



Psychologists' Association of Alberta's Response to International Humanitarian Crisis

Psychologists' Association of Alberta (PAA) has a firm stance on advocating the value of psychology. **The Mission** of the PAA is to advance the science-based profession of psychology and to promote the well-being and potential of all Albertans.

Our various position statements stand by our mission, one of them being:

"Discrimination harms, diversity strengthens, diversity increases tolerance and psychological health and is the model of a caring society."

Canada, as a home to people of the world, has citizens impacted in a wide myriad of ways, and psychological health is always paramount. As professionals, we stand for the psychological well-being of all Albertans, regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion, cultural background, etc. PAA detests the violence, fear, loss of life, dignity, and freedom of innocent civilians that results in significant psychological distress and trauma. This distress has long-term impacts on the health and well-being of those directly affected by the conflict and people worldwide who have families and friends in the region.

In taking sides, we are unable to practice without bias, notwithstanding the Canadian Psychological Association's (CPA) Code of Ethics, thereby causing indirect harm to many. As the professional guidance department of PAA, we support ethical practice in Alberta in which it is imperative to do no harm, and one major way is an ongoing critical reflection on ethical issues before, during, and after an emergency (Wessels, 2009). We stand with everyone working tirelessly to prevent this violent conflict, save human lives, and work towards the mental well-being of all.

We, therefore, urge psychologists to keep the ethical considerations from the Canadian Code of Ethics in mind while practicing with people affected by international conflicts, mainly non-discrimination, practicing without bias, maximization of benefit, and minimization of harm.