



19 November 2025

MK Zvika Fogel
Chairman, National Security Committee
The Knesset

**Subject: The Position of the Israeli Medical Association Regarding the Penal Code
(Amendment No. 159) (Death Penalty for Terrorists), 2025**

Yesterday, the National Security Committee held a discussion on the proposed Penal Code (Amendment No. 159) (Death Penalty for Terrorists), 2025.

Without addressing the substance of the proposed legislation itself, we must clarify that the position of the IMA Ethics Committee, as we presented in the National Security Committee, strictly prohibits any participation of physicians in determining, preparing for, or carrying out the death penalty.

A physician is meant to heal. He dedicates his knowledge, experience, and professional skills to caring for patients, alleviating their suffering, and restoring their health.

Accordingly, there is an absolute prohibition on Israeli physicians taking part, whether actively or passively, in executions-including evaluating fitness, participating in the administration of substances, monitoring vital signs, or providing technical consultation.

This position is based on a fundamental principle of medicine, rooted both in the Hebrew Physician's Oath: *"And you shall fully serve human life from its emergence from the mother's womb and the welfare of people will unceasingly be your ultimate consideration"*. The principle accepted throughout the Western world is that the purpose of medicine is to save lives, heal, and reduce suffering, not to take a life.



The Israeli Medical Association is committed to international conventions and fully adopts the principles of the World Medical Association (WMA). The WMA, through various resolutions, including the *WMA Resolution on Prohibition of Physician Participation in Capital Punishment*, determines that physician involvement in executions is ethically unacceptable at any stage, including planning or instruction. The resolution emphasizes that using medical knowledge for purposes other than promoting health and well-being undermines the ethical foundations of medicine.

Best regards,

Dr. Yossi Walfisch
Chair of the Ethics Committee, Israeli Medical Association