An Urgent 7-Point Plan to End the Killings and Violence in Palestine and Israel

As members of the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) and as peacebuilders, mediators, human rights activists, and community leaders living and working at the frontlines of many of today’s devastating wars, we offer our condolences to all who have lost loved ones in Palestine and in Israel. We, too, live with the pain and loss of war, and our hearts break with yours.

We also know that when violence begets more violence, and extremism begets more extremism, it is the innocent people who pay the highest price. Thousands of civilians—men, women, and children—have already been killed and maimed.

Why?

How many more have to die before you all realize that war and violence are never the answer?

This has to stop.

To our political leaders, we ask that you have the moral courage to collectively:

1. Demand a ceasefire now by all parties to stop this unfolding genocidal violence;
2. Ensure urgent and immediate delivery of aid to all Gazans to break the siege;
3. Halt the violence of settlers and the Israeli Defense Forces in the West Bank against Palestinians;
4. Immediately release all Israeli civilians being held hostage in Gaza and all Palestinian civilians incarcerated in Israel, especially women and children;
5. Be fair, factual, and balanced in the analysis and language you use. The words you choose can help mitigate and heal our trauma, or they can inflame and harm us all;
6. Engage in direct high level conflict prevention by visiting Israel and Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank) to pay condolences to grieving families and to prompt an immediate ceasefire; and
7. Initiate a new process of radical inclusive diplomacy and bi-national dialogues ensuring the full inclusion of Palestinian and Israeli peacebuilding organizations. These groups have sought and found humanity in each other and built bridges, engaged in difficult dialogues and found shared solutions without resorting to violence. Their experience is essential for a future of equal coexistence.

We need you to act with urgency and purpose. As peacebuilders and as individuals fighting for peace every day, we stand ready to support, advise, and enable a pathway to a future that is peaceful and just for Palestinians and Israelis.

Please do not let inaction be your legacy at this pivotal moment in history.

We as peacebuilders are ready to support in any possible way.

Signed,
Members of the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)