



Interlink Publishing

**WE ARE**

**NOT**

**NUMBERS**

**The Voices of Gaza's Youth**

**SOLIDARITY EVENT KIT**

A guide to organizing a community-centered gathering that uplifts the voices of Gaza's youth through storytelling, cultural celebration, and collective action.

# How to Host a *We Are Not Numbers* Solidarity Event in Your Community

## Purpose of the Event

To amplify the stories of young Palestinians, especially those in Gaza, as shared through the We Are Not Numbers (WANN) project—a nonprofit initiative pairing emerging Gazan writers with international mentors. These events aim to humanize Palestinians through literature, culture, and community engagement and raise funds for those in Gaza under siege.



Scan QR Code to access graphics and resources.

## Social Media Promotion

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## ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

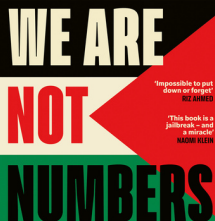


We Are Not Numbers is a storytelling initiative that empowers young Palestinian writers—especially from Gaza—to share their lived experiences, humanizing news headlines and advocating for justice, human rights, and peace through powerful, personal narratives. WANN is a fiscally-sponsored project of Nonviolence International, a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Learn more at [wearenotnumbers.org](http://wearenotnumbers.org).

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Ahmed Alnaouq and Pam Bailey

\*These pages carry the truth of our struggle and the beauty of our humanity. This is Gaza as it truly is, written by those who live it every day. JAZZIE LINDA



*We Are Not Numbers* edited by Ahmed Alnaouq & Pam Bailey

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100% of the book's proceeds are donated to We Are Not Numbers, the organization

The Voices of Gaza's Youth

\*Light streams out of this collection - it etches the angles and curves of Palestinian humanity' TA NERESI COMTES

# Event Planning Overview

## Choose Your Format:

### *Reading & Discussion*

- Invite local authors, poets, or public figures to read selected *WANN* essays aloud, followed by a group discussion.

### *Cultural Night: Food, Music, Stories*

- Celebrate Palestinian culture with a mix of music, traditional food, and readings from the anthology.

### *Documentary Screening & Story Circle*

- Screen *It's Bisan From Gaza and I'm Still Alive*, the Emmy-winning documentary about a young citizen journalist in Gaza, followed by group readings from *WANN* and discussion.

### *Fundraiser Book Club*

- Host a reading group where attendees purchase the book, with a portion of proceeds going to Gaza relief efforts.

### *Public "Read-In" Protest*

- Occupy a public space and read *WANN* stories aloud as a form of protest to share the voices of Gaza's youth, while educating onlookers about how we are complicit as taxpayers. Location ideas: In front of your local representative's office, in front of your local news station, at the entrance of businesses on the BDS list.

## Tips for Impact

- *Center Palestinian voices* — Ensure the stories are the focal point, not the speakers
- *Be inclusive and educational* — Offer context for those unfamiliar with the history and current crisis.
- *Collaborate locally* — Work with student groups, libraries, bookstores, or activist networks
- *Make it interactive* — Include writing prompts or ask people to read paragraphs aloud
- *Don't just mourn* — Emphasize hope, resilience, and joy alongside grief and rage. Discuss actions participants can take to make change.
- *White cis Jewish allies to the front!* — Protecting our most vulnerable community members means partnering with those with the most privilege in this space. Anti-Zionist Jews are powerful allies and can make events safer, particularly from right-wing Zionists.
- *Antisemitism accusations*— Don't waver. This is a frequently used derailment tactic that has become increasingly common. Stay the course, explain your goals and intentions, and practice nonviolence.

## Discussion Questions

- How do the personal stories in the book challenge or complicate mainstream narratives about Gaza?
- How does reading firsthand narratives from young Gazans affect your understanding of the political and humanitarian situation in Gaza?
- What is the significance of the authors insisting, "We are not numbers!"?
- Do you recognize any of the contributors? What are they doing now?
- Which story or author's voice impacted you the most, and why?
- How do the writers balance trauma and hope in their reflections? What role does hope play in their storytelling?

# Step-by-Step: Hosting Your Event

1. **Set an Event Goal:** What is your goal? Awareness? Fundraising? Community dialogue?
2. **Choose a Venue:** Libraries, community centers, coffee shops, schools, or public parks.
3. **Select Stories or Focus Themes:** Curate 3–5 stories based on a topic (e.g., resilience, occupation, hope, stories written before or after October 7th).
4. **Invite Guests:** Local authors, artists, educators, or journalists who align with the cause.
5. **Arrange Food & Music:** Offer Palestinian food (e.g., maqluba, felafel, knafeh). Work with local Palestinian businesses to support them. Make sure the restaurant is Arab-owned.
6. **Curate a Playlist with Palestinian Artists** (e.g., Saint Levant, Nai Barhgouti, 47 Soul's Walaa Sbeit, Elyanna, Zeyne).
7. **Secure Organizational Sponsors:** Reach out to local chapters of social justice groups, like Students for Justice in Palestine, Code Pink, and Jewish Voice for Peace, to co-sponsor the event and promote to their members.
8. **Promote:** Create flyers, share in group chats, send press releases to local media, and share on social media.
9. **Security:** It has never been more dangerous to talk about Palestine. Have a safety action plan by designating trained safety marshals, requiring masks for covid safety and anonymity, have a counter-protect action plan, protect your most vulnerable comrades (LGBTQ+, disabled, undocumented immigrants, Palestinians, Muslim folks, etc.)

## Materials & Supplies

- Copies of *We Are Not Numbers: The Voices of Gaza's Youth*, preferably purchased from a mission-based independent bookstore or the publisher
- QR code signs for direct donations to aid groups
- Projector/screen (if screening a documentary)
- Food serving items (if providing snacks)
- Banners, posters, and Palestinian flags.
- Copies of action items or take-home resources about sponsoring organizations
- Email sign-up sheet for future actions/events
- Masks and covid tests (check with your local Mask Bloc for supplies)

## Post-Event Actions

- Share photos or quotes on social media. Be sure **not** to share photos of the faces of attendees to protect vulnerable communities.
- Email attendees a recap with reading lists, petitions, or donation links
- Send thank-yous to all partners and volunteers
- Consider making it a recurring series or forming a local WANN reading circle



**This guide was created by Interlink Publishing to help support community building, raise awareness, and uplift the narratives of Palestinians whose voices have too often been silenced.**