

## Statement on Conflict Zones and the Protection of Healthcare

---

Escalating conflict around the world continues to cause devastating loss of life, injury, and displacement, placing civilians under immense strain and disrupting access to healthcare.

All people have the right to access safe healthcare.<sup>i</sup> Medical neutrality must be upheld in all conflict zones, and no paramedic or healthcare worker should fear for their safety simply for providing care.

International law makes it clear that healthcare must be protected during conflict.<sup>ii</sup> This means paramedics and other health workers must be able to do their jobs safely, without being targeted or harmed. Ambulances, medical facilities, and patients must be respected and protected, regardless of who they are or where they are from. These rules exist to ensure paramedics and other health workers can provide care humanely, safely, and without discrimination, even in the most dangerous environments.<sup>iii</sup>

The Australasian College of Paramedicine (the College) affirms its position<sup>iv</sup> has not changed. The College strongly condemns attacks on paramedics, other healthcare professionals, humanitarian aid workers, and healthcare facilities in conflict zones. We continue to call for sustained international action to protect healthcare workers and ensure uninterrupted access to care for civilians.

The College acknowledges the profound distress caused by ongoing conflicts and recognises paramedics and healthcare workers providing life-saving care under extraordinarily challenging conditions.

The College remains committed to the safety, protection, and wellbeing of paramedics and healthcare colleagues worldwide. We thank our members who contacted the College to share their views.

The College recognises that conflict in any setting has a significant impact on those directly and indirectly affected. Members experiencing distress are encouraged to access available support, including employer-provided peer support and employee assistance services. A list of these can be found on our website [here](#).

---

<sup>i</sup> World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Human rights and health*. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-rights-and-health>

---

<sup>ii</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. (1949). *Geneva Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field*, Article 19: Protection of medical units and establishments. Available from: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-19>

<sup>iii</sup> World Health Organization. (n.d.). *In the line of fire: Protecting health in armed conflict*. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/in-the-line-of-fire--protecting-health-in-armed-conflict>

<sup>iv</sup> Australasian College of Paramedicine. (2024). *Position statement: Protection of paramedics and other healthcare and aid workers in conflict zones*. Available from: <https://paramedics.org/news/position-statement-protection-of-paramedics-and-other-healthcare-and-aid-workers-in-conflict-zones>