



# Harvest

# Autumn 2020

Awareness Foundation: building peace through education

[www.awareness-foundation.com](http://www.awareness-foundation.com)

## Paper & Pen

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Providing stationery for children in Lebanon, Syria & Iraq

[www. awareness-foundation.com](http://www.awareness-foundation.com)

The Awareness Foundation is a registered charity in England & Wales (No 1099873)

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St. Paul says in his second letter to the Corinthians: “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair.” (2 Cor 4:8)

We at the Awareness Foundation have been under enormous pressure after the spread of COVID-19 and then the lockdown because we were unable to carry out face-to-face engagements or running any events. The Foundation lost more than a hundred thousand pounds due to the cancellation of two major fundraising events. The first one was a dinner which would have been very kindly hosted by our Royal Patron HRH The Countess of Wessex at Buckingham Palace, and the other one was our Annual Gala Dinner. Fundraising is even more vitally important for the survival of the Awareness Foundation and we are extremely grateful to all our friends and supporters for their continued care. Our Boards of Trustees and Directors in the UK, USA and Canada have been a fantastic pillar of strength for us in this difficult time and we are deeply grateful to them. Having said that, we are hugely blessed to see the impact that we have made on so many people during the pandemic. We are indeed not crushed or in despair.

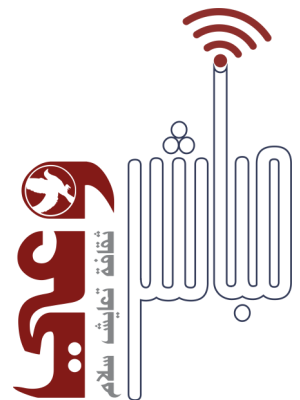
## The Impact of COVID-19 on Awareness

The pandemic affected the work of the Awareness Foundation dramatically because we have not been able to go to the Middle East to run our programmes there. However, we continued our programmes online and developed new programmes:

### 1. Awareness Live

Our first online Facebook-based programme called Awareness Live aimed at Arabic-speaking youth. Awareness Live runs for 18 consecutive weeks, we had very high-quality speakers including bishops, scientists, educators, priests and civic leaders. Our speakers chose extremely interesting and relevant topics to talk about, including Artificial Intelligence, The Importance of Unity and Diversity in the Society, Bullying, Christianity and Sectarianism, and more. We were delighted to see that thousands of Arabic-speaking young people from all over the world were following it and watching the videos. We have been really blessed with the high level of engagement from so many young adults in the Middle East and beyond.

We are planning to start Season Two of Awareness Live at the beginning of Advent for 5 weeks.





## 2- Awareness Dialogue

During the lockdown caused by the pandemic, we developed a new programme called 'Awareness Dialogue'. As its title suggests, this is a conversation with religious and lay leaders in different fields. The programme is recorded, edited and released on social media including YouTube and Facebook. We were delighted to release the first video of Awareness Dialogue, which featured our Royal Patron HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO.



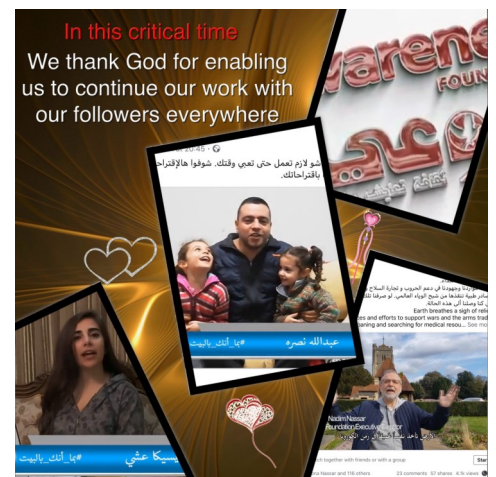
We had also the pleasure to release a conversation with a Maronite priest (Catholic) who spoke about the horrible explosion in Beirut this August. Our guests include artists, journalists, psychologists, clergy and economists.

The programme welcomes Arabic and English speaking guests, and the videos have subtitles. You can watch our videos on: YouTube channel: PAXVideos & Facebook page: Awareness Foundation

## 3. Ambassadors for Peace in Action

The lockdown period was difficult for our young people in the Near East because it put them under extra pressure after years of living in a warzone. We tried our best to engage with them and keep them focused and busy. We asked them to use their mobile phones to record messages of ideas that young people can do during the lockdown. The first video featured ideas on how to stay active during the lockdown, and the second video was about how they implemented those ideas and their feedback.

The results were amazing and we were able to collect many short video clips which were edited into two videos that we released on social media, especially YouTube and Facebook. We had so many great reactions from many people, expressing their joy to see young people recording such creative and thoughtful videos.



## Awareness Sunday

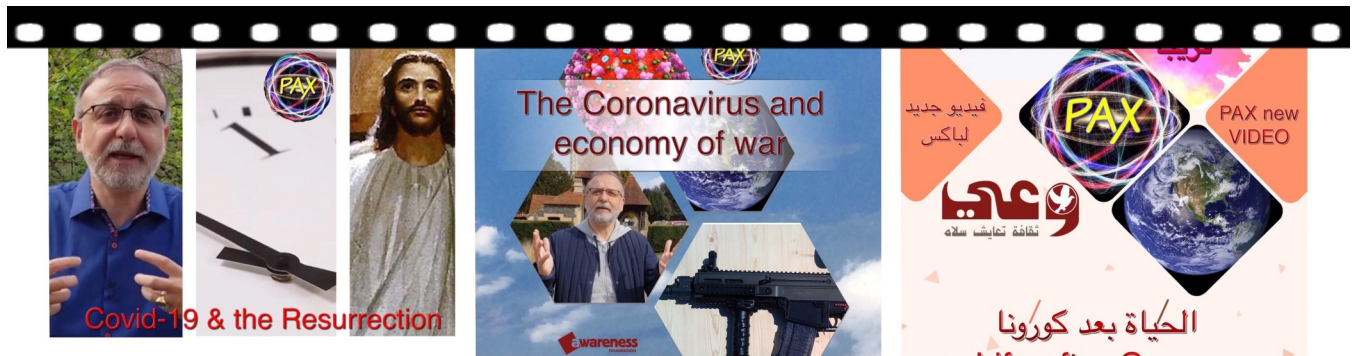
This year, we celebrated Awareness Sunday on 13th September in a very different and difficult circumstances. Despite the pandemic, we celebrated Awareness Sunday at St. My Magdalene Woodsworth Common hosted by our dear Friend The Revd Philippa Boardman. We turned the lockdown into an opportunity to ask our friends in different countries to pray about the work and the ministry of Awareness Foundation wherever they are. We also received many deeply moving videos messages in English and Arabic of support from our friends in the Middle East, EU, Uk, US, Canada and Hong Kong.

We give thanks to God to many wonderful friends we have around the world who envelop us with their prayers, love and care.



## PAX and New Releases

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, we have released three new PAX videos. The first one was about the virus and whether it is a punishment from God, the second one was about COVID-19 and Easter, and the third was a video made out of different audiovisual contributions from lay and religious leaders in the New East reflecting on their vision of life after COVID-19. All of those videos have subtitles in English and Arabic.



## Paxvideos Releases



## Why we need your support:

Please play your part in supporting our young people's programme **Ambassadors for Peace** in Syria & Iraq to enable them to develop their own creative peace-building activities and initiatives so that they promote peace and reconciliation in their diverse and wounded communities.

You can also support our ground-breaking children's programme, **Little Heroes**, in Syria which builds the children's sense of well-being, self-esteem, resilience, and emotional health. Tragically, children are the first to suffer in any military conflict.

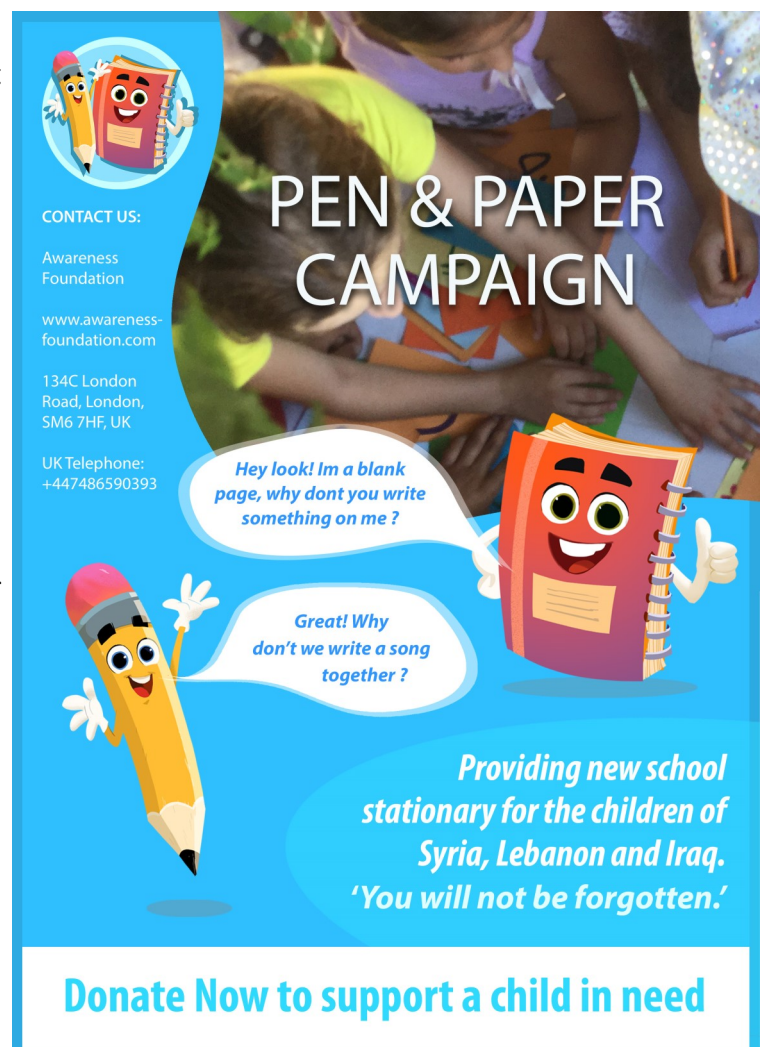
We are infinitely grateful for those who have been already blessing us with their gifts of care and love to keep these two programmes running.

## Paper & Pen Campaign

The global pandemic has prevented us from providing physical support to our Little Heroes, but we have not abandoned them. **The Paper and Pen Campaign** will provide stationery and school supplies for the children, reassuring them all that they are still in our hearts and minds, and that we will never forget them. There are so many Little Heroes who need our help but feel forgotten by the world.

These children, who have been torn away from their families and thrown into a world of violence and chaos, thereby losing their childhood and their hope, are in need to be loved, to feel remembered and cared for.

Stationery and School supplies in Syria, Lebanon & Iraq are increasingly expensive and it is very hard for families to provide for their children. In sponsoring a child with this simple act of kindness, you will be letting them know we still care and are providing building blocks for their education and future.

A vibrant blue poster for the 'Pen & Paper Campaign'. At the top left, a circular inset shows a cartoon pencil and a red book. The main title 'PEN & PAPER CAMPAIGN' is in large, white, bold letters. Below it, contact information for the Awareness Foundation is listed. The central image shows children's hands working on a craft project. Two cartoon characters, a yellow pencil and a red book, are at the bottom with speech bubbles. The pencil says, 'Great! Why don't we write a song together?' and the book replies, 'Hey look! I'm a blank page, why don't you write something on me?'. At the bottom right, a text box says 'Providing new school stationery for the children of Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. 'You will not be forgotten.''. The footer has a white box with the text 'Donate Now to support a child in need' in blue.

**CONTACT US:**  
Awareness Foundation  
[www.awareness-foundation.com](http://www.awareness-foundation.com)  
134C London Road, London, SM6 7HF, UK  
UK Telephone: +447486590393

# PEN & PAPER CAMPAIGN

*Hey look! I'm a blank page, why don't you write something on me?*

*Great! Why don't we write a song together?*

*Providing new school stationery for the children of Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. 'You will not be forgotten.'*

**Donate Now to support a child in need**

**To make a donation, please visit our website: [www.awareness-foundation.com](http://www.awareness-foundation.com)**

# Our Friends in Hong Kong

## New Archbishop of Hong Kong

On behalf of the Awareness Foundation's family, we would like to congratulate our dear friend Bishop Andrew Chan upon his election as the new Archbishop of the Anglican Province of Hong Kong. We pray to the Lord that he might give our dear friend Archbishop Andrew wisdom and grace to serve God in serving His province in this critical time.

We are all so grateful for his unending support for so many years and we hope and pray that our collaboration in the gospel will continue for many years to come.

We were privileged to work with Archbishop Andrew also when he was the Dean of St John's Cathedral in Hong Kong before he became the Bishop of the Diocese of West Kowloon.



## New Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong



We were delighted to watch live on YouTube the consecration of another dear friend, The Very Revd Matthias Der, the Dean of St John's Cathedral, as the Bishop-Coadjutor of the Diocese of Hong Kong Island.

We have had the pleasure to work with Bishop Matthias since he moved from Canada to Hong Kong to become the Dean of St John's Cathedral.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all our wonderful friends in Hong Kong for those two extremely joyful occasions and we pray that the Lord may plant His peace in the hearts of all the people of Hong Kong. We look forward to working with Archbishop Andrew and Bishop Matthias for the furthering of the Lord's Kingdom.

# New Website



It has been an enormous pleasure to work with the Board of Directors of Awareness Foundation America on several projects. Abe Kasbo is one of our new Directors in the US. Abe and his company "Verasoni Worldwide" gave the Awareness Foundation a wonderful gift of a brand-new modern website. It was a huge honour to work closely with Abe and his team to develop an interactive and highly relevant and important website. We would like to invite all of you to visit this great blessing which is in continuous progress to make it better all the time. We are so grateful, especially to Rebecca Neill and Leslie Martinez for their hard work to create and support our exciting website.  
[www.awareness-foundation.com](http://www.awareness-foundation.com)

## The US Board Initiative

We are excited to tell you that Awareness Foundation America is up and running with Network for Good (NFG). The Board of the Awareness Foundation America made a special gift to pay the full cost of our first year of partnership with NFG, which is a special fundraising and data management platform based in US. We would like to thank all our US board members for their generous gifts especially our US Chair the Revd Donald Fishburne for his tireless effort to help us in this challenging time.

## Awareness Committee in Canada in Action

After very hard work and close collaboration with our friends in Canada, we are delighted to announce that we have been accepted as full partners with CAF Canada which enables us to raise funds in Canada and issue tax receipts for our donors there.

On behalf of everybody, we thank our active committee in Toronto for their commitment and support.



# Glimpses Into the Future

Empowered by God's Grace we are looking positively to the future and planning to continue our online programmes including Awareness Live, Awareness Dialogue and Pax video production.

We are also excited to develop new programmes including a series of videos to introduce to the world the different Christian ancient and not so ancient denominations that have existed in the Near East and also a series of online sessions for our beloved Little Heroes.

We would like also to see the fruits of our Paper and Pen Campaign in order to help as many children as possible in the Near East.

We know it will be very hard work, especially in this time of Pandemic and we hope that God will empower us to continue transforming lives and communities in the wounded region of the Near East and beyond.



## Thank you

We are endlessly grateful to all our friends around the world, without whom we would never be able to carry out our mission and help thousands of young people and children in the Near East. Your support and donations, large and small, help us to keep going so that we can continue the ministry that God entrusted to us. Please visit our website and make a donation to any programme you choose and let us together make a difference in the lives of the people who are under privileged than ourselves.

And may the Lord give us His peace and protection in this challenging time.

## How to donate:

·You can donate through our website: <https://www.awareness-foundation.com/donate>

·Or send cheques, made payable to:

In UK: Awareness Foundation, 134C London Road, SM6 7HF.

In US: TFCC America, Steve Taber, Secretary

1170 Green Street, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109-2013

We are a registered charity in the UK, we have the 501(c3) status in the US, and we are partners with CAF Canada so we can give donors tax receipts in all those countries if they choose to have them.