

Proposed Edina-Gaza Treaty

Twinning will cost Edinburgh Council nothing. Rather, the call is for Policy Committee to commit the Council to the following treaty:

“Proud of the contribution their respective cities will make to international friendship and understanding, the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh and the Mayor of Gaza Municipality pledge of both Edinburgh and Gaza City that together,

- They will actively co-operate to ensure the continuing development of close relationships between the citizens.*
- They promise to facilitate the creation of direct links between institutions and organisations wishing to partake in twinning activity.*
- They will encourage exchanges between young people to ensure succeeding generations learn the history of the relationship between the cities and the role that each has played in its own national history.*
- They will take every opportunity to share skills and knowledge to the benefit of their respective citizens.*
- They undertake to convene regular meetings between representatives in order to evaluate co-operation programmes.”*

We call upon the Edinburgh Partnership to work with the Edina-Gaza Twinning Association (EGTA) in furthering these objectives. (see www.twingaza.com/edina-gaza-twinning-association). To this end, we ask that our Lord Provost joins with the Gaza City Mayor as honorary co-presidents of the Association.

NOTES

The Honorary President of EGTA is the Mayor of Gaza Municipality, Dr Yaya Sarraj. At the inaugural general meeting on 17th April, Pete Gregson was elected chairperson; the other office bearers are Mike Hauxwell (Vice-chair) and Jurgen Wolf (Treasurer); the EGTA Secretary is Mohammed Almadhoun, a teacher living in Gaza.

Established in April of this year, there are 32 members at present- from Edinburgh, Gaza and elsewhere- and EGTA have applied for charitable status. In addition, it has around 360 supporters who volunteer to teach English or donate when called upon; they receive regular updates on twinning news. EGTA works with Gaza Sky Geeks in purchasing websites for Scottish traders and its volunteers provide free English classes on Zoom.

The 36- minute video of the petition rally at the City Chambers on 22nd March, with Mohammed Alshorafa outlining life in Gaza, is at https://youtu.be/MIkY8ad_9qs