

Statement of Concern about Violence in Israel-Palestine
Mountain View Friends Meeting, Denver, Colorado
November 12, 2023

We are heartbroken by the recent violence in Israel and Gaza. We recognize there are complex historical and contemporary roots to this conflict. Today, we deeply mourn the loss of all lives and pray for those who have lost loved ones as well as those suffering trauma related to the violence. As Quakers, we are called to action.

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

More war and weapons will not bring peace. In the face of growing violence, we implore lawmakers to:

- Call for an immediate ceasefire.
- Work to end the widespread suffering and impact by calling for de-escalation, and
- respect for international law.
- Provide efficient and widespread access to comprehensive humanitarian aid throughout the region.
- Address the root causes underlying this explosion of violence.