

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) 's Position on WAR

EUROPEAN ANTIPOVERTY NETWORK has been closely following the developments of the escalation of violence in Palestine and Israel these past days with great indignation, shock, and a strong sense of injustice. Hamas' military operation and the ongoing air strikes ordered by the Israeli government have caused tremendous suffering and the loss of many lives. Hamas' rocket attacks on civilians are unacceptable and we condemn them. They do not, in any way, justify the horrifying collective punishment that ensued on the part of the Israeli government.

We know that War and Violence do not bring justice, but lead only to **POVERTY, EXCLUSION, ISOLATION** and **DEVASTATION** among fellow humans.

We therefore call:

- both the Israeli and the Hamas to cease all kind of attacks on each other and stop all violence on civilians.
- upon the international community to take the necessary responsibility and put strong pressure on the Israeli government to reach an immediate ceasefire and urgently allow humanitarian support for Gaza.
- upon all parties to start a genuine peace process.
- for civil society organisations and governments all over the world to speak out strongly against all forms of racism and antisemitism.

We recommend the humanitarian aid allowed into Gaza and the humanitarian response the past few days. This is not enough. More are needed though, such as to ensure access to water, food, electricity, and medical services.

At the same time, the war in Ukraine continues for a second year. Let us not forget the recent escalation of the problems in Caucasus between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Our hearts go out to all families who have suffered immeasurable pain and loss. To all people who are suffering each minute from trauma and terrifying conditions, to those who have been permanently disabled, to the emergency workers who are working in unbelievable conditions with true courage and dedication to their patients.

The forceful displacement of civilians, targeting hospitals, schools, and religious places, using children and women as shields, are war crimes. Once more civilians are the victims of war.

We stand for **non-violence and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The circle of violence has to be stopped.** Real peace does not happen overnight, it takes courageous people who build it day by day, but it does start with putting an immediate end to the brutality and destruction brought by the use of military force, violence and occupation.

We reiterate that we know that War and Violence do not bring justice but lead only to poverty and devastation.

31 October 2023