



EFN STATEMENT ON THE CONFLICT ISRAEL-GAZA

Once again, the healthcare professionals, and the nurses in particular, are put at stake in the conflict in Israel and Gaza. Nurses and many other healthcare professionals have to continue their work under life-threatening circumstances, with many being injured or killed.

The EFN is very concerned about the working conditions and environment of these nurses and condemns the attacks on healthcare facilities. The EFN is therefore calling for all parties to the conflict to respect the international principle of medical and healthcare neutrality, that the principle of human rights is upheld and protected, to protect and respect access to healthcare and ensure the safety of the population and the healthcare professionals (cf. Geneva Convention¹).

The EFN condemns the terrorist attacks and is calling for safe spaces and safe passage for civilians trapped in Gaza to be urgently established, and that human life should be respected regardless gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or profession.

Patients must have full access to healthcare. Healthcare professionals must not be prevented from performing their professional duties, and any action to prevent or sanction them for carrying out their duty of care to protect lives, contravenes international law. Access to health is a human right. Any attack on health professionals, and the patients they care, is totally unacceptable.

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¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-protection-civilian-persons-time-war>