

## Minute about the War in Israel and Palestine Salt Lake City Monthly Meeting

Approved February 12, 2024

As an historic peace church, the Quakers are committed to the foundational principles of peace. The Salt Lake Quakers (Salt Lake Monthly Meeting) calls for an *immediate* ceasefire in Gaza and Israel by both sides, a return of the hostages, and a restoration of food, water, fuel and medical care to Gaza. The urgency and humanitarian need for this action cannot be overstated. We urge all parties to seek a solution that will honor and respect the humanity of each other, the rights of both Gaza and Israel for security, and to more fully address the root causes of violence.

We call on all sides to resist the temptation to believe in the power of aggression and brutality as solutions. Engaging in violence blinds us to the humanity of others and to our own contribution to the cause of the others' aggression. It also severely limits the ability of both sides to create viable solutions. Most importantly, the current violence and level of atrocity will only lead to future violence.

We also call on everyone to educate themselves about the current situation, to avoid simple, one-sided solutions, and to seek and support the peacemakers.

"Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all. All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world. That spirit of Christ by which we are guided is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil, and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world."

George Fox, et al. to Charles II (1660)

In hope and gratitude,  
Salt Lake Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends