



**nzmsa**

New Zealand Medical Students' Association  
C/- PO Box 156  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

[www.nzmsa.org.nz](http://www.nzmsa.org.nz)

### **Stance on Humanitarian Crises Beyond our Borders**

This statement is to acknowledge the messages and queries from medical students around the nation around NZMSA and its key partners' (Te Oranga, OUMSA, DMSAA, CMSA, WHPSA, and AUMSA) response to humanitarian crises beyond our borders. From the devastation in Gaza, to the escalating crisis in Lebanon, the civil war in Sudan, the Russo-Ukrainian War, and the ongoing struggles in the Democratic Republic of Congo just to name a few—these are not just political issues; they are urgent humanitarian emergencies that demand compassion, kindness, and action.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza, exacerbated by the ongoing restrictions of humanitarian aid entering and circulating within the region, has led to the widespread destruction of health infrastructure, the loss of over 45,000 lives<sup>1</sup>, and the displacement of 1.9 million people<sup>2</sup>, posing a profound threat to human welfare. Such devastation undermines the core principles of healthcare, which are centred on preserving life, alleviating suffering, and ensuring access to medical care for all. While a temporary ceasefire has been agreed upon, we urgently call for a permanent ceasefire to end the ongoing devastation in Gaza and the West Bank.

As the medical workforce of tomorrow, service and advocacy are at the heart of our profession. We have a duty to uplift the wellbeing of our communities, particularly in times of crisis. This statement aims to provide transparency on the actions NZMSA has taken to address issues such as this, and our plans moving forward into 2025.

While we recognise that a response may seem delayed, NZMSA wants to assure you that we have been actively seeking meaningful ways to contribute and we acknowledge the distress this has caused for students. Given the scale and complexity of these crises and the limitations of our organization in addressing such a large-scale issue, we have focused on identifying tangible and impactful avenues of support. As a result of this, in 2024 we launched a **fundraising campaign through our frog pins**, where all of the profits will be donated to **Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)**, ensuring direct support for those in need. While no single effort can address all the suffering, we believe that this is a step toward making a difference.

Suffering knows no borders: lives are being lost, and communities are being torn apart. When individuals are denied fundamental human rights—access to clean water, medical care, education, and safety—we simply cannot look away. Those of us who have the privilege of security and stability have a moral obligation to extend our support.

We invite you to join us in this effort. You can contribute by purchasing a **frog pin** through our website, and if you have ideas on how NZMSA and its partners can further enhance its support initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we can uphold the values of empathy, service, and compassion.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Hartono  
President  
New Zealand Medical Students' Association

<sup>1</sup> UN News - Global Perspective Human Stories. Gaza death toll passes 45,000 as UN school suffers new deadly strike. United Nations [Internet]. 2024 Dec 16 [cited 2025 Mar 3]; Available from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158206>

<sup>2</sup> Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) on Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) [Internet]. 2024 Sep [cited 2025 Mar 3]. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/public-health-situation-analysis-phsa-hostilities-occupied-palestinian-territory-opt-23-september-2024>



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Te Rato Leach  
Tumuaki  
Te Oranga

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Lavin', positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel Lavin  
President  
Auckland University Medical Students' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus Campbell', positioned above a horizontal line.

Marcus Campbell  
President (ELM)  
Otago University Medical Students' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruby Hosking', positioned above a horizontal line.

Ruby Hosking  
President  
Dunedin Medical Students Association for ALM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Divyani Gamalath', positioned above a horizontal line.

Divyani Gamalath  
President  
Wellington Health Professional Students Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Walker', positioned above a horizontal line.

Max Walker  
President  
Christchurch Medical Students' Association