
HOPE's Statement on the War between Gaza and Israel

HOPE, the Hospital Organisation of Pedagogues in Europe, is an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to safeguarding the educational and emotional well-being of children and young people facing illness or crisis. As educators and advocates for the rights of children, we are deeply disturbed by the devastating impact of the war in Gaza and the wider region.

The attack on Israel on October 7th, 2023 caused unimaginable loss, including the murder, mutilation and kidnapping of civilians, among them children. The war in Gaza has brought devastating consequences for civilians—especially children. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, and vital infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and homes, has been destroyed. Most of Gaza's population is now displaced, with little or no access to education, medical care, or safety. We also recognise the fear and trauma experienced by civilians in Israel.

As an organisation committed to the rights and wellbeing of all children, we believe that every child—wherever they live—deserves protection, dignity, and hope for the future.

We cannot accept a world where:

- children are denied the right to a peaceful and normal childhood,
- children are forced to flee their homes and live in fear,
- children witness violence and the suffering of their families,
- children are injured, traumatised, or killed.
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HOPE unequivocally opposes the use of violence and the targeting of civilians in all its forms. In line with our commitment to the Charter of HOPE, which places the rights and dignity of the child at the centre of all we do, we believe in the urgent need for a ceasefire and a return to dialogue grounded in humanity and international law.

As a professional network, HOPE does not affiliate with any government or political group. In light of the current conflict, and in keeping with our position on the war in Ukraine, HOPE will pause institutional cooperation with both Israeli and Palestinian organisations until conditions allow for mutual respect and a shared commitment to children's rights. However, we will continue to support and stand alongside individual educators—regardless of nationality—who act in accordance with our values, and who work to protect and educate children during times of profound crisis.

HOPE calls for an immediate end to hostilities and stands behind all efforts that promote peace, justice, and the protection of children in this and all conflicts.

On behalf of the HOPE Board



Fergal McNamara
President of HOPE