

2024 AGM Motion Form

Mover Dr. Monika Dutt

Seconder: Dr. Suha Masalmeh

Note: The mover and seconder must be in attendance (in person or virtually) for the business session of the AGM.

Date of Submission: Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Proposed Motion: *BE IT RESOLVED that the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting asks the Board of Directors to call for the following:*

1. An end to violence against all civilians in Gaza,
2. Freeing of Palestinian and Israeli hostages,
3. Immediate free passage and delivery of aid into Gaza, including clean water, shelter, food and medical supplies, and
4. Protection of all health care workers and health care facilities.

Motion Type:

- By-laws Motion** (Requests or requires a change to the Doctors Nova Scotia By-laws)
Must be received by Doctors Nova Scotia no later than Friday, March 22, 2024.
- Policy Motion** (Describes the position that Doctors Nova Scotia should take on an issue)
Must be received by Doctors Nova Scotia no later than Friday, March 22, 2024.
- X **Directive Motion** (Describes a specific direction/action that DNS will explore or initiate)
Must be received by Doctors Nova Scotia no later than Friday, March 22, 2024.

Rationale (*Maximum of 500 words/1 page. References to evidence/research and examples can be cited.*)

Does this motion align with one or more of our strategic priorities?

- Connect the Profession
- X Advocate on Behalf of the Profession
- X Serve the Profession

Comments:

Please attach any background information or documentation that supports your motion.

Send completed form to:

Charmaine Smith

Director, Corporate Services

Email: charmaine.smith@doctorsns.com

Proposed Motion: A call for urgent action to protect the health of Palestinians in Gaza

Many physicians and medical learners in Nova Scotia are deeply troubled by the violence that has occurred in Palestine prior to and since October 7th, 2023. We strongly condemn any violations of international law seen in the attacks against children, health care facilities and personnel, and other residents of Gaza. The [latest United Nations Situation Report](#) by the World Health Organization described 31,726 fatalities, 73,792 people injured, and 1.7 million people displaced in Gaza. The international Court of Justice has stated that the [risk of genocide in Gaza is plausible](#).

In addition to the devastating deaths and injuries, the infrastructure that supports health in Gaza has also been destroyed. One hundred and fifty-five health facilities [have been damaged](#). The UN reports twelve hospitals that are only partially functioning and all wastewater treatment systems as non-operable. Infectious diseases such as Hepatitis A, pneumococcal disease, gastrointestinal illnesses, COVID-19 and influenza are major causes of death and will continue to be in the future [according to projections](#). [The entire population of Gaza is food insecure](#), the vast majority facing catastrophic food insecurity, with a famine imminent. [As stated by António Guterres](#), the UN Secretary General, “Palestinians in Gaza are enduring horrifying levels of hunger and suffering.”

As physicians, we are uniquely positioned, and even have an obligation, to speak in support of those suffering dire health conditions and to act in solidarity with health worker colleagues who are being purposely targeted. Palestinian doctors have been killed and imprisoned, while others are working in appalling conditions. Dr. Hamman Alloh, a nephrologist in Gaza, said shortly before he was killed in November, [“If I go, who will treat my patients?”](#)

With all of this in mind, and with the situation likely more desperate by the time this motion is considered, we ask that Doctors Nova Scotia (DNS) add their voice to a growing list of medical organizations such as [Médecins Sans Frontières](#), the [Canadian Pediatric Society](#) and the [World Medical Association](#), and pass the following policy motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting asks the Board of Directors to call for the following:

- 1) An end to violence against all civilians in Gaza
- 2) Freeing of Palestinian and Israeli hostages
- 3) Immediate free passage and delivery of aid into Gaza, including clean water, shelter, food and medical supplies
- 4) Protection of all health care workers and health care facilities
- 5) Condemnation of any violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza
- 6) Restoration of access to health care services, including public health measures and disease surveillance and response

This motion aligns with the DNS commitment to equity, which is intrinsically connected to justice. By supporting this motion, DNS would honour the memory of Dr. Mahmoud Abu Nujaila who [wrote these words on a whiteboard](#) in Al Awda Hospital shortly before he was killed: “Whoever stays until the end will tell the story. We did what we could. Remember us.”

References

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Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. (18 March 2024). IPC Global Initiative - Special Brief. <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/alerts-archive/issue-97/en/>

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World Medical Association. (16 Feb 2024). WMA Takes Stand Against Humanitarian Violations, Calls For Urgent Action in Gaza. <https://www.wma.net/news-post/wma-takes-stand-against-humanitarian-violations-calls-for-urgent-action-in-gaza/>

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