



The Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias

St Andrew's Day Offering 2022

Parents Circle Family Forum



'Our tears are the same tears. Our pain is the same pain.'

The more than 600 Israeli and Palestinian families that belong to the **Parents Circle Families Forum** have all lost a child to violence during the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Among their members is Rami, an Israeli father whose 12-year-old daughter Smadar was killed in Jerusalem by a Palestinian suicide bomber; another is Bushra, a Palestinian mother whose 17-year-old son Mahmoud was shot dead by an Israeli soldier.

For some, their first thoughts have been of revenge. But, as it says on their Facebook page, 'We have realised in the most painful ways that revenge, anger, hatred and murder will not bring us comfort or solution, but more loss and more pain.'

In their loss and grief, these Palestinians and Israelis have formed close friendships across the divide. Undoubtedly, this has brought comfort.

But they have also come together, with the moral authority that their experiences bring, to work to ensure that no other parent will have to experience the same loss and pain.

Among their activities are dialogue meetings (always one Israeli and one Palestinian together), speaking about their experiences to groups in Palestine, Israel and overseas; groups exploring their parallel narratives; and an annual peace camp for youths from bereaved families.

Through creating dialogue, reconciliation and peace, they work together to end the cycle of bloodshed and towards achieving a diplomatic arrangement agreed upon by both sides.

It is a privilege for The Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias to support the work of Parents Circle.

Thank *you*, in advance, for *your* support.

www.theparentscircle.org