.

Can I familiarize myself with some plays?

- The plays are posted on our YouTube channel, so please take a look : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3pWIDb1E63K6QeJhe0p5Uw>
- We recommend before you meet the Palestinian class that you and your class watch some youtube video plays to get tuned in, prepare the language etc.
- Some plays have subtitles. Watch it without and then with subtitles.
- When you meet the Palestine class you can always ask them to perform their play LIVE for your class. They would probably be very happy to do so! Then your class can tell the actors their thoughts about it and the actors can tell your class what the play means to them.

ZOOM

How easy is it to set up Zoom?

- Zoom is very easy to set up on your computer or device. We have used Zoom for 4 years and find it the best software.
- It works reasonably well when the internet is weak and it's very easy to record the sessions. It includes a virtual background (green screen) feature which is great for storytelling. It also allows simultaneous webcam and screen share.

Is there any help I can get for using Zoom?

- Zoom has a lot of online help to get you used to using the Software.
- See our HUP Booklet: A guide to making a remote play. Which contains useful tips and hints for using Zoom. The booklet is available as a free digital download from our website.

zoom You can download ZOOM here for free at <https://zoom.us/download>

What we do at a glance..



teach

We arrange weekly live link ups between children in **UNRWA** or Ministry of Education schools and our ever expanding pool of volunteers around the world. Around 500 Palestinian children a week attend these online storytelling/drama/English language learning sessions.



connect

We connect classes in Palestine with classes around the world for intercultural online dialogue in English.



perform

We help to establish drama clubs in Palestinian schools where children can practise, create and perform plays remotely in English.



create

We run an annual play making competition in English for Palestinian children. The 18 finalists of this competition are funded by us to perform their plays at theatres in the West Bank.



publish

We publish the plays made by Palestinian children and donate copies to the authors/actors. We also encourage teachers of English around the world to use the plays with their own learners of English.



develop

We run online teacher development sessions for Gaza **UNRWA** teachers. These sessions are delivered by well known ELT methodologists.





Hands Up Project is a registered Charity, Number (UK): 1170272.

For further information about how you can volunteer and help give children in Gaza and the West Bank a voice through education, please visit our website or email us on info@handsupproject.org

Hands Up Project is a non-profit organisation relying heavily on the goodwill and donations of our supporters. If you would like to help us and make a donation please visit our website, you will also find copies of our books of plays available for purchase. All proceeds are used to help our students in Gaza and the West Bank.



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