

GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Right to Health in Times of War

12.09.26 | 9:30-17:00

REFUGIO, BERLIN



medico international

Overview

9:30 Arrival and Registration

10:00 Opening and Welcome
by IPPNW and medico international

10:15 Keynote Speech + Q&A
Medicine Under Attack: Why Every Health Professional Has a Role in Protecting Health Care
Christina Wille, Insecurity Insight & Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Workshops I
Regional Perspectives on Health and Psychosocial Support Under Conditions of War

1) Community Response Amid the Collapse of Sudan's Health System: Emergency Response Rooms as a First Line of Defense During War
Hind Altaif, Emergency Response Rooms

2) Psychosocial Support and Health Access in War-affected Ukraine: Lessons from ROKADA's Community-Based Response
Ivanna Prytko, ROKADA

3) Targeted Attacks on Health Infrastructure and Health Care Workers in Lebanon
Dr. Zeina Mohanna, Amel Association International

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Lecture

Lessons from the WHO Attacks on Health
Care Initiative

Dr. Dalia Samhouri, WHO Health Emergencies
Programme, Headquarters

14:30 – 15:30 Workshops II

**Perspectives on Resistance, Solidarity,
and Peace Work Beyond the War Zones**

4) Bearing Witness: The Role of Public
Health as a Moral Third

Prof. Yudit Namer, University of Twente

5) Strengthening the Resilience of the German
Healthcare System – Any Objections?

Dr. Christof Schaefer, IPPNW

6) Solidarity with Palestinian Health Workers

Qassem Massri, Pediatric Clinic Berlin Buch,
and Dr. Laura Schlemmer, medsolidar

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Closing Panel and Discussion

17:00 End of Conference

Abstracts

10:15 Keynote Speech

Medicine Under Attack: Why Every Health Professional Has a Role in Protecting Health Care

Christina Wille, Insecurity Insight & Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

Drawing on Insecurity Insight's unique data on attacks against healthcare, Christina Wille examines the alarming rise in violence against health systems in contexts of war and armed conflict. The keynote explores why and how attacks on healthcare are increasing, what this means for humanitarian action and accountability, and why protecting health systems has become a critical public health challenge. It concludes by looking at what stakeholders, including health professionals and civil society can do to better protect healthcare in conflict.

11:30 – 13:00 Workshops I

1) Community Response Amid the Collapse of Sudan's Health System: Emergency Response Rooms as a First Line of Defense During War

Hind Altaif, Emergency Response Rooms

The workshop explores the impact of the war in Sudan on its health system, including the targeting of healthcare facilities and health workers. Hind Altaif examines the role of Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) and other community-led initiatives as vital sources of protection and support in the absence of essential public services. The session highlights how grassroots responses fill critical gaps left by the collapse of state institutions, as well as the central role women play in coordinating humanitarian action and responding to health needs under exceptionally challenging conditions.

2) Psychosocial Support and Health Access in War-affected Ukraine: Lessons from ROKADA's Community-Based Response

Ivanna Prytko, ROKADA

Ivanna Prytko shares insights from the work of ROKADA in supporting refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, and families of veterans across different regions of Ukraine. Drawing on their experience providing psychosocial support and assistance, the session explores the diverse health needs of different groups and settings, including the challenges faced by caregivers themselves. It will highlight the importance of community-based approaches in sustaining support, strengthening resilience, and fostering recovery amid war.

3) Targeted Attacks on Health Infrastructure and Health Care Workers in Lebanon

Dr. Zeina Mohanna, Amel Association International

Zeina Mohanna, Head of Programs and Partnerships at Amel Association International, assesses the consequences of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, which have been ongoing for nearly three years. She focuses in particular on the issue of targeted attacks on health infrastructure and the killing of health care workers and the question how Amel, Lebanon's largest medical nongovernmental organization, is strategically coping with this matter.

14:00 Lecture

Lessons from the WHO Attacks on Health Care Initiative

Dr. Dalia Samhuri, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, Headquarters

Attacks on health care pose a significant and growing threat to health workers, patients, health facilities and essential health services in conflict and emergency settings. Drawing on global evidence from WHO's Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), this presentation examines the scale, patterns and impact of attacks, as well as WHO's role in monitoring and translating evidence into action. It explores practical approaches to protecting health care by reducing exposure and vulnerability, maintaining essential services and integrating protection more systematically into health emergency preparedness and response.

14:30 – 15:30 Workshops II

4) Bearing Witness: The Role of Public Health as a Moral Third

Prof. Yudit Namer, University of Twente

Drawing on Jessica Benjamin's concept of the moral third, this workshop explores the ethical position of the witness who recognizes the relationship between structural violence and human suffering, creating the conditions for responsibility rather than denial or retaliation. It examines how the moral third dignifies suffering by affirming victims as grievable lives and offers a way beyond polarized „us versus them“

frameworks through an ethics of recognition. Participants will explore how these ideas can inform practice by cultivating the capacity to remain present to suffering with compassion, humility, and ethical accountability.

5) Strengthening the Resilience of the German Healthcare System – Any Objections?

Dr. Christof Schaefer, IPPNW

Christof Schaefer examines the growing trend towards preparing German healthcare institutions, particularly hospitals, for potential war scenarios. The session explores planned measures such as protected infrastructure, stockpiling of critical supplies, and workforce planning, while discussing the opportunities and potential unintended consequences of adapting healthcare systems for wartime preparedness, including questions around civil-military cooperation and the future role of healthcare in crisis situations.

6) Solidarity with Palestinian Health Workers

**Qassem Massri, Pediatric Clinic Berlin Buch
and Dr. Laura Schlemmer, medsolidar**

How does one deal with an ongoing genocide that affects friends and family, presumed to have received political and military support by one's own government? And what role do medical professionals play in speaking out when colleagues abroad are attacked and killed? The workshop focusses on community responses in Germany against the backdrop of the genocide in Gaza.

VENUE :
REFUGIO BERLIN
LENAUSTR. 3-4
12047 BERLIN

PARTICIPATION FEE :
30 € STANDARD / 10 € REDUCED

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