



6th May 2023

Dear members of the Sudan Doctors Union UK Branch,

I am writing to express our sincerest gratitude for collaborating with Sudafest on our recent campaign. Sudafest is a nascent organisation that strives to engage Sudanese communities in the UK and beyond in arts and cultural activities to connect them to their homeland while also showcasing Sudanese arts and cultures to other communities. However, Sudafest is not disengaged from Sudan's realities and status quo. We firmly believe that arts and culture can play vital humanitarian and societal roles in aiding Sudan. For this reason, we decided to launch our recent campaign as a way to introduce Artivism in humanitarian work for Sudan.

We cannot overstate how much we appreciate your partnership on this project. Your inclusion ensured a harmonious marriage of arts, culture, and humanitarian aid, consolidating our campaign's credibility. Our first event took place in Bristol, and it was a success, raising a staggering £1001.20 in just four hours. Furthermore, an additional £158 is yet to be withdrawn from the online GoFundMe account. These figures indicate that this concept of Artivism, if developed, could be an excellent way of raising money for humanitarian aid in Sudan while also fulfilling other artistic and cultural objectives.

The event itself was nothing short of amazing, featuring beautiful Sudanese songs by Ebo Krdum with Mustafa Khogali on drums, engaging art activities for children, a bustling market selling mostly Sudanese items, a raffle ticket slot, and the most enjoyable part, a charity auction during which we sold symbolic items at sometimes very high prices. We cannot thank Dr Sawsan Salih enough for taking part in this!

Organising the fundraising event was not easy, as we encountered several obstacles along the way. The first challenge was the cultural perception of some art forms, particularly music, as a means of celebration rather than solidarity. Additionally, many Sudanese individuals face financial constraints due to obligations to support their families back home. Lastly, managing the inner-community dynamics and addressing diverse opinions on allocating the funds proved a significant challenge.

Notwithstanding, we remain committed to our cause and determined to overcome any obstacles that come our way. We have learned valuable lessons and gathered feedback from the event, which will shape our future events. For instance, we will use different art forms to adapt to the cultural conceptions and moods during this time of war. We will strive to approach and engage all Sudanese communities on the ground to instill a spirit of solidarity and inclusiveness. With your help, we will ensure complete transparency about the spending of this money raised and showcase your work at SDU. Furthermore, we will offer volunteering opportunities to all to minimise costs and maximise donations. But most importantly, we will work with non-Sudanese communities, which have more economic abilities and a better understanding of the concept of Artivism.

At Sudafest, we will continue to do our best to help Sudan through arts and culture. We will continue to advocate for the credibility of SDU as an impartial and fair service provider and navigate all challenges while keeping everyone informed of our progress.

Once again, thank you so much for your help. Dr Ghassan Elamin, Dr Mohamed Hamadto, and Dr Sawsan Salih are outstanding representatives of SDU, and it is a pleasure to work with them.

In Solidarity,

Mohamed Kamal Sharaf
Sudafest Managing Director