



Annual Report 2019





In this report:

We are proud to present you with an overview of our work and achievements starting from 1st of January and ending on December 31, 2019.

For more information about our work in general, our approaches, our work in the past and daily updates, we invite you to read more about us on our website www.placircus.ps and to like our Facebook page: [The Palestinian Circus School](#)

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Introduction



Dearest supporters and friends of the Palestinian Circus School,

This yearly report will cover PCS programs and activities from 01st of January to 31st of December 2019. It has been another very busy and productive year for the circus family in Palestine, despite all the challenges. Your support has contributed to our growth and to increase our impact on the target groups we work with. Thank you from our hearts.

We are very thrilled to announce that we will organize the third edition of Palestine Circus Festival from 19th to 26th of September 2020. The festival will target children, youth and adults with high level contemporary circus productions. Stay tuned and join us in our celebrations next year!

About us



Vision

A free Palestine in which Palestinians engage in a dynamic cultural and artistic life that embraces creativity, freedom of expression and diversity as the main pillars for a just and inclusive society.

Mission

By teaching, creating, performing and programming circus arts, the Palestinian Circus School strengthens the creative, social and physical potential of Palestinians, seeking to engage and empower them to become constructive actors in society and raises local and international awareness about the positive Palestinian potential and its different challenges.

You can read more about the history of PCS [here](#)

The staff in 2019

Mohamad Rabah	Executive Director.
Shadi Zmorrod	Part –time Artistic Director until October 2019.
Ahmad Rezgalla	Financial Officer
Rana Nasser	Programs Officer
Marah Al Natsheh	Research, Development and Marketing Coordinator / artist
Hanya Abdallah	Admin Assistant
Alaa Jayousi	Safety and Technician
Nayef Abdallah	Trainers Coordinator
Mohammad Abu Sakha	Circus Pedagogy Coordinator
Motasem Ghaith	Trainer
Mohammad Dweikat	Trainer
Zain Assi	Trainer/ accountant
Noor Abu AlRub	Performers' Coordinator
Mohammad Abu Taleb	Performer
Ahmad Abu Taleb	Performer

Board of Directors

- President: Dr. Yousef Al Rimawi
- Vice President: Ms. Elham Zeineh
- Treasurer: Mr. Raed Sadeq
- Secretary: Dr. Shadia Makhoulf
- Member: Ms. Tina Rafidi
- Member: Mr. Raed Abu Awwad
- Member: Ms. Rawan Harb

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank **all local and international volunteers** for sharing their valuable experience and time with us and for contributing to the further development of the PCS. Welcome always to our big circus family!!

You want to volunteer with us?? Read our call [here](#)



Educational Activities

[Click on this link for a general introduction about the philosophy and approach of PCS in its educational work.](#)

Circus Clubs 2019:

From January to May 2019, a total number of 177 students, of which 63 boys and 114 girls followed our weekly clubs on regular basis. The students came from Birzeit, Ramallah, Al Jalazone Refugee Camp, Jenin and Jerusalem.

From September to December 2019, we had a total of 195 students, of which 64 boys and 131 girls.

During first semester in **Birzeit**, we had 3 clubs running for a total of 72 students (32 males and 40 females) all between the ages of 6 and 27. In second semester, we had 4 clubs with 89 students (35 males and 54 females).

With the **outreach program**, we spread the circus beyond the borders of Birzeit.

We bring circus to other cities and refugee camps, to children and youth with intellectual disabilities and to the girls of a social rehabilitation center. From our first days of training in 2007, we decided to go out of Ramallah, since we wanted to become a school for all Palestinians despite their geographic or social background. We have been working in Hebron, Jenin, and Al Fara'a Refugee Camp for many years where we have been in the process of establishing permanent hubs of training. We also bring children and youth from Al Jalazone Refugee Camp to Birzeit. We work with an average of 45 girls every year since 2008 at the Girls Rehabilitation Center in Jenin. In addition we teach circus to two groups of students from the Star Mountains and Al Nahda Centre where this year, we worked with 20 children with mental disabilities.

The Outreach program from January to May 2019, targeted 105 children (31 boys and 74 girls). From September to December 2019, we had a total of 106 students (29 boys and 77 girls) during weekly trainings in:

- **Jenin:** In cooperation with the Girls Rehabilitation Center (1st semester with 37 girls, 2nd semester with 40 girls)
- **Ramallah:** 1st semester with 30 students, 2nd semester with 27 students at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Center (ETVTC)
- **Star Mountains:** 11 students (6 boys and 5 girls) with mental disabilities in cooperation with Star Mountain Center
- **Al Nahda:** 09 students (boys) with mental disabilities in cooperation with Al Nahda Association.
- **Jerusalem:** 1st semester with 18 students, 2nd semester with 19 students at Yabous Cultural Center

Next to the weekly clubs, PCS organizes specialized workshops of aerials, acrobatics and juggling twice a year, a total of 28 students of which 8 males and 20 females joined these workshops from January to December 2019.

Our **Training of Trainers program**, which we offer every 2 or 3 years, is open to all, and many of the students in this program come from our clubs outside Birzeit.

This year the school offered a Training of Trainers program for 23 youth from partner cultural organizations from Al Bustan (Jerusalem), Freedom Theater (Jenin) and Dar Qindeel (Tulkarem). This came in preparation for opening self reliant clubs in these areas between September 2019 and January 2020.

Accessible for all

With the PCS we continue to invest strongly in the ‘circus for all’ idea. In our vision we state that we want to contribute to a just and inclusive society. For us this means that all Palestinians, despite their different backgrounds, possibilities and abilities, are welcome at the circus school. The main strategies we use to make circus possible for all are:

- To welcome all children and youth from all religious, political, social, economic and gender backgrounds.
- A scholarship system, that allows people to pay the fee they can afford. Read more about our scholarship system [here](#)
- The outreach program, where the circus trainers travel weekly to different locations which would otherwise have no access to the circus offer.
- The development of partnerships with specific organizations that work with more vulnerable groups in our society. In this sense we have developed a strong partnership over the last years with the Social Rehabilitation Centre for girls in Jenin and with Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre and Al Nahda Centre which both work with people with intellectual disabilities. In addition to Al Bustan in Sylwan and Dar Qindeel in tulkarem.
- To open our doors for anybody who feels like passing by, come and see a training, and by organizing many shows for free or for very low charges to allow all to enjoy the circus magic.



Open Days

It is very important for PCS to offer its students the opportunity to present their newly acquired skills to their social network. That's why by the end of each scholar year, PCS organizes a series of open days in its different training locations [Read more ...](#)

- **Jenin** : 1 open day for the Girls Rehabilitation Center @ The Freedom Theater
- **Ramallah** @ the ETVTC
- **Ramallah** for AL Nahda Woman Organization @ the Latin School
- **Jerusalem** @ Yabous Cultural Center

Between 20 April and 3 May 2019, seven open days were organized in different locations reaching around 1250 people from:

- **Birzeit**: 2 open days @PCS premises
- **Abu Qash**: @ Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center

Summer Camps

The summer is the best period in the year that allows us to work on a more intensified way with our students. [Read more](#)

In 2019, we organized 3 summer camps in our premises in Birzeit for a total of 60 students enrolled in Yalla Nilaab, Moon and Sun groups in Birzeit, Ramallah and Jerusalem.

As a result, a mobile circus show was created by Sun Group. The show was performed 11 times in Birzeit, Salfit (Municipality's Sports Hall), Shu'fat (Palestinian Child Center), Khan AL Ahmar, Ramallah (Serreyet Ramallah and Al Kasabeh), Farkha (Farkha International Festival), Tulkarem (Al Khalideye School), Jenin (The Freedom Theater), and Haifa (Arab Cultural Association). Around 3000 people enjoyed the show.

In addition to abovementioned summer camps, the school offers circus trainings in summer camps organized by different partners, this year the school trained in following locations:

- Jenin: in cooperation with The Freedom Theater (200 children)
- Ramallah: in cooperation with Serreyet Ramallah (120 Children)
- Salfit: in cooperation with GVC-Italia and Salfit Municipality (210 children)
- Birzeit: in cooperation with Latin School (40 children)



Artistic Activities

Productions and Performances

Spreading circus arts in Palestine and introducing Palestinians to a new form of performing arts, is an important quest for PCS. In order to fulfill this goal, PCS produces shows and organizes tours both locally and internationally. You can read more about the why and how of our artistic work [here](#)

Coffee in Town

The seventh production of the Palestinian Circus School, was created in 2017. About the show: “People come together in the same space and time, sharing a collective experience, but each has their own story to tell. Some enjoy the coming together, others seek a moment alone with their own thoughts and feelings. Ultimately it is their joy, celebration and humanity that bring them together, to share in a coffee and a memory or two. The possibilities that they hold inside give us a pause, to join with them, breathe and live life without limit.”

The show was presented for the first time during Nablus Circus Days on August 24+25, 2017. Between August 2017 and April 2019, the team hit the road and performed the show 43 times in different West Bank cities, villages, refugee camps and Bedouin settlements, reaching a total audience of 14900 people.



Sarab



SARAB shares with us the plight of refugees worldwide. The seven Palestinian performers of SARAB use Circus-theater, to reflect on their own history, and the repetition of it today for millions of people.

SARAB is the 8th production of PCS, directed by Paul Evans. This year, the show was performed 7 times in Barcelona (Spain), Zurich (Switzerland) and Jena (Germany), reaching around 3000 people.

In Zurich, the show was nominated for the ZKB Patronage Prize and the ZKB Audience Prize.

SARAB will continue touring in 2020. Possible tours in Austria, Cambodia, Italy and Germany are currently being discussed.

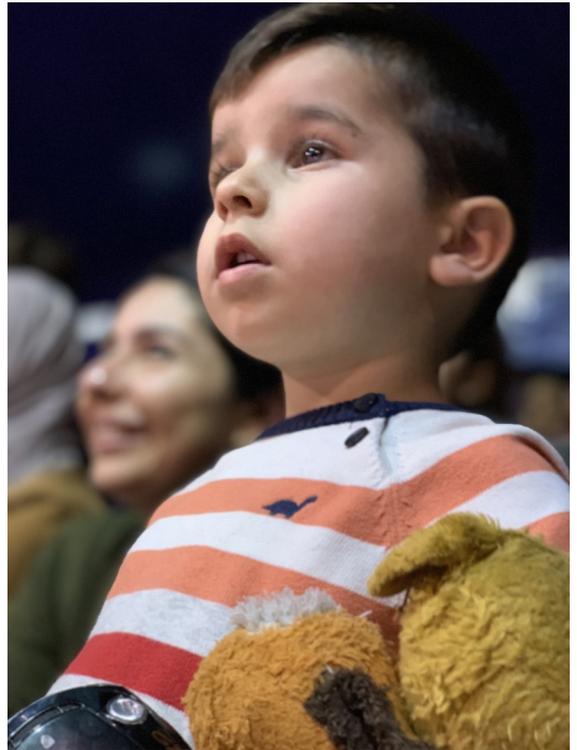
A co-production: PCS & Clowns Without Borders—France

A joint production and a series of performances between The Palestinian Circus School and Clowns Without Borders—France, took place between 21st of October and 9th of November, 2019.

The show was performed 18 times in Birzeit, Al Jalazone Refugee Camp, Balata Refugee Camp, Askar Refugee Camp, Kufor Kadoum, Oureef, Jenin Refugee Camp, Aida Refugee Camp, Hebron, Arab Al Ramadeen Bedouin Community, Al Aroub Refugee Camp and Al Fawwar Refugee Camp. Around 11424 people enjoyed the show.

“All locations where we performed are missing all kinds of artistic and cultural activities, therefore; I see it is very important to reach out for them, and give the children there a moment of laughter and happiness. Since most of the locations are affected directly by the Israeli Occupation” Noor abu Al Rub





Cooperation with the different partners:

Local Cooperation

PCS has developed a very substantial network over the years. Our educational and artistic programs would not be where they are today without the precious cooperation with the Ministry of education, the many schools and local and international institutions, youth centers, women centers, theatres, local authorities and many more.

*PCS is since many years an important part of the **Palestinian Performing Arts Network**. After being an establishing member it became active member of the board of Directors of the network. Please read more about the Palestinian Performing Arts Network [here](#).*

Due to its increasing recognition, PCS is invited on many occasions to be part of different activities organized by third parties. To be able to meet all requests, PCS developed a pool of trainers and artists (around 25 person in each pool). PCS offers them capacity building activities, training and performance opportunities.

An overview of the activities in which we shared in 2019:

- **British Council in Jerusalem**
A student presentation in Yabous Cultural Center on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th of March.
 - **Al Tawon Organization**
A small presentation in Birzeit Mall on 27th of March
 - **Ashtar Theater**
Participated in a parade during World Theater Day organized by Ashtar Theater on 27th of March
 - **Raseel Association**
A student presentation in an event organized by Raseel Association at Ramallah's Cultural Palace to support autistic children on 9th of April
 - **Jericho Governorate**
Participation in a parade during Jericho Carnival on 5th of April.
 - **Ramallah Municipality**
PCS participated at "together we can" Marathon on 12th of April. PCS offered circus workshops and a student presentation during Nowwar Nissan Festival on 19th of April.
- In addition, PCS participated at Yalla Al Hadika Festival in July, at the Christmas Market and lighting of Christmas tree on 29th of November and 1st of December.
- **Friends of BZU Association**
PCS participated at "Right to Education" Marathon organized at Birzeit University on 19th of April
 - **Birzeit University**
PCS signed an agreement of cooperation with Birzeit University.



- **Arab Al Rashaydeh, Schools**
PCS offered circus workshops and performances in 3 schools in Arab Al Rashaydeh and Al Rawaeen from the 8th to the 10th of April.
- **Birzeit Women Association**
PCS performed during the Egg Hunt event on the 24th of April
- **Nablus Road Open Days**
PCS participated at Nablus Road Open Days organized by a youth group at YWCA in Jerusalem on the 21st of June
- **Al Nayzak**
PCS hosted school children visiting al Nayzak several times during the year. PCS also organized several visits for its children to Al Nayzak during its summer camps
- **Palestine Olympic Committee**
PCS performed at Al Istiqlal Park during an event organized by Palestine Olympic Committee on the 30th of June
- **El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe**
PCS artists provided acro-lifting workshop for El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe dancers in February and March 2019
- **School in Keesan**
PCS performed in Keesan on July 20th
- **Palestine Museum**
2 performances at Palestine Museum during Intimate Terrains on the 4th of October
- **Ma'ali School in Kofor Aqab**
PCS performed at Maali school in Kofor Aqab on the 6th of October
- **Autumn Carnival**
PCS performed during Autumn Carnival organized by Hamada Toqan on the 18th of October
- **Birzeit Municipality**
PCS had a performance during the lighting of Birzeit Municipality on the 7th of December
- **Bait Byout**
PCS and Bait Byout organized an activity for PCS students and their families on the 22nd of February
- **GVC-Italia**
Several workshops and a circus show were organized in cooperation with GVC-Italia and Salfit Municipality between 20 and 22 July
- **Latin School, Birzeit**
PCS and Bait Byout organized an activity for PCS students and their families on the 22nd of February. PCS also hosted a game of Bait Byout on the 8th of January



- **Parkour Group**

PCS hosts weekly trainings of a Parkour Group from January onwards

- **Wishah Troupe**

PCS hosted trainings of Wishah Troupe for 4 days in March 2019

- **Ramallah First Group**

PCS presented its show SARAB during the showcase on 22nd of March.

- **Schmidt Girls School**

A workshop for 46 girls from the Schmidt Girls school and a German school on 02nd of October

- **Al Nahda**

PCS participated at an event on the occasion of Mother's day on 23rd of March, in a Marathon on 17th of October, and in a Christmas event on 21st of December.

International Cooperation

- **Brave Kids 2019 — Poland**

PCS travelled to Poland with 6 students and 1 leader (Mohammed Abu Sakha) to participate in Brave Kids 2019 from 15th of June to 10th of July. Brave Kids is a cultural educational program under the patronage of UNESCO and the Polish Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Youth groups from 21 countries participated in the exchange and performances with a total of 101 children and youths.

- **Presence et Action Culturelle –Belgium**

In December 2019, PCS signed cooperation agreements with 8 Belgian Circus Organizations. This 4-year project is funded by the Belgian Government to support exchange and capacity building programs with these organizations and possible tours for PCS productions in Belgium.

PCS welcomed representatives from the 8 Belgian organizations in December to plan the 4 year project and to get introduced to the school, its projects and the Palestinian context.

- **Giosef Torino —Italy**

In cooperation with Associazione Giosef Torino, one trainer and one artist from PCS participated in TrainTheater project in Alpignano, Italy. The project took place between the 18th and the 24th of October and aims at providing skills in the field of theatrical pedagogy to youth leaders, youth workers, trainers and facilitators working in the field of non-formal education in different contexts.

- **GIZ**

In cooperation with GIZ, our Research, Development and Marketing Coordinator, Marah Al Natsheh, participated at a conference on Social Participation and Psychosocial support in Haya Cultural Center in Amman, Jordan on the 3rd and 4th of December.

- **Clowns without Borders—Sweden**

PCS signed a nine month cooperation project with Clowns without Borders– Sweden. The project entitled “CAPE—Creative Arts for Peace & Equality” is a regional project with partners from Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Zain Assi (Trainer) and Ranin Odeh (Artists) participated at 10 days regional training of trainers in Lebanon in June 2019. The training focused on social therapy, clowning and improvisation, arts therapy and Multimedia. After the training of Trainers; Zain and Ranin implemented 12 training sessions with 4 groups of women in Nablus and Jenin with a total reach of 100 female participants. In October, Ranin Odeh travelled to Sweden to share her experience and participated in an exchange with Swedish artists.

- **Caravan**

A two year project with Caravan started in 2019. The project aims to explore different social circus practices to encounter cultures. Within this project, our Pedagogical Coordinator, Mohammad Abu Sakha travelled to Dublin, Ireland to take part in a training course hosted by UCD from 1st to 5th of December 2019.

PCS also attended Caravan General Assembly meetings in Prague and Belgium.

- **Silkeborg højskole**

Two groups of 30 youth from Denmark visited the school this year and enjoyed circus workshops . The workshops were arranged by Silkeborg højskole.

- **Dance Academy—Rome**

The Executive Director at PCS, attended a conference in Rome and signed a two year exchange agreement with the Dance Academy.

PCS Artistic Director and Executive Director had several meetings and attended a few festivals in Bulgaria, Belgium, Holand and France with the aim at building new partnerships and exploring new opportunities.





Capacity Building

- **A workshop on the trampoline and Teeterboard**

From 27th of July to 10th of August, PCS hosted the trainer Arnaud Thomas from the Centre National des Arts de Cirque (CNAC-France) to give PCS trainers and artists a trampoline and teeterboard workshop.

- **A clowning / scene creation workshop**

15 artists from PCS (from the full time staff and pool of artists) participated in a workshop on clowning and scene creation from 18 to 28 September 2019.

- **Zentrum Bewegte Kunste Workshop**

A workshop with “Zentrum Bewegte Kunste” was organized from 1st to 5th of October for 6 PCS trainers and 4 social workers from Star Mountains and Al Nahda Association. The workshop focused on disciplines of acrobatics, balancing, artistic work and creation and on methods of creating acts and shows with people with intellectual disabilities.





Supporters

Our impact and achievements wouldn't be the same without the precious support of all our donors, supporters and partners. We are very grateful for the large belief and trust all these people and institutions have in our work. For our activities and festival this year, we received support from:

- **Drosos Foundation**
- **Caritas**
- **SIDA in the framework of the Palestinian Performing Arts Program (PAN)**
- **Poppies for Peace – Klaprozen voor vrede**
- **The “Friends of the Palestinian Circus School”, Belgium**
- **Flamesh Government / Flanders**
- **Clowns without Borders, Sweden**
- **Clowns without Borders, France**
- **PAC**
- **Medical Aid for Palestinians**
- **GIZ**
- **Spanish Cooperation through our project with our Spanish Partner-NovAct.**
- **CARAVAN.**

You are always welcome to join the family of supporters to guarantee that our work will continue and be able to make real changes in the life of our children and youth.

See [here](#) how you can support us!!

PCS in the Media

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To form an important platform for Palestinian artists and teams

Launching the Palestinian Performing Arts Forum 2019 at Birzeit University



Palestinian Performing Arts Forum

10:15 | 2019-12-04

أفضل سعر مع أسرع 3G فلسطيني

The Deanship of Student Affairs at Birzeit University and the Palestinian Performing Arts Network on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, launched the Palestinian Performing Arts Forum 2019, which included art shows, dialogue sessions and workshops

The forum aims to form an important platform for Palestinian artists and teams working in the performing arts to showcase their creative work, forming a networking link between them and actors in the artistic cultural sector, whether at the local, regional or international level

The current forum was organized with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swedish Consulate in Jerusalem to support youth initiatives in the field of the performing arts, and to give Birzeit University students an opportunity to showcase their artistic creativity, and motivate them to create a creative artistic future that enhances the national and cultural identity and Palestinian heritage

عرب ٤٨

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عقارات ومكاتب

Next week: Three days of the Medina Festival for Culture and Arts in Haifa

Posted: 10/24/2019 - 13:57



Al-Madina Festival for Culture and the Arts

03-01 تشرين ثاني 2019 November

Arab Culture # Association

Al Madina # Festival for Culture and Arts

Haifa #

Like 48 Arab 48

The Arab Culture Association is preparing these days to launch the Medina Festival for Culture and Arts in Haifa on Friday, November 1, which will last for three days in the building of Arab Cultural Center (Sha'btai Levi Street 7)

The festival seeks to provide an independent cultural space that includes various cultural types of music, theater, cinema, performances, lectures and workshops, which enhance the presence of Arab culture and Palestinian identity in the city of Haifa, especially in neighborhoods inhabited by Palestinians such as Wadi Ninas and Hadar, and the festival seeks to turn it into a huge annual cultural event that he intended Palestinians from outside the city of Haifa and from different segments

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اصفد هيا للثقافة

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Farkha International Festival activities continue for the third day



Farkha Festival

21:23 | 2019-07-30

أفضل سعر مع أسرع 3G فلسطيني

The Farkha International Festival activities continue for the third day in a row, in the village of Farkha Salibi District

The festival is a large incubator for a group of Palestinian and international volunteers aimed at promoting important concepts such as cooperation, participation, perseverance and promoting social and political link in the land, as well as delivering the voice of the Palestinian cause to different countries and holding awareness meetings aimed at strengthening the youth role in society

The festival appeared for its twenty-sixth year on Saturday 27/7/2019 with the reception of 150 volunteers and volunteers from all governorates of the homeland and international volunteers

The activities of the festival continued for the second day with several volunteer work, which included building a retaining wall and building chains on the environmental farm (Qasr Al Balad), murals were drawn in the school, then moving to a tour of the old town. To end the activities of this

Ramallah

Palestine Circus School signs memoranda of understanding with eight Belgian circus schools

© 2019-12-04



http://bit.ly/201y5Q3 Short link

Ramallah - Dunia Al-Watan

The Circus Palestine School signed today, at its headquarters in Birzeit town, memoranda of understanding with 8 Belgian circus schools within a project funded by the Belgian government for a period of 4 years, including support for the areas of training and capacity building, youth exchanges, and organizing circus activities and performances in Palestine and Belgium

This announcement came about signing memoranda of cooperation, which include promoting joint youth exchange, and launching training programs to build and develop the skills of Palestinian artists in circus arts, and



www.palcircus.ps

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[The Palestinian Circus
School](#)

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