

Dear Dr Aram,

I am writing on behalf of a group of psychotherapists and other mental health professionals, many of whom have, over the years, benefitted from the activities of TIHR, especially in attending your Group Relations conferences.

Our attention has been drawn to the following conference to be held in Israel in February by OFEK, an organisation with which you are in partnership. [Recalculating: Authority, Identity, & Belonging in Times of Tectonic Upheaval](#) The conference material displays the TIHR logo and declares the event to be run in association with you.

We could, however, find no notice of this upcoming event on your own website, despite the previous OFEK conference in March 2023 still being posted. This may imply that you are aware of the gross insensitivity and inappropriateness of co-sponsoring an event in Israel at a time when its army is engaged in war crimes in Gaza, where the death toll has now exceeded 21,000, where life sustaining infrastructure has been destroyed and the population rendered homeless and starving. It is also inappropriate when over 300 Palestinians have been killed on the West Bank since October 7th and land appropriation and ethnic cleansing by armed settlers proceeds unimpeded. The same army that perpetrates or permits these atrocities is the one under whose 'guidelines' the OFEK conference organisers state it will be conducted.

We write to urge you to publically disassociate TIHR from this conference. We attach a letter sent out by our colleagues in the USA, to which our own network is also a signatory. This call for the conference to be boycotted is, in our view, part of our moral imperative a) to stand alongside our Palestinian colleagues who are living and working under conditions of apartheid, and b) to be part of a global non-violent movement in civil society that is required to step in

when our governments fail to hold Israel to account or restrain it in any meaningful way and, indeed, collude in the unfolding genocide being visited upon the Palestinian people.

We, of course, hold fast to the principle that debate and dialogue across conflictual positions are key components of therapeutic practice but the context within which this conference is planned to take place renders such assertions both arrogant and fraudulent as well as profoundly insulting to our embattled Palestinian colleagues.

Please reassure us and them that you will not support this event.

We look forward to your reply

With best wishes,

Gwyn Daniel

Systemic Psychotherapist and Trainer

UK Palestine Mental Health Network