



Dear colleagues,

As you are likely aware, Israel was the victim of a horrific and unprecedented terror attack that took place on October 7, 2023. It was the single deadliest attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

During this devastating time, we know that many of you are thinking about us here at TAU, about our loved ones, and about the wider situation in Israel. We are grateful for the words of kindness and care we have received, and we know that you also likely have questions.

Given how hard it can be to navigate relevant information, we are now using our international newsletter as a bulletin to communicate any factual updates and changes in protocol. It will be our primary vehicle for communicating with the wider international community at this time and we encourage you to [opt-in here](#).

Additionally, I want to share with you a message from the President of Tel Aviv University, Prof. Ariel Porat. Sadly, while we mourn and grieve the bloodshed that has taken place, we are simultaneously witnessing rising hate speech against Israel on campuses, which rapidly blends with and further fuels dangerous hatred against Jews and their communities worldwide. Please consider [reading President Porat's message](#) and taking seriously his recommendations.

Moreover, we have had many academic partners ask how they can support us in this time. The following can help make a world of difference during these heartbreaking times:

- Check in with any Israeli colleagues, students, and researchers on your campus and offer help (e.g., be a willing ear, consider additional flexibility for any administrative or academic deadlines, connect Israelis with support on campus);
- Recommit to collaboration with your colleagues working at Israeli universities (what we are all seeking right now is a sense of normalcy; having reassurance that our academic colleagues around the world are continuing professional relationships may seem like a small thing, but it is significant to us);
- Consider setting aside funding for new research projects with Israeli academia (some universities have already reached out about this, and it is a very meaningful gesture); and



- Should your campus be holding any expert panels on the Israel-Hamas war, invite one of our many experts from TAU to join (we would be happy to assist with this).

Finally, these are by far the toughest times we have known. Please, try and reach out to your collaborators and colleagues here in Israel. Many of them have been directly or indirectly affected by the horrors here. Please also speak up for them on any platform you may have.

Your continued support means the world to us; may we meet and collaborate in better days.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Shamir'.

Prof. Milette Shamir
Vice President International
Tel Aviv University