



# IACAPAP

International Association for Child and  
Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions

## **IACAPAP Statement on the Gaza Conflict and the Impact on Children's Mental Health**

The International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) is deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the devastating impact it has on children. Many thousands of children have been killed, injured, orphaned, and traumatised. As an organisation dedicated to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents worldwide, we cannot remain silent in the face of such suffering.

We echo the calls from the International Court of Justice, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The protection of children in conflict zones is paramount, and all parties must prioritise the safety and well-being of young lives.

IACAPAP firmly believes that the mental health of children should be safeguarded regardless of their nationality or the politics of their region. The trauma experienced by children in Gaza has long-term implications that extend far beyond the immediate physical harm. It affects their development, mental health, and future potential.

In line with our mission to promote better mental health for all children and to prevent their traumatisation, we support all efforts to bring about peace and stability in Gaza. We also acknowledge the complexity of this issue and the need for a balanced approach that fosters dialogue and collaboration among all parties involved.

There have been suggestions to exclude some nations from participation in IACAPAP activities. We understand the urgency and the passionate advocacy behind this proposal. However, our mission requires engaging with all stakeholders to promote mental health and peace. Our approach must be one that encourages healing, understanding, and cooperation.

IACAPAP remains committed to advocating for the mental health and protection of all children affected by conflict. We will continue to use our platform to call for an end to violence and to support initiatives that promote peace and mental well-being.

Silence is not an option when it comes to the welfare of children, and we stand with those who seek to protect and nurture the youngest and most vulnerable members of our global community.

We urge all parties to work towards a lasting peace that ensures the safety and mental health of every child in Gaza and beyond.

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