

Breaking the Silence: The Role of Health Professionals in the Gaza CrisisF. Siddiqui¹¹ Senior Lecturer HPE, Dow University of health sciences

Life is all about love and belonging, and between them is hope and pain, memories, and prayers. Love is more generous than what is available to the children of Adam. And our attachment rises when it exceeds what is mentioned and will be remembered by people. Love starts with extending our hands to the sky, attaching people with people while we are on the journey of creating a legacy.

Poetic pauses in love Dr. Mohamed Buheji.

This small piece of writing is dedicated to the enormous amount of work contributed by Mohamad Boheji and within our dimensions, the bioethics community breaking the silence, encouraging me to echo their voice.

Having the opportunity to write something at this moment, I would use it to raise my voice on behalf of the health professional community for the people of Gaza. As mentioned by Sualeha Shekhani and Dr. Aamir Jafarey, doctors represent the moral voice of their era. However, considering the events of October 7, 2023, and the subsequent armed assault by Israeli forces on Gaza, which has led to a significant humanitarian crisis, the response from the global bioethics' community seems muted (Shekhani & Jafarey, 2024). This silence can be partly explained by editorial restraints that may prevent a more robust response from the health community towards the Gaza crisis (1).

Health professionals are uniquely positioned to influence policy decisions and advocate for equitable healthcare. They possess specialized knowledge of medical ethics and healthcare structures, enabling them to champion the causes of the vulnerable and reduce disparities across society (2). Physicians, trained in evidence-based medicine, can ensure that policy decisions are grounded in scientific research rather than political expediency (Fernandes, 2024). The medical community's silence regarding the Gaza crisis is troubling. Healthcare workers in Gaza are targeted, and doctors work without essential medicines and resources, risking their lives for the population they serve (3). The current health sector in Gaza is at a breaking point, exacerbating the public health crisis and psychological trauma experienced by the residents (Fernandes, 2024).

The Gaza situation demonstrates the connection between human rights and health. Despite this, the ongoing violence in Gaza prevents many residents from having access to healthcare, which is a fundamental human right. Medical experts' specialized skills and unique perspectives will be invaluable in the struggle for Palestinians' right to health. As they repeatedly illustrate how healthcare can overcome obstacles, their actions uphold the values of medical ethics, empathy, and perseverance (4). The crisis in Gaza requires a unified and vocal response from the global health professional community. By raising our voices and advocating for equitable healthcare and human rights, we honor the legacy of doctors who have laid down their lives in the line of duty and serve humanity in ways that inspire unity and strength. It is imperative that the world break its silence on Gaza's predicament while acknowledging the vital roles that healthcare professionals perform (5). With support for these initiatives and the identification of the factors that gave rise to this animosity, we may pave the road for a time when Gazans receive the healthcare they are entitled to. Suffering may be lessened, and Palestine could have long-lasting peace and health equity with united fronts and unwavering spirits.

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