



## **APsA Condemns and Mourns the Loss of Innocent Lives in Armed Conflicts**

February 28, 2024

Dear APsA Members,

The American Psychoanalytic Association (APsA) condemns and mourns the tremendous loss of innocent lives in armed conflicts in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Africa, and throughout the world. Tragically, there are many innocent victims in war, but we condemn the targeting, mistreatment, abuse, and violence against anyone based on their group identity.

As those who do psychoanalytic work, we are acutely aware of the profound psychological trauma inflicted upon people in war. Intense trauma often extends across generations and gives rise to a wide range of debilitating mental health problems. Furthermore, traumatization blunts empathic capacity, leading all sides to become consumed by their own pain and blind to the suffering of the other. We know that trauma tends to lead to actions that beget further trauma and sow the seeds for future violence and suffering. Given the level of physical and psychological trauma in war zones, we urge all sides to try to protect medical and mental health clinicians because they are and will be desperately needed for decades to come.

People are entitled to their beliefs and feelings, but acting violently on religious, nationalist, racist, ethnic or any form of prejudice is unacceptable. We need to help each other contain the destructive violent impulses that sow hate and destroy any hope for peace between the majority of people who want to live together in peace and prosperity. We hope innocent civilians, no matter where they are and no matter what their identity, will be spared. We hope for peace.

APsA stands with all religious, national, ethnic, and racial groups and people who act for peaceful, respectful, and dignified coexistence. We condemn mistreatment and violence worldwide.

Sincerely,  
Dan Prezant  
President, The American Psychoanalytic Association