

Dr Aram,

Thank you for your reply. I note that you 'share the world's sorrow and shock at the loss of lives and condemn all atrocities and attacks on the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable communities across Gaza and in Israel' Has this statement/ condemnation been published anywhere on your social media platforms?

You state that your organisation is non-political but it must be obvious to you that the choice of locations within which you co-sponsor an event is inevitably political. Being associated with an event in a country that is currently committing war crimes on an epic scale and is currently accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice can hardly count as apolitical. Would you support an event in Myanmar or Syria or Russia when you knew it could not take place unless authorised by the army?

You mention your mission as being to "better working life and conditions for people within their organisations, communities and broader societies"- an aspiration that surely requires a rigorous ethical evaluation of the context in which you are operating. Are you suggesting that a conference such as this can contribute towards bettering the lives of Palestinians rather than being complicit in their marginalisation, dehumanisation and exclusion? How can the aim of "providing places and spaces where, despite all atrocities and cruelty, it is possible to connect as humans" possibly be realised when not only are Palestinians inevitably excluded from the process but the event is conducted according to the guidelines of the very army that is currently massacring them in their tens of thousands in Gaza and in their hundreds on the West bank. Clearly, in supporting this conference you are aiding and abetting an organisation that is doing the very opposite of the declared aim of connecting as humans because it is knowingly hosting it in a context of severe repression of dissenting views, restrictions on movement and apartheid practices. How is that morally supportable in an apolitical organisation? You state that OFEK is an independent organisation to TIHR and that you "believe" they share the same values and sentiments as TIHR but your website claims them as an international partner and you must be aware that your logo appears beside OFEK's in their conference notice (see attached photograph) This makes your organisation complicit in an event which is based within a system of structural racism. Would TIHR organise a conference in a situation where you would knowingly exclude - for example - black women or muslim therapists?

You may not agree with boycott but this is a situation of such enormity that no organisation which claims to be ethical could possibly lend its name to an event describing its purposes in neutral interpersonal terms while what many international lawyers term genocide is currently underway. Please assure us that you have dissociated TIHR from this event

Yours sincerely

Gwyn Daniel

UK Palestine Mental Health Network