



CPME/AD/GA/081103/1/EN/fr

At its General Assembly, Vienna, November 08<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the CPME adopted the following policy : **Resolution on War, Victims of Warfare, Healthcare and the role of the Medical Profession**(CPME 2003/183 Final EN/fr)

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## RESOLUTION ON WAR, VICTIMS OF WARFARE, HEALTHCARE AND THE ROLE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Whereas:

- Peace is an essential pre-requisite for the health of both individuals and populations (ref. WHO/UNESCO Alma-Ata declaration)
- The new draft EU constitution incorporates the Charter of Fundamental Human Rights which enshrines respect for human life among its core values
- Doctors have an ethical responsibility to alleviate physical and mental suffering, and to preserve and protect human life
- War is destructive of individuals, societal infrastructure and health care systems
- International agreements and laws exist regarding the conduct of warfare
- Currently there are conflicts in many continents that are causing horrendous civilian casualties, destroying the infrastructure of those societies and resulting in the erosion of many of the essential moral values of human life

The CPME believes that:

- Doctors cannot and should not remain silent to the tremendous human casualties and damage to moral values caused by warfare and conflict
- Every reasonable effort should be made by national governments and international organisations to prevent war
- The protection of non-combatants - in particular children and other especially vulnerable groups - and health care personnel and facilities

**MUST** always be respected

- All parties to a conflict **MUST** respect their obligations in terms of the evacuation, treatment, welfare and repatriation of wounded combatants
- In the event of war participants **MUST** make every attempt to minimise the damage to healthcare systems and other essential public health infrastructure, e.g. water and sewerage systems
- All efforts must be made to end war as speedily as possible with the least possible loss of life
- The international community should do everything in its power to assist in the reconstruction of affected communities
- The role of the medical profession at national and international levels is to encourage governments to respect the above principles, to assist with the provision of humanitarian aid, to alleviate human suffering, to assist with reconstruction and to support colleagues in affected communities

The CPME will therefore:

- Itself lobby national governments and international organisations to honour these ethical and legal principles
- Lobby the Inter-Governmental Conference on the EU Constitution to incorporate these ethical and legal principles within member states, the European institutions and at a global level
- Make this statement widely accessible