

Palestinian Childhoods Solidarity and Şumūd

An immersive experience to counter the
dehumanisation of the Palestinian people

19th July 2025 – For immediate release

[Palestinian Childhoods: Solidarity and Şumūd](#) is a public exhibition including art exhibit and series of events that counter the dehumanisation of Palestinians.

Tens of thousands of Palestinian children in Gaza have been killed, wounded, displaced, and subjected to starvation by Israel since October 2023. But as young Palestinians remind the world: [“We are not numbers.”](#) This exhibition responds to their insights, seeking to witness and convey Palestinian children’s struggle for everyday life, love, play and learning in the face of loss and brutality. It is a testimony to *şumūd* – an Arabic word meaning steadfastness – and international solidarity in the face of genocide.

Palestinian Childhoods presents photography, illustration and sculptures by Palestinian artists Ahmed Al Daalsa, Samer Abdelnour, Aya Battiri, and Mahmoud Hussein alongside a collection of letters and drawings produced as part of the *Letters for Palestinian Childhood* project. From Ahmed Al Daalsa’s aerial, black and white photographs of children’s chalk games in Gaza, to Samer Abdelnour’s bronze sculpture memorialising UCL alumni, and Palestinian teacher and poet Refaat Alareer, the works presented here bear witness to the ongoing specificity of Palestinian life, resisting the silencing and repression of the movement for a liberated Palestine.

Also on display are a selection of the letters and images produced for the *Letters for Palestinian Childhood* project, by an international group of participants, from Poland to South Africa, Spain and the UK. These intimate, heartfelt and handmade letters summon the poignancy of international solidarity against the genocide. The internationalism of this exhibition is also captured in the soundscape, where the letters are read aloud in English, Arabic, and in some instances, Spanish.

Throughout the exhibition, there will be opportunities for audience members to contribute to the Letters for Palestinian Childhood project. Other aspects of the public programme also invite community contributions and develop the ambitions of the project to establish new lines of solidarity. From quilt making to film screenings, poetry readings to family activities, the exhibition calls on us to collectively participate in extending solidarity to Palestinians, and to recognise *şumud* in the face of so much suffering.

Palestinian Childhoods: Solidarity and Şumūd will be on display at UCL East (Marshgate Building) from 1-14th September 2025.

For details and full programme:
https://reimaginingchildhoodstudies.com/solidarity_and_sumud_exhibit/

Contact:
https://reimaginingchildhoodstudies.com/solidarity_and_sumud_feedback/