SA Heart® Statement on global conflict, academic participation and professional engagement
The South African Heart Association recognises that global conflicts, political crises and humanitarian suffering may deeply affect our members, partners, faculty, patients and communities. We acknowledge that these matters are complex, sensitive and often deeply personal.

SA Heart®'s primary mandate is to advance cardiovascular health, education, research, clinical excellence and patient care for all. As a scientific and professional society, our activities are guided by principles of academic integrity, ethical conduct, inclusivity, non-discrimination, professional respect and the protection of patient-centred healthcare.

Where SA Heart® engages with local or international faculty, speakers, partners or professional bodies, such engagement is based on scientific expertise, relevance to cardiovascular medicine, ethical standards, and contribution to the educational or professional objectives of the Association. Participation in SA Heart® activities does not imply endorsement of any government, political position, military action, ideology or state policy.

SA Heart® does not seek to become a platform for political advocacy or geopolitical dispute. However, we remain committed to respectful dialogue, human dignity, non-discrimination, and the responsible exercise of professional judgement. We also recognise the importance of ensuring that our platforms remain safe, constructive and aligned with our Code of Conduct.

Where concerns are raised regarding a speaker, partner, programme item or Association activity, SA Heart® will consider these through the appropriate governance structures and in accordance with its Constitution, Code of Conduct, relevant policies, and applicable legal and ethical obligations. Any decisions will be guided by fairness, due process, proportionality, and the Association's core purpose of advancing cardiovascular health.

SA Heart® condemns hatred, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, racism, xenophobia, and any form of conduct that undermines the dignity or safety of individuals or groups. We call on all members, delegates, faculty, partners and stakeholders to engage respectfully, even where views differ strongly.

Our focus remains on maintaining a professional, ethical and inclusive environment that supports cardiovascular education, research, collaboration and patient care.