

NorPal Conference 2026:

**Supporting higher education
and research in Palestine:**

From Solitarity to Partnership

Time: November 9th, 2026, 10:00 - 16:30

Place: University of Oslo,
Domus Academica,
Gamle festsal,
Karl Johans gate 47

Registration.

NorPal website



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NorPal invites everyone interested or engaged in higher education and research in Palestine to participate in the conference.

Since the outbreak of the war in Gaza, the higher education and research sector in Palestine has been subjected to devastating attacks. University campuses have suffered extensive damage, and staff and students have been injured or killed.

Despite these immense losses, the resilience of Palestine's academic community remains remarkable. Teaching, learning, and research activities continue despite widespread destruction. Palestinian universities have not been eradicated; they remain operational and committed to fulfilling their academic mission.

The NorPal Conference, to be held on **9 November 2026**, will explore how Norway and Norwegian academic institutions can support higher education and research in Palestine and develop long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships with Palestinian universities and academic communities.

The morning session will focus on how Norwegian and Palestinian authorities, universities, and higher education institutions can cooperate to strengthen the higher education and research sector in Palestine. The afternoon session will highlight ongoing educational and research collaboration between Palestine and Norway through NorPal-supported projects

09:00 – 10:00 Registration, morning coffee and tea

10:00 – 12:00 Morning session: Supporting higher education and research in Palestine

Chair: Monica Rolfsen, NorPal Chair, Vice Rector, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome address

Berit Karseth, Vice Rector, University of Oslo,
NorPal Executive Committee

Monica Rolfsen, NorPal Chair, Vice Rector,
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

10:10 – 10:20 Showing of 'Our Universities Live On: Resisting the Erasure', A short film by Friends of Palestinian Universities

10:20 – 10:50 Opening addresses

The current situation, needs, and future development of the higher education and research sector in Palestine
Amjad Barham, Minister of Education and Higher Education,
State of Palestine (tbc)

Norway's support of Palestine
Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, State Secretary,
Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

The future of the universities in Gaza
Omar Melad, President, Al-Azhar University

10:50 – 11:10 Presentation of report: **Scholasticide in Gaza: The Systematic Destruction of Palestinian Higher Education and the Continuation of Collective Resilience** Leon Tikly Professor, FBA FAcSS, Academic Director, Perivoli Africa Research Centre (PARC), UNESCO Chair in Transforming Knowledge and Research for Just and Sustainable Futures School of Education, University of Bristol

11:10 – 11:20 **Handover of Proposal from NorPal to Norwegian authorities:
A national program in support of higher education and
research in Palestine**
The NorPal Executive Committee

11:20 – 11:55 **Comments by**
– Imad Abu Kishek, President, Al-Quds University
– Nasreddin ElMezaini, Emergency Committee of
Universities in Gaza
– Omar Shweiki, Director of Friends of Palestinian Universities

11:55 – 12:00 **Closing of part I of the NorPal Conference 2026**
Monica Rolfsen, NorPal Chair, Vice Rector,
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 16:00 **Afternoon session: Academic cooperation between Palestine and Norway**

13:00 – 13:45 **Equitable Partnership and Cooperation in Practice**

Chair: Milad Rezvan, Responsible for internationalization,
Norwegian Student Organization

- **The Isnad programme**
Tareq Emtaireh, Director General of Taawon
- **The Reimagining Home project**
Rachel Rosen, Professor, University College London
- **UKPal**
Sarah Hoey, Deputy Head of Global Community,
University of Edenborough (tbc)

13:40 – 14:00 Transfer to parallel sessions

14:00 – 15:45 **Parallel session I: Presentation of NorPal projects and discussion about the further development of the cooperation**

Chair: Tanja Storsul, Vice Rector, Oslo Metropolitan University

Presentation of projects:

- **NorPal-ECHER: Capacity Building in Early Childhood, Education and Research**
Sami Adwan, Professor, Al-Quds University and Anders Davidsen,
Professor, University of South-Eastern Norway
- **PACTIE: Trauma-Sensitive and Inclusive Education**
Emad Al Rozzi, Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University and Steffi Gebus,
Professor, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway
- **NorPal Nursing Network: Resilience of Nursing Education and Research in Gaza**
Abdallah Abudayya, Professor, VID Specialized University
- **MERPal: Collaboration for Resilient Media Education and Research in Palestine**
Anne Hege Simonsen, Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University
- **NORPAL Teach-Flex: Cooperation for Flexible Digital Learning**
Marianne Hafnor Bøe, Professor, University of Stavanger

Project leader panel discussion – how to go from networking projects to long-term mutually valuable partnership

14:00 – 15:45

Parallel session II: Presentation of NorPal projects and discussion about the further development of the cooperation

Chair: Einar Sneve Martinussen, NorPal Executive Committee, The Oslo School of Architecture and Design

Presentation of projects:

- **Palestine in the Archive**
Olaf Knarvik, Professor, University of Bergen
- **NorP@rts: Norwegian Palestinian Arts Cooperation**
Rose Martin, Dean, NORD University and Jon Helge Sætre, Professor, Norwegian Academy of Music
- **REBUILD: Rebuilding Engineering, Architecture and Technologies in Gaza**
Mohamad Mustafa, Professor, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway
- **AirrPal: Academic Infrastructure for recovery and reconstruction in Palestine**
Marius Grønning, Associate Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences and Professor Steffen Wellinger, Professor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Project leader panel discussion – how to go from networking projects to long-term mutually valuable partnership

15:45 – 16:00

Transfer to plenary session

16:00 – 16:30

**Closing of the NorPal Conference 2026:
How to go from solidarity to active and mutually valuable partnership**

Chair: Monica Rolfsen, NorPal Chair, Vice President, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

- Report from the parallel sessions by Tanja Storsul and Einar Sneve Martinussen.
- Dialogue about how to go from solidarity to active and mutually valuable partnership:
 - Imad Abu Kishek, President, Al-Quds University
 - Nasreddin ElMezaini, Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza
 - Christen Krogh, Rector, Oslo Metropolitan University



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Norwegian Consortium for Higher
Education in Palestine