

**Rt Hon James Cleverly MP**

Secretary of State  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Sent via email

10 November 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary,

**Re. Targeting of medical facilities and personnel in Ukraine and ongoing global conflicts**

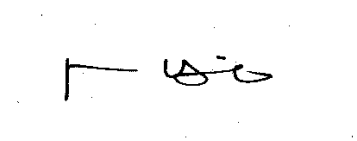
I am writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to raise our deepening concerns about the targeting of medical facilities and personnel in the ongoing war in Ukraine. We would urge you to use diplomatic routes to help uphold respect for international law and ensure the protection of patients and medical staff.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has [recently reported](#) the Russian shelling of medical facilities in Kherson, Ukraine. This is the second time this year that MSF has had to evacuate this hospital, with many patients being unable to relocate due to age and poor health. There can be little doubt that such targeting is utterly indifferent to the prohibitions of the laws of war. The BMA supports MSF in condemning such attacks on hospitals and reiterates its call for the protection of medical infrastructure amidst the war.

Although the Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law strictly forbid the targeting of protected health facilities, many combatants have increasingly shown a brutal willingness to target health infrastructure and personnel, with appalling consequences for the ill and wounded and the medical staff who support them.

As a medical association, with members and colleagues working in conflict zones globally, we urge you to take all necessary steps to reinforce respect for the Geneva Conventions – and medical impartiality – in Ukraine, and indeed across all global conflicts.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Jan Wise**

Chair, BMA Medical Ethics Committee

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