



## **We can build bridges between people**

Video Blog of the President of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

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– Check Against Delivery –

A month has passed since the Hamas terror attacks against Israel. These barbaric attacks and the subsequent war in Gaza have brought unimaginable suffering to people. At the Max Planck Society, many are affected as well. Our sympathy goes out to them, their families, their relatives and their friends.

Dear employees, your emails have shown me very clearly: We are all deeply shocked. We all see the victims of terror in Israel and the victims of the war in Gaza. How can we cope with such a situation? I think there is no simple answer.

But one thing is clear. And this is very important to me: We must stand united, especially now. People from 127 countries are part of the Max Planck Society. They all have different roots. They all have their own cultural backgrounds and they are all welcome. This is true, especially also for Israeli and Arab employees, for Jewish and Muslim coworkers.

When something horrible like this happens, it puts a burden on those who are affected. This is why it is so important that we show care for one another, especially now. Please be aware of the worries of those around you and please be ready to help. Also, I want to encourage those of you who are struggling with the impact to reach out for support. The Fürstenberg Institut offers psychological counseling in English, but also in Hebrew and in Arabic.

To me, the well-being of all employees is important. There is so much that unites us: The passion for research, the pursuit of truth, and the desire to live freely and to live responsibly. Please embrace this responsibility. Make an effort to verify information. Be open to change your perspective and engage with the opinions of others. In this way, we can cultivate greater understanding for one another.



In the current situation we should remember what a privilege it is to be in science. We get to connect with people from all over the world. We can learn from one another and we can contribute to building bridges between people. Please make use of this unique opportunity.