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Press release

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Three leading public health organisations issue urgent joint statement on Gaza

EPHA, EUPHA, and WFPHA call for immediate ceasefire and mobilisation to address unprecedented health catastrophe

Five major European and international public health organisations have issued a joint statement condemning the ongoing war in Gaza and calling for urgent international action to address its devastating public health consequences.

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), The European Public Health Association (EUPHA), and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) have united to sound the alarm on what they describe as an “*unprecedented collapse of health systems, infrastructure, and basic determinants of life.*”

“Health systems have been targeted. Civilians and health workers have been killed in record numbers. Life expectancy in Gaza has reportedly plummeted by over 30 years,” the statement reads. “This is not merely a humanitarian emergency - it is a profound public health catastrophe with intergenerational consequences.”

The joint statement recognises the health crisis in Gaza as genocide-related and calls for:

- An immediate and lasting ceasefire
- Unhindered humanitarian access
- International accountability for violations of humanitarian and human rights law
- Restoration of public health systems and services
- Support for displaced health professionals, students, and researchers

The organisations also condemn the collapse of disease prevention efforts, the rise of malnutrition and infectious diseases, and the environmental threats posed by the destruction of homes, water infrastructure and sanitation systems.

“Neutrality in the face of atrocities of this scale is complicity,” said Dr Milka Sokolović, Director General of EPHA. “The public health community cannot remain silent while health itself is under attack.”

This statement follows in the tradition of public health solidarity previously shown during the war in Ukraine and other global emergencies, reflecting the sector’s ethical duty to protect health and uphold human rights.



european public health alliance

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