



College of Psychiatrists of Ireland statement on conflict and violence in Gaza, Israel and the Middle East

Monday 13 November 2023. The College abhors all violence and conflict and is deeply concerned for all those tragically affected by violent attacks in Israel and Palestine and the humanitarian crisis that continues to escalate in Gaza and surrounding areas in the Middle East.

The horrific and devastating deaths of civilians in the region – innocent human beings – is beyond comprehension. The situation causes us great shock and sadness. Our thoughts and compassion are with those who have endured horrific losses of children, spouses, partners, other family members, and friends and neighbours in their communities.

We call on all parties to abide by the international humanitarian laws to protect and provide for those particularly vulnerable – children, people with intellectual disabilities and all those with illness. We are also acutely mindful of, and stand in solidarity with, our psychiatry and medical colleagues in the regions trying to provide medical assistance and support under extremely difficult and unpredictable circumstances.

We also stand with and acknowledge the worry and distress being felt by our colleagues, members and trainees in Ireland who are from the affected regions.

The College feels compelled to make a statement as “for evil to thrive, good needs to do nothing.”

Members, trainees and fellows may wish to donate to appropriate organisations such as the Irish Red Cross and MSF.

ENDS