

**Response by the Israeli Sociological Society
(ISS) to the International Sociological
Association's decision to suspend our
collective membership**

The Israeli Sociological Society (ISS) regrets the reality that has led to the International Sociological Association's decision to suspend our collective membership. We share the deep concern and anguish over the horrifying scale of destruction, death, and human suffering inflicted upon the people of Gaza by the Israeli government. We also share the hope for an end to the violence and war, for an agreement that will secure the release of all Israeli hostages, and for a just political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As sociologists and as citizens, many of us are engaged, within the constraints imposed on criticism from academia and civil society in Israel, in ongoing efforts to protest, document, and oppose the government's actions and policies. These efforts have

included public statements, participation in demonstrations, teaching and research that challenge dominant narratives, and solidarity with colleagues and communities under attack.

Nevertheless, within our community, there is a diversity of views on the ISA's decision and the broader question of academic suspension. Some among us believe that, in light of the unprecedented scale of devastation in Gaza and the Israeli government's responsibility for it, suspension is a legitimate act of protest. Others, however, experience the suspension as a misdirected punishment that fails to recognize the position of Israeli sociologists operating under growing political repression and shrinking democratic space. From this perspective, the suspension risks weakening one of the few remaining sites of critical resistance within Israeli society and may inadvertently strengthen right-wing efforts to suppress academic freedom. Some also argue that singling out a particular national association for suspension stands in tension

with the ISA's stated commitment to
"represent sociologists everywhere, regardless
of their school of thought, scientific
approaches or ideological opinion".

Despite these differences, we are united in our
concern for the lives and dignity of all peoples
in the region and our commitment to the role
of sociology as a critical and engaged
discipline during dark times. We remain
committed to international scholarly dialogue
and the shared task of challenging injustice
and hope that the ISA will reconsider its
decision in the future.