



## Statement of the Members of the Israeli Psychoanalytic Societies and Institutes

On Saturday morning, October 7, 2023, like a violent eruption of a volcano, the earth unleashed the most absolute explosion of evil. Hamas terrorists raided calm civilian communities on Israeli territory, murdered, raped, abused bodies and babies, burned homes, and kidnapped babies, children, elderly, women and men.

Over 1,400 people were murdered, 4000 injured, hundreds are absent and 239 are held hostage in the hands of a terror organization, their fate unknown. Moreover, Israel is under a constant rocket attack from south to north targeting the entire Israeli population, with over 130000 civilians already evacuated from their homes, living as refugees in their own country. For this reason, as any other country, Israel has the right and the obligation to protect its citizens.

These acts targeted Jews and Israelis, however they did not discriminate, as Arabs and people of many other nationalities were murdered. There is no justification for this horrific brutality, this outbreak of sheer evil and inhumanity. This presents a real threat and is entirely a war against all humanity.

It is important to emphasize that we, in the mental health field, are ethically committed to the wellbeing of people on both sides. We are well aware of the psychological price of war firsthand, and as a result, we would like to express the wish that all children and innocent people, regardless of race or nationality should be protected. We express sorrow for the suffering caused to uninvolved Palestinians. It is shocking that Hamas deliberately hides among them and endangers their lives.

We turn to you and ask for your solidarity in our plight for the immediate release of the hostages, and in expressing condemnation of the atrocities and crimes against humanity that the Hamas unleashed on October 7<sup>th</sup> and continues to unleash, using innocent civilians as human shields.

We are very grateful for the deep concern that has been expressed by some of our affiliate professional societies around the world. Such gestures of solidarity have been very valuable and reassuring. On the other hand, other statements and demonstrations which have taken place in some cities and campuses that have overlooked or flatly denied the atrocities experienced by Israelis on October 7<sup>th</sup>, are injurious and worrisome in their disregard of these events.

The refusal to recognize the human catastrophe of the events that occurred in Israel, the turning a blind eye to expression of cruelty and an additional blind eye to the suffering of the victims, flattens the human soul and dehumanizes Israelis whose losses do not count. These types of attitudes disregard the human price paid by thousands of victims. We are calling for all people concerned with human rights to openly oppose all statements and actions that ignore the plight of those affected by the Hamas attack and neglect to condemn the violence that Hamas has perpetrated on innocent civilians.

**Praying and hoping for better days,**  
*The Psychoanalytic and Analytic Societies and Institutes in Israel*

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Iris Elyakim-Meroz,  
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