



Council of European Municipalities and Regions
European Section of United Cities and Local Governments

EUROPEAN SECTION'S STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

We, local and regional government leaders gathered in the European Section of United Cities and Local Governments, express our horror concerning the loss of lives, including thousands of civilians in Israel and Palestine and convey our condolences and deepest sympathy to all the victims and their families.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas in Israel. We call on hostages to be immediately and unconditionally released and we denounce the use of human beings as shields.

We also call for the immediate cease of indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Gaza and for the guarantee of access to medical and humanitarian aid and support. International laws and conventions, including international humanitarian law, must be always respected and any breach must be held into account.

An escalation of violence will affect millions of civilians and keep us further away from the peaceful resolution of a longstanding conflict. The vicious circle of bloodshed and polarization needs to stop and we encourage the international community to direct all efforts towards de-escalation and seeking a conflict resolution that will address the root causes of the war and provide hope for a peaceful future for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

We express our willingness to contribute to restoring peace based on the two-state solution, together with the government of Israel and the legitimate authorities of Palestine.

We, the European local and regional governments, commit to engage in creating an environment of solidarity and dialogue, and we stand firmly with our UCLG members in Israel and Palestine.