



CED STATEMENT

Violations of Medical Neutrality and Protection of Healthcare Professionals in Conflict Zones

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association representing over 340,000 dentists across Europe.

The CED draws attention to the critical and growing restrictions to humanitarian aid and violations of medical neutrality in various areas affected by war and armed conflict. This includes a surge in the targeting of medical professionals, aid workers and healthcare facilities in 2025, exceeding the UN-recorded number of 900 health workers killed in 2024.

The current acute conflict-driven humanitarian crises deprive countless people of food, medicines, and healthcare worldwide, while affecting the most vulnerable populations and exposing health professionals to unacceptable risks as they deliver primary and urgent care.

The CED strongly condemns the deliberate targeting of medical and dental professionals and facilities and stands in solidarity with global civil society in calling for the unwavering respect of health neutrality, alongside the systematic protection of civilian and military healthcare workers delivering care on the frontlines.

Restricting humanitarian and medical assistance has severe consequences: lifesaving treatments are delayed, preventable conditions go untreated, and communities already under strain are pushed further into crisis. Neglecting oral health not only exacerbates overall health problems but also reduces quality of life and places an immense burden on healthcare systems in post-war recovery.

The CED therefore:

- Calls on EU Institutions and Member States to take concrete actions systematically condemning violations of medical neutrality and the targeting of healthcare professionals, facilities and civilians. This includes the removal of all restrictions on humanitarian and medical aid, including life-saving treatments as well as dental care.
- Urges the EU community to increase support to independent and impartial health organisations that continue to deliver vital food, medicines and dental services.
- Supports the essential role of dentists in war and conflict zones, delivering direct care and assistance in the treatment of wider injuries involving the oral cavity.