

GW Humanitarian Work Group Recommendation:  
**NGO & Partnerships**

**Title:** Group-Partnerships with NGOs and Other Humanitarian Organizations

**Authors:** Hadia Anaye, Hiba Anver, Elizabeth Ewert, Adam Freidman, Steve Hansch, Ghada Khan, Laird Kirkpatrick, Samar Nasser, Lorenzo Norris, James Cobey

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*Objectives:*

- NGO inventory
- Direct communications with NGO
- Coordination with internal GW resources

The Humanitarian Working Group (HWG) suggests the following dual opportunities for student involvement in humanitarian efforts.

- 1. Partnerships with selected NGOs and other humanitarian organizations that offer both advocacy and life saving support around the world, with particular emphasis on Gaza. Such partnerships may include fundraising, social media outreach or other marketing and “platforming” activities, internships, and volunteering.**
2. Educational options within the GW community which already exist in our curricula and which may be enhanced for interested students.

*This memo describes potentials under option 1.*

The ongoing humanitarian crisis has affected people around the world, including the GW community. Many Students, faculty and staff are eager to get involved and find solutions to this crisis. As part of GW's plan “Strengthening our Community in Challenging Times”, the main goal of our working group was to “Identify opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to make a meaningful impact to address conditions in Gaza, which could be applied to other global humanitarian crises.”

Given the current situation in Gaza, where bombing continues, our working group has explored opportunities in the US and online. Many organizations have their headquarters or offices in Washington, DC, providing a perfect opportunity to contact and partner with them.

Internships and volunteering opportunities could be open to GW community and made accessible through the GW Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service\* We could create a page called “GW Humanitarian efforts” where students, faculty and staff could sign up for any internships or volunteer opportunities offered by these humanitarian organizations. Faculty could also acknowledge the volunteer work of students by incorporating specific projects into their courses, or granting academic credits for independent studies.

**Partnerships with selected NGOs** and other humanitarian organizations (described in **Exhibit B**) may include the following:

**a. Raising awareness**

Student groups/organizations should contact NGOs and humanitarian organizations listed in Exhibit B to organize “awareness sessions/exhibits”. Those exhibits could be organized once a month at GW to showcase the work done in Gaza and surrounding regions done by these organizations. The objective is to bring awareness about the ongoing humanitarian crisis, aside from politics and religion.

**b. Fundraising & Social media outreach**

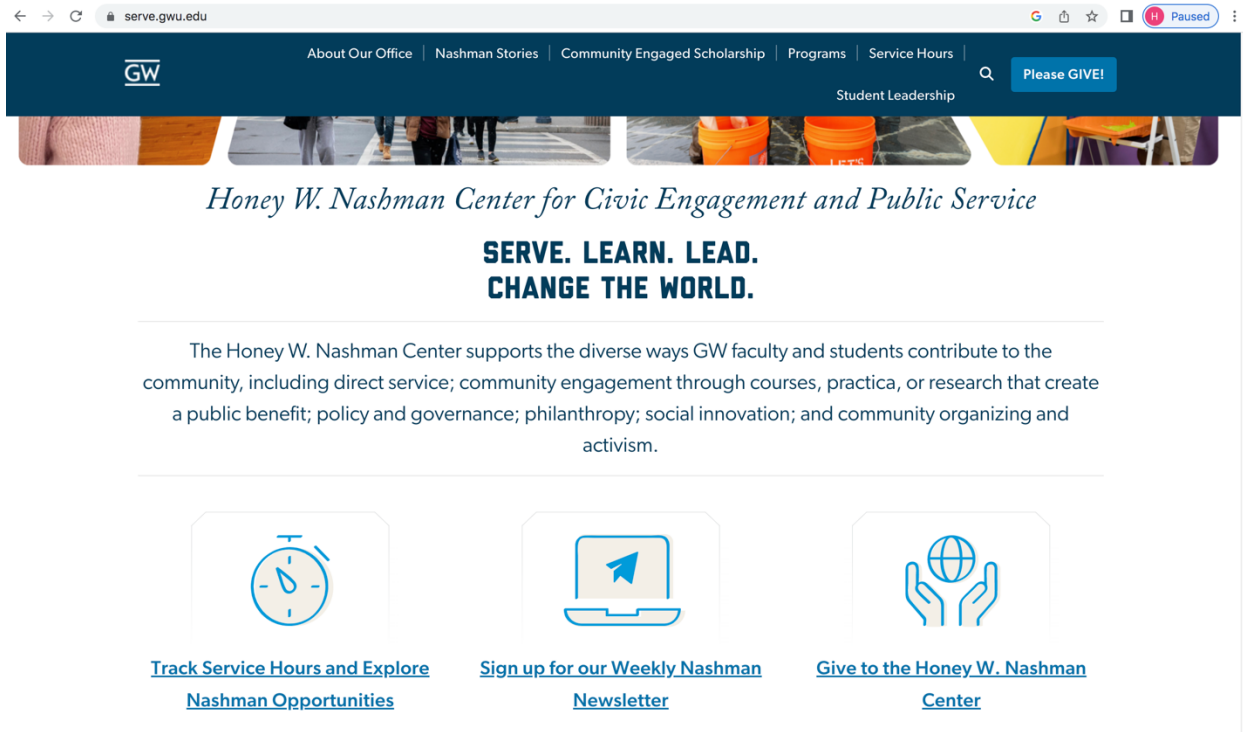
Other ways to bring awareness could include social media. Students could conduct research on suggested organizations and promote them via social media platforms. Additionally, they could lead a fundraising campaign, with GW potentially matching donation contributions.

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### c. Internships & Volunteering

Partnering with those suggested NGOs would provide access to internships and volunteering opportunities. Those opportunities could be in-person or online. Most of them would involve assisting organizations in their work and fundraising campaigns, conducting research or participating in educational programs.

\* *“The mission of the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service is to integrate civic engagement into George Washington University’s educational work. We promote equity and active citizenship in a diverse democracy, focus GW’s resources to address community needs through reciprocal partnerships beyond the campus, and enhance teaching, learning, and scholarship at GW.”*



The screenshot shows the website for the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service at George Washington University. The browser address bar shows [serve.gwu.edu](http://serve.gwu.edu). The navigation menu includes links for "About Our Office", "Nashman Stories", "Community Engaged Scholarship", "Programs", "Service Hours", and "Student Leadership". A search icon and a "Please GIVE!" button are also visible. The main content area features a banner with the text "Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service" and the slogan "SERVE. LEARN. LEAD. CHANGE THE WORLD." Below this, a paragraph describes the center's mission: "The Honey W. Nashman Center supports the diverse ways GW faculty and students contribute to the community, including direct service; community engagement through courses, practica, or research that create a public benefit; policy and governance; philanthropy; social innovation; and community organizing and activism." At the bottom, there are three call-to-action buttons: "Track Service Hours and Explore Nashman Opportunities" (with a clock icon), "Sign up for our Weekly Nashman Newsletter" (with a laptop icon), and "Give to the Honey W. Nashman Center" (with a globe icon).

GW Humanitarian Work Group Recommendation:  
**Health & Trauma**

**Title:** Health and Trauma—Heal Palestine Outreach

**Authors:** Hadia Anaye, Hiba Anver, Elizabeth Ewert, Adam Freidman, Steve Hansch, Ghada Khan, Laird Kirkpatrick, Samar Nasser, Lorenzo Norris, James Cobey

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**Objectives:**

- Define smaller scale wins
- Reach out to local leadership local entities
- Develop Framework for synergistic coordination between schools (Med, Law, Public health, etc.)

**Background:**

HEAL Palestine is a nonpolitical, nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides essential aid, healthcare, and educational resources to Palestinians. The organization was founded by Steve Sosebee. Heal Palestine has been bringing child amputees from Gaza to various cities in the U.S. for medical treatment, including Dallas, Chicago, Cleveland, and Boston. As of July 13th, the organization had 14 children in the United States with more in the pipeline.

**Proposal:**

GWU Medical School and Hospital agree to support a collaboration with Children's National to treat child amputees on a pro bono basis in partnership with Heal Palestine.

GWU, by and through its partnership with Ibn Sina University for Medical Sciences, Amman, bring children to the U.S. for pro bono treatment.

**Process:**

Assuming a hospital is willing to volunteer its services, the organization will start the process by sending a patient file. If the hospital accepts, the organization will request a Letter of Acceptance from the hospital confirming that it is willing to accept the child as a charity case. Once executed, the organization will arrange everything required for the child and their parent to travel to the U.S., including visas, travel arrangements, accommodations, and whatever the family may need outside of the pro bono medical care that the hospital agrees to provide.

**Hospitals (not an exhaustive list):**

Cohen Children's Medical Center, New York  
Shriners Hospital, Chicago  
Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, Dallas  
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland

**Website:** <https://www.healpalestine.org/>

**Articles:**

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/palestinian-organizations-in-northeast-ohio-ready-to-help-gaza-recoverr>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/05/nyregion/gaza-children-us-hospitals.html>

<https://abc7chicago.com/post/israel-hamas-war-7-year-old-boy-injured/15040377/>

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<https://www.healpalestine.org/category/media/media-highlights/>

## Humanitarian Organizations Helping in Gaza (and beyond)

Humanitarian organizations are independent groups that focus on saving lives with health, nutrition, water, shelter and sanitation, impartially, where the need is greatest. The following international humanitarian organizations all have offices in the DC area, around and near to the GW campus, are reputable and experienced, and active in Gaza right now providing humanitarian aid. All have staff in the area and all accept private donations. GW students have worked at these same organizations both while attending GW and after graduation. Several GW faculty serve on their boards. These same organizations also work around the world in other crises, including crises near to Gaza, such as Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Ukraine. Most of these also work in Sudan, Somalia, Burma, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Ethiopia, Haiti, Venezuela and other dozens of other crises.

The first mentioned here is an *international organization*, meaning it was established by governments, with a special status. **ICRC:** The International Committee of the Red Cross specializes in providing life-saving care, water, food and supplies in the worst conflict zones. ICRC is the largest and oldest humanitarian organization, and works with the local Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The ICRC partners closely with the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza, as well as Red Cross societies in warzones around the world. It receives core annual funding from the US Department of State, whose offices are about one block from the GW campus.

The following humanitarian agencies are *non-profits, also known as NGOs*, which means non-governmental organizations. They are led by board of private citizens, serving as volunteers.

**CRS:** Catholic Relief Services is providing food and cash to families in Gaza and has set up operational hubs in Rafah and Deir al Balah, including distribution points, offices, warehouses, and guesthouses. CRS works almost everywhere in the world (see: <https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work>) and has been active since World War II in crisis zones.

**IMC:** International Medical Corps established two field hospitals in Gaza: a 160-bed facility in Al Mawasi (temporarily shifted to Deir al Balah due to security concerns) and a 50-bed facility in Deir al Balah. These hospitals provide a wide range of services, including emergency and trauma care, obstetric and newborn care, and general medical services. IMC also works in frontline conflict zones such as Somalia, Afghanistan, DRC and Ethiopia.

**IRC:** The International Rescue Committee (IRC) specializes in health and medical care for refugees and crises. They partner with USAID, the Department of State and UNHCR. Deployment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs): IRC, in collaboration with Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), has deployed multiple EMTs to provide life-saving medical care in Gaza's hospitals. This includes trauma surgery, pediatric care, and treatment for infectious diseases. Medical Supplies and Pharmaceuticals: IRC has procured and distributed significant quantities of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to support health facilities across Gaza. They have provided frontline life-saving care for refugees from Ethiopia, Iraq, Syria and Burma.

**MDM:** Médecins du Monde (Mdm) – or Doctors of the World in English -- is providing a range of health assistance in Gaza. Mdm has deployed mobile medical teams to emergency shelters and makeshift health centers, particularly in Rafah. These teams provide primary healthcare, maternal and child health services, mental health support, and treatment for life-threatening injuries and illnesses. MDM is part of a global alliance of NGOs, most of which are from Europe. Collectively, MDM has 400 programs in 70 countries, mostly focused on health.

**Mercy Corps:** Mercy Corps works in food, livelihood, resilience peacebuilding, transition, and cash distributions from Haiti to Uganda. They have coordinated shipments of food kits from Jordan to Gaza through the Rafah border crossing.

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**Exhibit B**

**MSF:** Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – also known as Doctors Without Borders in English -- teams are offering surgical care, including trauma surgery and treatment for burns. They provide wound care, physiotherapy, and post-operative care in hospitals like Al-Aqsa and Nasser in southern Gaza. The MSF movement of French, Dutch, Spanish and Belgium medical organizations pride themselves on being the first into emergencies with comprehensive care.

**Oxfam** collaborates with established local organizations such as the Palestinian Environmental Friends (PEF), Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), and the Association for Woman and Child Protection (AISHA). Globally, Oxfam is a leader in providing water and sanitation in emergencies as well as support to local organizations.

**Palestinian American Medical Association:** PAMA partners with a wide range of agencies in supporting medical care through local health facilities. Their focus is on hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza. They are the exception in this group of NGOs in that they do not work in other countries.

**Project Hope:** Project HOPE operates primary health clinics in Deir Al Balah and is establishing another in Rafah. These clinics provide essential medical care, including treatment for serious injuries, malnutrition, and common illnesses such as gastroenteritis and respiratory infections. Project Hope is famous for many decades providing hospital ships and public health in crises, currently in 25 countries, including Haiti, Ukraine, Mozambique, Nigeria and Indonesia.

**Relief International:** RI has European Union funding to provide personnel and medical supply support to three hospitals in Gaza. RI also works in the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan, including education for girls. RI works primarily in health care but also provides water and sanitation, livelihood support and agriculture. It has been providing medical care in Afghanistan for decades, before the Taliban, during the Taliban, during the US occupation, and still now back under the Taliban.

**Save the Children:** Save the Children is distributing essential supplies such as food, clean water, and hygiene kits to families in Gaza. This includes efforts to address the acute food shortages and prevent malnutrition among children. Save the Children is a world leader in neonatal, infant and child health, nutrition and protection. The large Save the Children Alliance of donor organizations collectively work everywhere and provide long-term community health solutions. Save works for instance in South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Pakistan, Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela and many other countries.

**World Central Kitchen** provides hot cooked meals to families in Gaza and Israel. WCK responds to new emergencies and works in concert with local chefs and kitchens. WCK has been operating in Ukraine since 2022. The Founder of WCK, Jose Andres, is also a donor to GW, helping to create the new Global Food Institute.

**How these NGOs work:** Most of these organizations adhere to common global standards or “best practices” in administering humanitarian aid, as described in the SPHERE standards (<https://spherestandards.org/>) which emphasizes protecting the dignity of the populations affected, using evidence and data to inform fieldwork, and understanding and respecting local cultural norms.

Most of these organizations orient their field assistance around assessments of what are the main threats. What most often kills large numbers of people during humanitarian crises are preventable and easily treated diseases such as diarrhea, measles, malaria, and malnutrition. Partnering, communication and planning are key ways that aid organizations work together through UN coordination meetings.

These NGOs, and many others, work in many dozens of crises around the world each year that do not receive viral media attention. In any given year one or two emergencies capture most of the headlines, even if far more people are at risk in lesser-known places. NGOs working in all of these other locations help to ensure a balanced response based on need.

GW Humanitarian Work Group Recommendation:  
**Exhibit B**

**COURSE OFFERINGS about HUMANITARIAN AID AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, FALL 2024**

GW offers a wide range of courses about humanitarian aid, more than any other area university and perhaps more than any college in the country. Courses are now offered or have been offered via the schools of international affairs, anthropology, public health, engineering, and geography. This summer, three sections of the Milken School of Public Health's online course about humanitarian aid and health are currently in full swing.

**Selected offerings this Fall at GW include:**

- IAFF 6138 Humanitarian Governance & Policy
- IAFFF 6138 Gender, Disaster & Development
- IAFF 6378 Refugees & Displaced People in the Middle East
- IAFF 6502 Technology for International Crisis Response
- IAFF 3190 Refugee & Migrant Crisis
- Communication: SMPA 6270 Development & Humanitarian Communications
- EDUC 6610 Education in Emergencies
- EMSE 6320 International Disaster Management
- GEOG 6309 GIS for Emergency Management
- MLS 2005 Plagues, Pandemics, and Epidemics
- PUBH 6480 Public Health in Humanitarian Settings
- PUBH 6468 Preparation and Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, and Disasters
- PUBH 6467 Accountability and Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings
- PUBH 6465 Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings

Note that GW has an interdisciplinary Humanitarian Action Initiative: <https://hai.elliott.gwu.edu/>

And that the School of Public Health has a graduate Masters degree track or program in “humanitarian health and disaster response.” <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/humanitarian-health-and-disaster-response-mph>

At the undergraduate level, GW offers a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences in Global Leadership in Disaster Response (GLDR): <https://gldr.smhs.gwu.edu/>

GW faculty Brandon Kohrt offers work and education about mental health in conflict and for refugees. <https://apps.smhs.gwu.edu/smhs/facultydirectory/profile.cfm?empName=Brandon%20Kohrt&FacID=2066541407>

In the past GW has also sponsored evening lecture series about disasters, bringing speakers from the many agencies based in the DC area such as the World Bank, FEMA, Brookings, CSIS and NGOs. GW also has hosted, with the ICRC, Brookings and Refugees International the Humanitarian Salon, in early evenings, bringing together a range of experts and scholars to discuss – without attribution – critical questions facing humanitarian aid, particularly from a US perspective.

GW also led a collaboration with the World Health Organization in researching how health programs can promote peace in war zones, a tool *Health as a Bridge for Peace*: [https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs\\_global\\_facpubs/228/](https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_global_facpubs/228/)