

## **San Diego Friends Meeting - Minute on Gaza**

Adopted by San Diego Friends Meeting, December 10, 2023

Friends feel a responsibility to act on the immense suffering in Gaza, as well as the ongoing violence in the West Bank. All the peoples of Israel and Palestine deserve to live in peace. We condemn the violence on October 7. We oppose the bombing and the invasion that has followed. We join a wide range of organizations in calling on all parties involved to agree to a ceasefire.

We seek a robust and nuanced discussion among all those who work for peace. We urge people of all faiths and backgrounds to put human rights and human dignity ahead of ideological or political objectives.

Regardless of how we interpret the past, we all must recognize and work toward a shared future. Peace will only come when people learn to live together. This is true not only for the peoples of Israel and Palestine but for people in every part of our world.

We also urge Friends to act in their own communities, to support constructive dialogue. The conflict in Israel and Palestine will not be resolved by people outside of the region, but the international community does have a role. We must all urge our own countries to limit the flow of arms to the region. We must share responsibility for supporting peace and human rights, along with equitable economic development for all peoples.

We urge Friends to read the joint statement from several Quaker organizations on the ongoing violence between Israel and Hamas, and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

<https://afsc.org/newsroom/quaker-organizations-call-ceasefire-and-humanitarian-protections-gaza>

The following organizations have signed the statement:

- American Friends Service Committee
- Canadian Friends Service Committee
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Friends World Committee on Consultation
- Quakers in Australia
- Quakers in Britain
- Quaker United Nations Office

In addition to the statement from several Quaker organizations (above), we also recommend the following links for other Friends organizations involved in the region:

Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quaker community in the West Bank):

<https://www.rfmq.org/>

Quakers in the World (Involvement in the Middle East):

<https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/121/Involvement-in-the-Middle-East>

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Response to the Israel-Gaza Conflict):

<https://www.pym.org/philadelphia-yearly-meeting-response-to-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>

Quaker Palestine Israel Network (QPIN): <https://quakerpin.org/>