

Publicly Call for a Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine

We are heartbroken by the recent violence in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory. As Quakers, we deeply mourn the loss of all lives and pray for those who have lost loved ones due to this latest escalation.

We unequivocally condemn Hamas' attacks and inhumane treatment of civilians and call for the immediate release of all hostages. We also condemn the indiscriminate and violent Israeli response that has already claimed thousands of civilian lives.

Hamas killed more than 1,300 Israelis in the Oct. 7 attack and took 200 civilian hostages into Gaza. The subsequent Israeli military attack on Gaza has killed thousands of Palestinians, many of them children.

Since the escalation began, the Israeli government has restricted food, fuel, and humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip. More than a million people have been internally displaced due to the fighting, and there is currently no safe place in Gaza. As the bombardment and blockade persist, the humanitarian toll continues to mount.

More war and weapons won't bring peace. In the face of growing violence, lawmakers must:

- » Publicly call for a ceasefire to prevent the further loss of life;
- » Prioritize the protection of all civilians by urgently permitting humanitarian aid into Gaza and working to secure the release of hostages; and
- » Urge all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law.

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Call for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation, and restraint to prevent further civilian harm in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory.

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