

# SkatePal: The organisation encouraging Palestine's young people through Skateboarding.

---

Article by Joseph Andrews | [joeandrews2009@aol.co.uk](mailto:joeandrews2009@aol.co.uk) | August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, 19:55

When you think skateboarding, you may think of the busy streets of Western cities, but you almost certainly would not think of the rural outskirts of Palestine's West Bank.

## Their Story

Established in 2013, the non-profit organisation has worked along towns and cities along West Bank in Israel to promote and encourage skateboarding amongst youth groups. They aim to provide the area with the resources necessary for young people to pursue the activity, such as boards, tools and skateparks to provide a positive form of expression, in areas which do not cater for the limitless ambitions of younger generations.



Jayyous Skate Park, 2017. Photograph taken from [www.skatepal.co.uk](http://www.skatepal.co.uk)

Skatepal is an organisation of volunteers from both within Palestine and the rest of the world. They provide lessons, equipment and parks for the locals, aiming to positively impact the region through providing the young people with opportunity and support. The informality of skateboarding allows it to be a powerful tool to provide young people with inspiration, and Skatepal's ongoing work has undoubtedly raised awareness around Palestine's growing

skateboarding community, as well as helping to integrate the local community into the all-inclusive global network.

## Their Impact

The organisation is responsible for the construction of one of the first concrete parks along the West Bank, in the remote, rural town known as Asira Al-Shamaliya, which was completed in October 2015. Since then, another concrete park in the village of Jayyous, in the West-Northern region of the West Bank. The volunteers provide daily lessons for the locals, alongside boards being provided at these skateparks for those who do not have their own.

Skatepal had collaborated with local organisations, as well as working with the Isle Skateboards to setup a demo in Asira Al-Shamaliya. Isle's team of professionals travelled along different areas in the West Bank, meeting locals, inspiring the youth and raising much needed awareness for Skatepal's continuous work. Isle even released a limited number of collaborative boards with the organisation, with all profits contributing to further developments in Palestine.



## Looking forward

Although they currently provide equipment to the region, Skate Pal has the long-term ambition to catalyse Palestine's skateboarding scene into the wider community, in the hopes that these areas can achieve consistent access to boards and equipment, eventually developing a self-sustainable industry. The objectives set out by Charlie Davis and the SkatePal organisation reflect the collective values shared by the wider skateboarding community. Skateboarding is inclusive, and it is for everybody.

Below are links to their website, including details on how you can contribute to the acceleration of the project supporting young people's freedom of expression.

*Website:* <http://www.skatepal.co.uk/>

*Instagram:* [https://www.instagram.com/skate\\_pal/](https://www.instagram.com/skate_pal/)

*Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/SkatePalestine/>

*Twitter:* [http://twitter.com/Skate\\_Pal](http://twitter.com/Skate_Pal)