

Columbia Friends Minute  
Call for Peace in the Middle East (Gaza and Israel)  
Approved June 9, 2024  
Meeting for Business

The Columbia Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) unite with the calls of people across the world for:

- An immediate lasting ceasefire in Gaza and Israel and a total end to hostilities on the way to a genuine effort towards peaceful and just solutions,
- Immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas and Palestinian prisoners of Israel held under administrative detention without charges or trial,
- Provision of urgent humanitarian aid to Gaza including resumption of funding for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- An immediate halt of all offensive military aid and sales to Israel.

We feel that the work to come in the aftermath of the attempted genocide of the Palestinian people must prioritize liberation, and center and lift up the voices of the oppressed.

Let us seek paths to work for peace, to act in faith and love, with persistence, patience, and courage. We ask everyone, including those in power, to learn from and work with the peacebuilders, who have labored long and hard. May they lead us all in creating an enduring peace built on justice and reconciliation that provides safety, sovereignty, and a future free of war as Palestinians, Israelis and all people of the region become partners pursuing the sacred goal of Peace.

Adapted from text of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting Minute and SAYMA Young Adult Friends Minute