



Inside the small rooms of *This Week in Palestine* we started to call this November issue on reviewing education a benchmark as soon as the idea hit us. It is a leap in our aspirations to push the magazine's content, look, and role in our society to a whole new level.

Palestinians have placed a lot of value and hope on this subject. Education was at one time THE commodity to invest in for the future of Palestinian families after the loss of their houses, properties, lands, and natural habitats during *Al-Nakba*, the forced exodus. Palestine used to be a thriving place for education, which is reflected in the following pages through a new and interesting research project conducted by Jihad Alshwaikh. Also, during the first Intifada, Palestinians came up with their own flexible and practical form of education, which is the subject of an important article we have for you by Alessandro Petti.

At present, however, education has become a topic shrouded in controversy. The system has not been producing the results it promised. So we decided that it was time to take a fresh look at education in Palestine and pose a few questions. Is knowledge really the focal point of our educational system? How does Palestinian education compare with educational advancements around the world?

We sought out the most prolific and professional writers on education to give us their views and suggestions on how to move forward. We have also highlighted several special cases within Palestinian society and challenged conventional ideas about learning.

With change comes fear; but "nothing diminishes anxiety faster than action," as Walter Anderson puts it. So we hope that you'll enjoy reading this issue as much as we've enjoyed producing it.

We also hope that this will be another step forward for *This Week in Palestine* as we strive to serve our communities and reach new realms in the constant journey towards excellence.

**Ahmad Damen**  
Content Editor



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