



## President's message on the Middle East

October 20, 2023

To the UT Southwestern Community:

In the week since I last wrote to the campus, widespread violence has tragically continued to mount in the war between Israel and Hamas. I write again to express sorrow for all the victims and mourn the loss of life, Israeli and Palestinian, especially those innocents, including many children and elderly, who have been casualties of the fighting, as well as the evolving humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Sadly, it seems clear that many more are likely to suffer in the days ahead. These developments are all the more painful because they follow decades of unresolved conflict that has resulted in enormous suffering by both Palestinians and Israelis.

Having heard from members of our UTSW community this past week, I know that there are indeed among us some who have had loved ones and friends injured and killed, and I offer my deepest sympathy for your pain. I have also heard from students, faculty, and staff with connections to either Israel or the Palestinian community that the developments in the Middle East have left them emotionally unsettled and concerned for their own safety. Now, as ever, it is essential that we live our values of compassion and respect for all on our campus and all communities. I again encourage those who are struggling to cope with this anguishing time to reach out and consider taking advantage of the resources available to you, including our 24/7 Employee Support Line (855-420-0734). Students may seek support from the Student Wellness and Counseling Center at 214-645-8680.

For those concerned about safety, I want to reemphasize that UT Southwestern is committed to ensuring both the physical safety of all – our learners, faculty, staff, and visitors – and a supportive environment in which everyone is treated with dignity and kindness, and where diverse points of view can be safely expressed.

At this time, I hope and pray that the recent escalation in violence in the long-running conflict will come to a rapid end, and that a path to a truly lasting peace for all the people of the region will follow. We honor the humanity of everyone in the Middle East as we do for all communities at home. Here at UT Southwestern, we should continue to be guided by our values, which call for respect for all and – especially at this time – compassion for those among us who are suffering from this unfolding tragedy.

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President  
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