



Statement on the Israel/Palestine Conflict

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is appalled by the recent violent outburst in the Middle East. It strongly condemns any aggression and escalation towards civilians - refugees, hostages, and other victims of the conflict - who are currently paying the highest price. We stand in solidarity with MCAA members in Palestine and Israel, fellow academics, scholars, and their families who are suffering, directly and indirectly, the effects of the attacks on either side of the conflict.

Humanitarian issues are being raised by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Conflicts disrupt societies, including research institutions, leading to displacement, harm, or loss of life. Students, doctoral candidates, researchers, and the academic community at large are pivotal in offering knowledgeable counsel, data, and evidence that are crucial for countries' future perspectives. Their efforts make a positive impact on society, intellectual growth, and the distribution of vital information.

During conflicts, the academic community often finds itself in vulnerable situations, with disrupted institutions and threats to its safety. It is essential to ensure the protection of human lives and the possibility for researchers and academics to keep delivering important work when faced with challenging circumstances. Humanitarian law's core tenet is to safeguard all people in conflict areas, mainly by ensuring their safety, granting them access to resources, and managing any unique hazards associated with their lives, work or study.

Academic freedom is also essential. It upholds intellectual progress and the pursuit of peace and understanding. Censorship, persecution, or violence against scholars and academics not only endangers their lives but also impedes the quest for peace and knowledge.

It is highly urgent that governments, institutions, and global organisations loudly condemn the violence and promptly take measures to safeguard the lives of civilians in the impacted regions. In order to find solutions and advance peace, the international community must acknowledge the seriousness of the situation and the pressing need to protect civilians and academics, as well as health and research institutions.

The MCAA calls on governments of European countries to support the local communities affected by the conflict so that they can continue with their education and research and protect their intellectual contributions to society.

International support for the safety of scholars and academics and academic freedom and work is vital to benefit society and work towards peace. It is imperative that governments and institutions take a stronger stance against this conflict and prioritise the protection of human lives.