

## CUGH Press Release

March 20, 2026

### **Stop the Bombing of Iran, Lebanon and Palestine**

Tens of thousands of civilians, including large numbers of children have been killed or injured as a consequence of ongoing military actions in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, and other Middle East countries. This has also caused:

- Widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure
- The deaths of hundreds of healthcare workers and journalists
- Environmental contamination with toxic materials that may have long term health consequences
- Damage to cultural and historical sites, including UNESCO World Heritage locations

The Scale and intensity of these events are contributing to a deepening humanitarian crisis, with profound consequences for population health, health systems, and regional and global stability.

The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) joins the call of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in urging an immediate ceasefire across these areas of conflict and a cessation of hostilities. We call for:

- The protection of civilians, healthcare workers, and critical infrastructure
- The rapid establishment of safe and sustained humanitarian access to affected populations
- Coordinated international efforts to ensure access to medical care, food, water and shelter

CUGH further emphasizes the importance of diplomatic engagement and multilateral cooperation to achieve sustainable peace and long-term security in the region. As a global network committed to advancing health, CUGH underscores that the protection of human life and health must remain central to all international activities.

For More Information Contact:

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