



Statement of reasons for closure of DSMT

Set up in memory of Dominic Simpson, the Dominic Simpson Memorial Trust (DSMT) has successfully raised over \$1million in support of education in the OPTs since 2005. It has supported a number of very effective projects to improve the educational experiences of disadvantaged children and young women, including: vocational training programmes in Jericho; equipping kindergartens and training kindergarten teachers in the West Bank; providing computer equipment for schools in Bethlehem and the Jordan Valley; and annually awarding school and university scholarships for disadvantaged girls from a leading school in East Jerusalem, benefitting 74 award winners.

The board believes that with this record, the charity has amply fulfilled its stated aim of *advancing education and facilitating educational opportunity for individuals and communities in the Middle East.*

While the need remains for further support for all sectors of education in the OPTs, certain specific factors have led the board to decide that this is the time to close the DSMT:

- Our very generous long-term sponsoring company was unable to guarantee future support. Their generosity had hitherto covered the DSMT's administrative expenses and enabled us to stage fundraising events. Without this we would no longer be able to operate on the same footing as before;
- Corporate funding priorities in relation to the Middle East have shifted since we were founded. As a result it is becoming harder to fundraise.
- An appreciation that the DSMT's model of governance was not sustainable in the long-term, relying as it does on the good will of a number of individuals.

We believe that the DSMT's legacy will continue to bear fruit long after we close, through the lives of the beneficiaries, their strong commitment to education as means to improve life chances for themselves and their families and for the life of their wider society.

27th April 2021