



December 6, 2023

THE USA-PALESTINE MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK STATEMENT ON THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Israel's genocidal [assault](#) on Gaza soon enters its second month, leaving in its wake over 16,000 innocent dead with many times that number suffering grave injury and its entire population enduring the cruel denial of food, water, and fuel. These atrocities have moved hundreds of thousands of compassionate human beings around the world to gather in non-violent protest, demanding ceasefire and justice for the people of Palestine. We join our comrades and colleagues internationally and in Palestine in calling for a permanent ceasefire as our immediate and number one [priority](#).

Please join us in contacting your government officials, your civil societies, and your professional organizations asking them to support this demand.

In particular, we call upon all of our mental health organizations to adopt a principled stand through issuing formal statements endorsing immediate and permanent ceasefire. Defense of the people of Palestine against military obliteration and forced population transfer is consistent with the commitment to anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and anti-colonialist positions which are already commonplace in our organizations' proclaimed missions. Excellent statements in support of the people of Palestine have been issued by the [American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association](#) and the [Board of Directors of Psychoanalysis for Social Responsibility](#). Yet the obvious devastation of the civilian population of Gaza has been passed over in silence by the majority of our mental health organizations.

We urge you to locate others within your organization, draft demands, challenge your organization's leadership team, and speak out. Using our potential as [active agents](#) for justice has never been more urgent.

In solidarity,

The Steering Committee
The USA-Palestine Mental Health Network
www.usapalmhn.org