



## Not a typical park run – **small park BIG RUN** community challenge 10-11 June

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Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Heeley Development Trust, is organising a 24-hour run and community event in Meersbrook Park.

On **June 10 and 11**, noon to noon, entrants will run, jog or walk [circuits of the park](#) picking at what time and for how long they participate - there will be at least two runners on the course at all times over the 24hrs.

Large numbers of runners are signed up. The event has attracted a wide range of participants, from one person running a half marathon distance, to a refugee team, a shadow minister, families, children, the Steel City Striders running team, pensioners and a team of begrudging cyclists called *Running is wrong* who have donated a relay baton made from olive wood brought back from Palestine. **PHOTO OP:** Lord Mayor Anne Murphy is opening the event.

**PHOTO OP:** Shadow digital industries minister Louise Haigh running the first leg at midday Saturday 10th said:

*"I'm really delighted to be supporting the Small Park Big Run alongside runners from all over Sheffield to raise funds and awareness for Palestine. Fingers crossed I'll be able to make it round just two days after the General Election!"*

Sarah Champion, Labour's Rotherham prospective parliamentary candidate said:

*"I urge you to join in the small park BIG RUN event. Firstly, because it will be great fun but secondly because it is for a wonderful cause"* [Read her blog entry](#)

**PHOTO OP:** At 12.15pm on Sunday there will be a **free Fun Run of one lap of the park**. This will take place at the same time as a parallel run in Palestine – there will be a live link up between the two communities.

The aim of the run is to raise funds in support of two Palestinian charities <sup>(a)</sup> that facilitate Palestinian children's play and education and women's university education. Also to draw attention to the fact Palestinians do not enjoy the same rights to free movement as us <sup>(a)</sup> and to celebrate our own hard fought [right to roam freely](#).

Co-organiser Caroline Poland said:

*"The densely populated Palestinian refugee camp Tulkarm is the same size as Meersbrook park but is home to an eye-watering 21,000 people!... we want to draw attention to the difficulties Palestinians experience."*

**PHOTO OP:** Additionally, Diyar<sup>(a)</sup> – [a Palestinian Women's football team](#) will open the run. Further events will be held including: refreshments and a photographic exhibition in Meersbrook Park Walled Garden, the film [A running occupation](#) about the Palestinian Marathon, a penalty shoot-out with Diyar, [street tennis](#) and a lantern craft workshop.

Online sign up closes on Saturday 3 June at 11.59pm but entrants can still sign up on the day. They simply turn up and register 15-30 minutes before the time they want to run.

### Notes to editors

1. The two charities are the Gazan Children's Projects and the Sheffield Palestine Women's Scholarship Fund: <http://spbr.sheffieldpssc.org.uk/index.php/raising-money-from-your-run/>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian\\_freedom\\_of\\_movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_freedom_of_movement)
3. Entry is via this Eventbrite portal: <https://s-p-b-r.eventbrite.co.uk>
4. Diyar women's soccer Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/diyarwomenssoccer/>

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**Further information** website <http://spbr.sheffieldpssc.org.uk/> **Sign up** <https://s-p-b-r.eventbrite.co.uk>

**News blog** <http://spbr.sheffieldpssc.org.uk/index.php/blog/>

**Press Pack** <http://spbr.sheffieldpssc.org.uk/index.php/press/>

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