

## ***PAVE: Paediatricans Against Violence Everywhere***

### **An Appeal for Peace: Conflict in the Israel and Gaza Palestine War**

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The South African Paediatric Association (SAPA) is committed to promoting the wellbeing of all children and their families in Israel and Gaza, Palestine and in all areas where children are facing violent conflict and trauma. The current war in Israel and Gaza, Palestine has indiscriminately harmed children and exposed horrific human rights violations that should not be allowed to continue.

SAPA and all associated paediatric health care professionals are mandated to advocate and be a voice for children's rights. As such, SAPA is deeply saddened by the deepening conflict, ongoing human rights violations and loss of life that is occurring in Israel and Gaza, Palestine. There is no justification for depriving and withholding essential services from innocent civilians and persevering with daily destruction.

SAPA unequivocally stands for the immediate cessation for all violence and ongoing destruction that is affecting children and all their caregivers. SAPA invites the paediatric community to join an initiative called **PAVE: Paediatricans Against Violence Everywhere**. This initiative will have the purpose of advocating on this issue more effectively. We are cognisant that the consequences of the Israel and Gaza, Palestine war, and in all areas of conflict, will have long standing physical, emotional and psychological trauma to children that will ultimately and permanently impact their development.

SAPA unreservedly supports the rights of children globally and that these rights are always upheld and respected. This extends to opposing violations of human rights and supporting all inherent humanitarian efforts of health professionals to trying to assist the vulnerable people in these areas. SAPA supports those who are providing care to children under trying circumstances, putting their own lives in danger in order to continue providing services. We are aware that these health care professionals will also need support now and as they recover in the future.

SAPA joins the call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire, safe access to humanitarian aid, basic supplies, and essential services for all civilians. As paediatricians, we advocate for the safety of all children and their families and join in solidarity with other calls to bring an end to the violence and a respect for fundamental human rights.

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