



# Press Release

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**Contact for Doctors Against Genocide:**

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[\[Check here for photos/videos of actions around the world to be uploaded on Jan 6 and onward\]](#) Look for social media posts with **#SickFromGenocide**

**US Healthcare workers Declare “Sick From Genocide” Leave**

**Host “Pop-up clinics for Sickness from Genocide”**

Who:

Healthcare workers and workers in the United States, Canada and Around the World. This event is organized by [Doctors Against Genocide](#), and cosponsored by [Healthcare Workers for Palestine](#), [Palestinian Youth Movement](#), [Do No Harm Coalition](#), [Labor for Palestine](#), and [Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council](#) and many others.

What:

**Healthcare workers across the United States, Canada and around the world will take a “#SickFromGenocide” mental health leave** to reflect on the immense moral injury of funding a genocide and engage in the most important aspect of treatment: publicly demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza. January 6 itself will be a national and Global Day of Action, with demonstrations, pickets, and free clinics to advocate for an end to the genocide. **Organizers will post on social media using #SickFromGenocide.**



When:

**January 6, 2025**, although some individuals may take longer leave

Where:

In Cities and towns across the United States, Canada and around the world

**Sick From Genocide Global Vigil:**

**Global Live Stream: On Monday**, January 6, 2025, at 11:00 AM ET. Register for the zoom [here](#) or watch live on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

**Sick From Genocide POP UP CLINICS** in multiple cities

**Local Press Events and Conferences:**

**New York:**

**New York City, NY:** 2:00 PM Press Conference. NYU Tisch Hospital 550 1st avenue, Manhattan, New York.

**California:**

**Palo Alto, CA:** 10:00 AM Press Conference and Inauguration of Kamal Adwan Pop Up Free Clinic for the Treatment of Sickness from Genocide in front of Li Ka Shing Learning and Knowledge Center 291 Campus Drive, Stanford, CA 94305

**San Francisco, CA:** 11:00 AM Press Conference and Rally. San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. 1001 Potrero Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110.

**Massachusetts**

**Boston, MA: 12 Noon EST** Press Conference, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 15 Francis St. Boston, MA 02115

**Minnesota**

**Minneapolis:** 10:30 AM CST Vigil. Stewart Park (2700 12th Ave S) across from Abbott Hospital



## Oregon

**Portland, OR:** 5:00 PM Vigil. OHSU Lower tram terminal—in front of OHSU Center for Health and Healing, 3303 S. Bond Ave.

## Michigan

**Detroit:** Wayne State University / Detroit Medical Center and University of Michigan Health System. Details to be announced.

## Why?

**On January 6, 2025**, healthcare workers across the US, Canada and around the world will join Doctors Against Genocide in standing against the ongoing genocide and human rights violations in Gaza. On this day, we will collectively step away from our work, taking a mental health sick leave as we confront the unbearable grief, moral injury, and trauma of witnessing the systematic destruction of lives, communities, and healthcare systems.

For 15 months, we have watched in horror as children and families have been obliterated by unrelenting attacks. Hospitals, the bedrock of life-saving care, have been turned into death traps. The recent [bombing and burning of Kamal Adwan Hospital](#) and the [arrest of our colleague the pediatrician Dr. Hussam Abu-Safiya](#), exemplify the deliberate targeting of healthcare workers and facilities—tactics designed to accelerate the annihilation and forced displacement of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

**We are sick. Sick from the genocide. Sick from the silence and complicity of our medical institutions.** National medical associations and academic journals **swiftly and** appropriately condemned Russia's attacks on healthcare and civilian targets in Ukraine and other humanitarian crises. Universities such as MIT ended research relationships with Russia overnight. These same institutions like AMA, AAP, APA and many others have remained overwhelmingly silent as Israel has systematically decimated the health system of Gaza and killed [more children in the past year than in any conflict this century](#). Despite the fact that [61% of US voters support an arms embargo against Israel](#), our elected leaders continue to send our tax dollars to support horrific atrocities. [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Doctors without Borders](#) and an [independent UN commission](#) have all concluded that Israel is committing **genocide in Gaza**.



## Why healthcare workers?

Healthcare workers are part of the backbone of humanitarian response, yet we are being systematically targeted. Israel has killed over 1000 Palestinian healthcare workers (more than in any other conflict in a single year, since the World Health Organization started keeping track), and detained, tortured, and sexually assaulted many more. The international community has failed to act, and we cannot accept this utter dehumanization and flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law as the new normal.

## What Does “Sick From Genocide” Mean?

“Sick from Genocide” reflects the immense moral injury, emotional trauma, and grief experienced by those witnessing these atrocities. We cannot function as healers while knowing that the destruction of lives and futures is not just ignored but actively supported, as our tax dollars finance them. The US government has sent over [\\$310 billion US Tax dollars](#) to Israel which supports Israelis having universal healthcare, while here in the US, health insurance corporations deny care to our patients and leave them wracked with debt as their CEOs make record profits. The only cure is an end to genocide, justice for the victims, and accountability for those responsible, and spending our tax dollars on housing, healthcare and education, **NOT** genocide and occupation.

## Our Message to the World:

We will not remain silent. We demand action to end the genocide, including an immediate arms embargo on Israel, as the [United States supplies 70% of Israel's weapons](#). We call upon our colleagues, institutions, and national associations to join us in demanding an end to attacks on healthcare, the release of Dr. Abu Safiya and the [450 healthcare workers](#) illegally held in Israeli detention and torture centers, an immediate end to the genocide, accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and unhindered, unconditional humanitarian aid and reconstruction in Gaza.

As healthcare workers, we are stepping away from our work not to abandon our duty but to highlight the urgent need for global intervention. **This is not just a call for justice in Gaza—it is a call for the preservation of our collective humanity.**



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**Doctors Against Genocide** is a global coalition of healthcare workers dedicated to succeeding where global governments have failed in confronting and preventing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Healthcare workers for Palestine is a rapidly growing movement with chapters in over 40 US states, advocating for an end to the genocide and justice in Palestine.

Website: [www.doctorsagainstgenocide.org](http://www.doctorsagainstgenocide.org)

Social Media: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [X](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)