

Northampton Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) calls and prays for the end to all actions that lead to the destruction of lives in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel. Despite the complexities of the Palestinian Israeli conflict, the violence must stop immediately for those at war to be able to discern a viable future for all involved.

To the children of God involved in all sides of the violence, we call for you to embrace an immediate and enduring ceasefire. We beseech you to consider that further violence without any hope of a peaceful understanding will only destroy both your peoples, materially, morally, and spiritually, and will continue to ripple out to the rest of the world. Now is the time to end the violence and create a path to a future for your children with restored safety and peace.

To President Biden, the U.S. Congress, and your representatives, we call on you to exert your leadership and influence to end the violent hostilities immediately and persuade all parties to the conflict to move towards peaceful negotiations.

To this end, we call upon all parties involved and complicit in the current violence to:

- Stop all military action.
- Open the free flow of drinking water, food, fuel, and medical supplies.
- Release all hostages and political prisoners.
- Resume negotiations in search of a lasting peace.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we see that of God in every person and know that each life is sacred and divine. Through our government, we feel complicit in the financing, aiding, and abetting of the current violence and the obstruction of the free flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Therefore, in addition to the above, we call upon President Biden, the U.S. Congress, and your representatives to:

- Resume the funding of United Nations humanitarian assistance.
- Support United Nations efforts to achieve a ceasefire and the release of all hostages.
- Withhold or stop all U.S. military aid and equipment used in this conflict.
- Take steps to ensure that the U.S. is not a party to potential genocide.

We're saddened that this present conflict has disrupted lives in other parts of the world, too, including here at home. As a faith community, we condemn all forms of anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, and anti-Arab actions locally, in the United States, and globally.

We call upon other faith communities to join us in this stance and in our call for peace everywhere.