



**AEPC**

Association for European Paediatric  
and Congenital Cardiology

# AEPC Statement on children in war zones

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## AEPC Statement on children in war zones

As the Association for European Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology (AEPC), the largest paediatric cardiology organisation globally, we are dedicated to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of children, adolescents and adults with congenital and acquired heart disease, as well as to support the professionals who care for them across the globe.

As both a scientific and ethical community, we are profoundly troubled by the devastating humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts. Across the world, we are witnessing an immense toll on civilians, particularly children, who are always the most vulnerable in times of war. The destruction of healthcare infrastructure, obstruction of access to medical care, and the severe psychological and physical trauma endured by children are deeply alarming.

While the AEPC does not engage in political debate, we cannot remain silent when children's lives and futures are endangered. We stand firmly by our values of compassion, equity, and peace, and voice our deep concern for all (children) affected by violence and conflict, irrespective of their country, ethnicity, nationality, or faith.

We urgently call for the immediate protection of civilians (paediatric and adult), unhindered humanitarian access, and for the delivery of essential medical and psychosocial support in every conflict-affected area. We appeal to governments, international organisations, and all parties involved to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, to safeguard the lives and futures of children, and to work relentlessly toward peaceful, lasting solutions.

The wellbeing of children everywhere must remain a universal and uncompromising priority.

We also recognize the pain, fear, and loss experienced by families and medical professionals on all sides of these conflicts. In this climate of division, AEPC will remain a space for respectful dialogue, shared responsibility, and unwavering solidarity with colleagues working under extraordinarily difficult conditions to care for children in war zones.

We invite our members and partner societies to join in upholding the principle that every child, everywhere, deserves to grow up in peace, with access to healthcare, and to live free from violence.