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## PUBLIC STATEMENT

# Right to Access Occupations

WFOT reaffirms its condemnation of all actions or circumstances that infringe on the rights of people and communities to live purposeful and engaged lives in safety and peace.

We deplore action that denies access to the human right to participate in chosen occupations<sup>1</sup> which are the foundation of just and inclusive societies.

Global conditions that threaten the right to occupations include armed conflict and man-made disasters, poverty, disease, social discrimination, and displacement. In addition, the right to occupation is subject to cultural beliefs and customs, local circumstances and institutional power and practices.

As a Federation of national and regional occupational therapy organisations we work together to improve world health and wellbeing. WFOT fully endorses the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and collaborates with international partners including the World Health Organization for the protection of access to health systems through education, advocacy and humanitarian support.

As an international occupational therapy community, we remain united as a profession to advocate for human rights and occupational justice.

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<sup>1</sup> In occupational therapy, occupations refer to the everyday activities that people do as individuals, in families and with communities to occupy time and bring meaning and purpose to life. Occupations include things people need to, want to and are expected to do. <https://wfot.org/about/about-occupational-therapy>