

Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine EDI Brief November 2023

Humanitarian Crises and Building Peace

The Global Health for Peace Initiative: A model for present times

This month, we reflect on the effect global conflict has on the health of populations and on individuals' health and well-being.

The [WHO Global Health for Peace Initiative \(GHPI\)](#) supports the development of health programs to promote peace with a deep understanding of conflict dynamics.

The [Israeli-Palestine conflict](#) is another tragic example of the toll innocent civilians suffer in the crossfire of those bearing arms.

Worldwide, 80% of the World Health Organization (WHO) humanitarian work takes place in conflict-affected settings; 70% of disease outbreaks in the world also occur in areas of conflict.

The effect of global conflict in our own community

Many members of our department have ties to or loved ones living amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For them, this situation is deeply personal.

We want to center our attention on the humanitarian crisis, suffering, fear, and uncertainty being experienced by those physically enveloped in the conflict and those members of our anesthesiology family directly impacted.

Our department is a diverse community with the shared experience of serving others through our clinical, research, and educational missions. We support each other with kindness and respect and in moments like this, these values should be paramount.

Resources

The University of Washington, UW Medicine, and School of Medicine provide resources for faculty, trainees, staff, and students who are experiencing distress during this time. If you find yourself struggling or in difficult situations, we've compiled the following resources:

- [Faculty Peer 2 Peer Program](#)
 - Peer supporters are clinicians who have been trained to be thoughtful, compassionate listeners.
- UW Anesthesiology Resident Peer Support Program – Contact Cameron Donald (camdon@uw.edu) or Cris Hajjar (crl2006@uw.edu).
- [School of Medicine Counseling Services](#) for trainees and students
- [Accessing mental health care](#) (Seattle campus students)
- [Bias Reporting Tool](#)
- [Washington State Human Rights Commission Complaint Form](#)