



P.O. Box 217, Hatfield, MA 01038-0217 ♦ www.healingdivides.org

Healing Across the Divides' Urgent Appeal for a Ceasefire and Peace in Gaza

As members of the Board of Directors of Healing Across the Divides (HATD), an American 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of marginalized Palestinians and marginalized Israelis, we are expressing our deep disdain for the war in Gaza and to call for an immediate and complete ceasefire and the release of all the Israeli hostages.

HATD is committed to helping locally based community grantees administer medical and psychological programs in Israel and the occupied territories. Our organization's work has been directly and severely impacted by the current situation in Gaza. Israel's onslaught of violence against Palestinian civilians has cost tens of thousands of innocent lives, destroyed Gaza's infrastructure, and has presented HATD with the virtually impossible task of sustaining its programs in both Gaza and the West Bank, where attacks by settlers and the Israeli military forces against Palestinians have escalated dramatically.

Since the war began, HATD staff in both Israel and the occupied territories have been subjected to living in fear for their own safety and that of our Palestinian and Israeli grantees, who are now exposed to atrocities and continuous threats to their lives and those of their entire families.

Following are the words of HATD's Israeli and Palestinian staff, each of whom have been witnessing human tragedy and injustice:

"The world and the US need to support a diplomatic solution, a fair one that will last forever and to help Palestine to rebuild itself. This is the only way. Not to cheer as a football cheerleader for war" ~ Veronica Vigdorichik, HATD Israeli Representative

"We in all of Palestine are sitting and waiting for either death or forceful expulsion from our indigenous land. Stop the madness. Stop the US's unconditional support of this.... Stop the killing of my people..." ~ Nehad Fattah, HATD Palestinian Representative

The HATD Board of Directors urges you to use your influential position to:

- 1. Call on Israel to immediately institute a ceasefire in Gaza.**
- 2. Secure the peaceful release of all Israeli hostages.**
- 3. Engage US and international partners to exert collective pressure on all parties to the conflict for the creation of a sustainable environment of dialogue and negotiation rather than a military action against innocent Gazans.**
- 4. Appeal to all governments and influencers in this conflict to prioritize the dire health crisis perpetuated by the war in Gaza.**
- 5. Join HATD in declaring collectively as Americans of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths that we espouse equal access to health services, justice, human dignity, and peaceful living conditions.**



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6. Address the fact that since October 2023, over 2000 Palestinians are being held in jails with no reason provided or sentences given

7. Recognize that this war can lead to a larger, protracted regional conflict which is not in the interest of our country.

The United States, as a global leader, is responsible for contributing to the resolution of conflicts and the promotion of peace and human rights. We ask you to take a strong stance in supporting our call to action for imposing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and pushing for a swift end to the war. The fact is that no Palestinian or Israeli can live in peace or security until a just resolution to this conflict is implemented. The United States, uniquely among nations, has the most leverage to bring about this ceasefire. It should use this leverage to do so now!

As someone whom we have elected to represent us, we ask that you contribute to ensuring that the values of non-violence, justice, and human rights – including access to vital health services - are unequivocally upheld for Palestinians as well as Israelis.

We look forward to hearing about your efforts toward our plea for action and are available to provide any additional information or support you may require. You may reach us at info@healingdivides.org.

Sincerely,

Healing Across The Divides – Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norbert Goldfield" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Norbert Goldfield, MD

(Founder and Executive Director)



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