



*"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane."*  
~ Martin Luther King Jr.

The Ethics Committee of the Irish Association of Palliative Care (IAPC) are both disheartened and alarmed by the degree of devastation to many lives, families, communities and healthcare institutions in conflict-stricken regions across the world, including in Gaza and Ukraine.

The Vision of the IAPC is a world where palliative care is available to all of us, when we need it, wherever we are, so we can live life as well as possible until we die. With a commitment to promote compassionate care and respect for the value of each unique human life, we stand by those who tirelessly and selflessly strive to provide aid to impoverished communities and deliver essential healthcare to civilians in war torn regions.

It is extremely distressing to see healthcare workers targeted and healthcare facilities destroyed, thus rendering it almost impossible for our colleagues in conflict zones to provide the necessary care to the injured, children and adults alike. Under international humanitarian law, hospitals are protected civilian objects and should never be attacked.

Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. Regretfully, we must acknowledge that at present, that right is not being met around the globe.

We are in firm support of national and international efforts to bring peace to areas of unrest and injustice. One's race, religion, ethnicity, gender or place of residence should not dictate access to food, water, healthcare, and whether somebody lives or dies.

We are all '*citizens of the world*'. Hence, it is incumbent on each of us to endeavour to bring about peace and equality on planet Earth, and better it for the generations to come.

Ethics Forum representing the Irish Association of Palliative Care  
July 2025