



ארגון המיילדות בישראל
ISRAEL MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION

10/10/23

Dear ICM,

Shalom. We, the Israel Midwives Association, are turning to you in an unprecedented time of evil, horror, and events in our country.

We are sure by now you have heard the news that thousands of Israelis have been injured, over one thousand murdered. We are learning that around 200 mothers, babies, children, fathers, and elderly Israeli civilians have been kidnapped from their homes and dragged as hostages to Gaza. Entire families have been wiped off the earth while lying at home in their beds, dancing at a nature festival, or eating breakfast with their families. We are seeing the images of children being murdered in front of their parents or parents being ripped from their children and we cannot breathe. Our souls are shattered and bleeding.

Due to these impossible times we have recruited midwives from across the country as volunteers to help us assist the Israeli Health Ministry during these trying times.

The Israel Midwives Association has been working around the clock to care for the women of our nation based on the fundamental principles of JEDI;

We are providing and funding mental health support through zoom along with 24/7 access to a midwife through our facebook page "Milah Shel Meyaledet" ("Word of a Midwife") where we give support, advice, and medical consultations to women before, during, and after birth as well as breastfeeding, menopause, sexual health advice and more.

We have set up hotlines, home visits, and support groups through a network of midwife volunteers throughout the country.

We are also caring for our midwives.

The midwives of our country are in a very vulnerable and difficult place. Bombs have fallen on hospitals while they are treating women and midwives are traveling to work at the risk of their own safety. There is a midwife who is missing and may be kidnapped in Gaza. There are midwives who are now single parents and have lost their husbands in battle, midwives have lost their children and are burying their dead. There are midwives whose husbands have been called to war and they are working while having many children at home with no one to care for them as schools are closed and traveling is unsafe. Midwives have also been forced to flee their homes as terror, rockets, and fighting have displaced them and their families.

We are providing fully subsidized free mental health care with experts in trauma across the country.

We are appealing to the ICM urgently to stand against this violence, horror, and evil with a joint statement of support for our country and standing against terror. We are also in need of urgent funds to assist us in providing the much needed support to the women and midwives of Israel. We would ask to meet with the ICM to discuss options through these inconceivable times.

In hopes for peace, return of our kidnapped citizens, and the healing in body and soul of our whole nation,
Yifat, Gila, Tania, and Yuval
Executive Board of Directors
The Israel Midwives Association