

AN OPEN LETTER TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

Following the horrific massacre carried out on October 7th, 2023 by Hamas terrorists, investigators have recovered testimony, forensic evidence, and footage from terrorist cameras that provide irrevocable proof that on that day Hamas perpetrated the largest gender-based violence attack on Israeli soil. Carrying out the orders of their commanders, the terrorists committed brutal acts against innocent civilians, including women, children, infants, and the elderly. These acts included not only murder but systematic and premeditated sodomy, rape, necrophilia, genital mutilation, beheadings, burning alive, and tearing a fetus from its mother's womb.

Two-hundred and thirty-nine people, ranging from infants to senior citizens, were dragged violently from their homes and into the Gaza Strip, where they remain hostages to this day. When Hamas terrorists were asked why they abducted women and children the answer was clear: **“to rape them”**.

We are stunned by the lack of public outcry from global health organizations. Countless were sexually assaulted in a coordinated, conscious, and purposeful attack, yet there is no response from the institutions whose duty it is to protect them. When the moment came to stand on the side of humanity and condemn terror, these organizations chose to remain silent. The silence of global health leaders in the face of such mass atrocities is interpreted as legitimizing terror, gender-based violence, and crimes against humanity; but more importantly, these leaders are setting a terrifying precedent for women and children across the globe.

This is not a political issue. As women's health care providers, we are devastated by suffering and loss of life of all innocents, regardless of their race, creed, nationality, or religion. The survivors, victims, and hostages of the Hamas attack span all ages, genders, religions, regions, and politics. This is an attack on global humanity, and the silence of institutions across the world threatens to destroy their credibility, validity, and purpose. Do not join them in this silence. We urge you to choose the side of courage, leadership, and humanity.

WE CALL FOR



THE GLOBAL HEALTH COMMUNITY TO **STAND TOGETHER** IN ONE CLEAR VOICE, AND PUBLICLY CONDEMN HAMAS AND THEIR HORRIFIC GENDER-BASED CRIMES OF OCTOBER 7TH, 2023.



ALL INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO UTILIZE ALL MEANS NECESSARY, INCLUDING PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF THESE ATROCITIES, TO ENSURE THAT **EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IS RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.**



INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL **SUPPORT OF TRAUMA** INFORMED CARE FOR SURVIVORS OF BARBARIC GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF THIS HORRIFIC ATTACK WE CALL ON YOU TO STAND ON THE SIDE OF HUMANITY

Israel Midwives Association
Israel Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Israel Association of Family Physicians
The Israeli Society for Sexual Trauma Treatment & Prevention
Israel Society for Sex Therapy- ISST
Israeli Society for Sexual Medicine- ILSSM
Israel Association of Public Health Physicians
The Israel Pediatric Association
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Israel
The Israeli Society for Community Mental Health
Israeli Society of Nuclear Medicine
Israel MOH Council for Obstetric and Gynecology, Neonatology and Genetics
Israel MOH Council for Women's Health
The Israeli Dietetic Association-ATID
Israeli Association of Breastfeeding Medicine
La Leche League Israel
Israel Association for Lactation Professions
Israeli Women's Health Physical Therapy

Appendix:

Appendix A: [Medical Report on the Needs of Women Abducted by the Hamas](#)

Appendix B: [Health needs of infants, children, and adolescents abducted to Gaza](#)



ארגון המיילדות בישראל
ISRAEL MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION



פיזיותרפיה
בריאות האישה



החברה לקידום
אבחון, טיפול ומניעה
של פגיעה מינית



החברה הישראלית לבריאות
הנפש בקהילה
The Israeli Society for
Community Mental Health



האיגוד הישראלי
למיילדות וגינקולוגיה

החוג הישראלי לרפואה דחופה ילדים
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Israel



האיגוד הישראלי
למקצועות ההנקה



איסמ
ISST
האגודה הישראלית לטיפול מיני
Israel Society for Sex Therapy



אגודת
Association of Nutritionists
and Dietitians in Israel



איגוד ישראלי לרפואה גרעינית
Israeli Society of Nuclear Medicine

