



HEALTH WORKERS  
**4PALESTINE**



Dr Stirling Moorey,  
President,  
British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies  
Imperial House  
Hornby Street  
Bury  
BL9 5BN

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Dear Dr Moorey,

I am writing to you as you prepare to host the European Association for Cognitive and Behavioural Psychotherapy conference in Glasgow next week. I note that the conference will be *“highlighting the importance of the human and scientific connections that form the bedrock of progress in science and practice in CBT<sup>i</sup>”*.

The groups behind this letter strive to support the development of health and healthcare in Palestine; human and scientific connections are fundamental to that effort. We have many connections with colleagues in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and we therefore know, sadly, of many healthcare practitioners who have been killed, injured or detained during the Israeli onslaught in Gaza. Members who have spent time in Gaza are familiar with hospitals and clinics there which have been damaged and destroyed in Israel’s relentless and systematic assault. You may already know that the UN-commissioned Independent International Inquiry<sup>ii</sup> investigating this situation concluded *“that Israel has implemented a concerted policy to destroy the healthcare system of Gaza.”*

Investigating South Africa’s allegation that Israel is carrying out a genocide, the International Court of Justice issued provisional measures<sup>iii</sup> in January 2024 including requirements that Israel prevent killing, prevent causing serious bodily or mental harm to Palestinians, prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide and take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli government has not only rejected these measures but has continued to kill and injure civilians in Gaza, to destroy infrastructure and to prevent the delivery of basic services and humanitarian assistance. Against that background many organisations, including Amnesty International, and eminent figures, including Ms Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur for Palestine, and Mr John Swinney, Scotland's First Minister, have taken the view that the state of Israel is conducting a genocide in Gaza. This is a view shared by the four groups endorsing this letter.

BABCP as an organisation is committed to improving mental health. In Gaza we see a health crisis of almost unimaginable proportions. The impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the population is likely to reverberate for generations. That is why we ask you, as President of BABCP, to address this matter explicitly and unambiguously in the opening session of the forthcoming conference with a condemnation of the killing by Israel of Palestinians civilians and the deliberate destruction of health infrastructure. Condemnation without reservation of this violent and deadly expression of anti-Palestinian racism which the world has witnessed in the last 22 months would be entirely in keeping with BABCP's published commitment<sup>iv</sup> "*to challenging and eradicating racism*".

Finally, we note that the Israeli Association for Behavioural Cognitive Therapy is a current member of the EABCT and that Israeli delegates are addressing this conference. It is therefore important, at this time of growing calls for a boycott of Israeli academics and their institutions, that delegates, especially those from Israel, are under no illusion about the position of BABCP in relation to Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Graham Bryce FRCPsych  
*Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist*

On behalf of **Scottish Palestinian Health Partnership, Health Workers 4 Palestine, Psychiatrists for Palestine and PalMed.**

*Copy to Mr T McIlravey, BABCP CEO*

*Please reply to the author at [info@scotpalhp.org](mailto:info@scotpalhp.org)*

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#### <sup>i</sup>*References*

<sup>i</sup> <https://eabct2025.org>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/report-independent-international-commission-inquiry-occupied-palestinian-territory-including-east-jerusalem-and-israel-a79232-enarruzhhe>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://babcp.com/babcp-anti-racism-statement/>