

Psychiatric training programme for doctors in Gaza

Source: Psychiatrists for Palestine

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Contact: <https://ukpalmhn.com/psychiatrists-4-palestine/>

Psychiatrists for Palestine (P4P) are affiliated with the UKPMHN. The destruction of the educational and health infrastructure in the genocide in Gaza resulted in the loss of post-graduate training opportunities for doctors interested in psychiatry. Contact with Dr Yasser abu Jumei, director of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) in 2025 led to an agreement that P4P would offer a training programme for a cohort of ten young graduate doctors who were to join GCMHP in December 2025.

The ambition of the programme was to enable the doctors to complete the first stage of the three-part Membership of the UK Royal College of Psychiatrists. After three pilot sessions in December 2025, the training commenced in January 2026. The programme includes lectures, small group supervision, journal club, and Balint group, delivered in two three-hour slots each week during term time. The centres in Gaza are in Gaza city, Deir al Bala and Khan Younis. Two terms have been completed, and the final term of this first phase begins on September 17th, 2026.

The training has been led by senior consultant psychiatrists in the UK and delivered by dozens of volunteers at various levels of training across the UK. While the involvement of Arabic-speaking psychiatrists allows some sessions to be conducted in Arabic, the majority are conducted in English. The programme has been well-received by the doctors and their supervisors and their feedback has been carefully collected to ensure the programme is meeting needs and expectations. Eight of the cohort of ten doctors remain in the programme, two having taken up other posts within Gaza. Discussions are currently underway about the feasibility of continuing the programme into a second year.