

October 16, 2023

## **An Open Letter Urging AASECT Support of Israeli Colleagues**

Dear Esteemed Members of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) Board,

With utmost respect and a profound sense of urgency, I, as the Chair of the Special Interest Group on Sexuality and Religion and a continuing education provider, pen this open letter to address a matter of great importance. In these turbulent times, the cries of our community have grown louder as we find ourselves haunted by the unimaginable events that have unfolded in Israel over the past week.

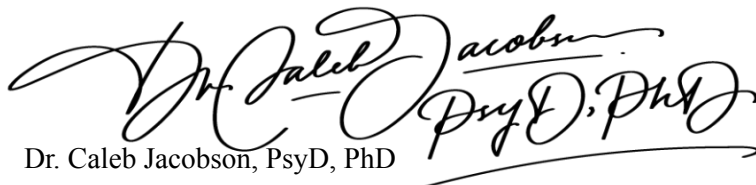
Over the past few days, I have heard from many of my colleagues with whom we have had deep conversations concerning the current situation. We have, with unwavering patience, awaited a sign of support from AASECT for our Israeli colleagues and members. The atrocities in Israel are a stark reminder of the fragility of human existence and the importance of solidarity. We have witnessed, in recent years, the organization's compassionate outreach to various causes, and we encourage the organization's dedication to advocating for human rights to be shown once again in light of the atrocities over the last few days.

As an organization that certifies individuals in Israel, it is the organization's responsibility to reach out in support of these members. Over the years, many have expressed being somewhat disenfranchised by AASECT, however, this serves as an important moment to affirm support and solidarity with our Israeli colleagues.

History has taught us the enduring importance of the phrase "Never Again." However, with the passing of years, the echo of that solemn vow has diminished. On October 7, 2023, the world witnessed a horrific event, marking the largest single-day loss of Jewish lives since the Holocaust. In this bleak moment, those signed below, stand united in our plea for AASECT to raise its voice in unwavering support of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

To choose not to act is, in itself, a powerful action. In this time of crisis, remaining silent would send a message of indifference. We urge you to issue a statement in support of Israel, our colleagues there, and the Jewish people's right to live peacefully in their ancestral homeland!

With sincere hope for a peaceful future,

  
Dr. Caleb Jacobson, PsyD, PhD

October 16, 2023

Signatures in Support of:  
An Open Letter Urging AASECT Support of Israeli Colleagues

Peggy J. Kleinplatz, Ph.D

*Stephanie Buehler, PsyD, CST-S, IF*

Dr. Stephanie Buehler, PsyD, CST, CST-S, IF

*Dr. Richelle Dadian, PsyD*

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*Shoshana Bulow*

Dr. Shoshana Bulow, PhD, LCSW, CST, CST-S

*Stefani Goerlich*

Stefani Goerlich, LMSW-C, LICW, LCSW, CST

*Susan Frantz*

Dr. Susan Frantz, EdD, CST

*Hanna Yerushalmi*

Hanna Yerushalmi, LCPC

*Karliese Greiner-Laurie*

Karliese Greiner-Laurie, LCSW-R, CST

*Matthew Lipari*

Matthew Lipari, LCSW

*Hani Miletski*

Hani Miletski, PhD, MSW, CST, CST-S

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Dr. Laurie Mintz, PhD

*Jim Pfaus*

Dr. Jim Pfaus, PhD, IF

*LaTanya E. Jones*

LaTanya E. Jones, MSM, NIC, MSW, MEd

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Dr. Samuel Krug, PhD, CST

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Bat Sheva Marcus, LCSW, PhD

*Rivka Sidorsky*

Rivka Sidorsky, LCSW-C, CST

*Talia Gutlove*

Talia Gutlove, LCSW

*Paula Leech*

Paula Leech, LMFT, CST, CST-S

*Markie L. C. Twist*

Markie L.C. Twist, LMFT, LMHC

*David B. Wohlsifer*

David B. Wohlsifer, Ph.D., LCSW

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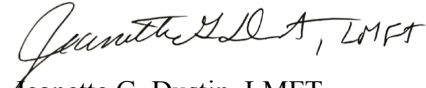
Amanda Jepson, LPC, CST, ACS



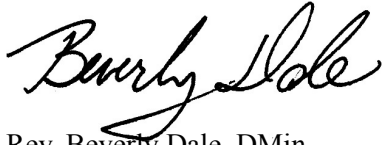
Lisa Gordon, LCSW, CST



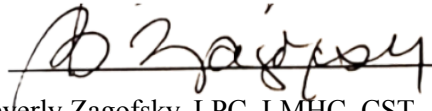
Richard Tripp, CMHC, CST



Jeanette G. Dustin, LMFT



Rev. Beverly Dale, DMin



Beverly Zagofsky, LPC, LMHC, CST