

Statement on Middle East Violence
Approved July 27, 2025

Members and attenders of the Santa Fe Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) mourn all loss of lives, homes, and communities that are the result of violence in the Middle East, regardless of the nationality or politics of these victims.

The Santa Fe Meeting believes the current Israeli government is committing genocide in Gaza. We urge our US government to do everything in its power to stop the genocide and ensure humanitarian aid and human rights to the people of Gaza, including the rights to life, food, water, clothing, homes, medical services, houses of worship and educational institutions, as well as the essential rights to be free from torture and attacks on their families and communities. We also call for an end to Israeli settlement in the West Bank and attacks there on Palestinian lives, homes, and land.

We use the word “genocide” after deep discernment. We use this word with the aim of opening eyes, minds and hearts. We use this word in the deep hope that the actions it describes will stop.

The Jewish people are not committing genocide. The Israeli people are not committing genocide. We abhor, and will challenge, any attempt to interpret or exploit our words to incite or commit anti-Jewish and antisemitic hatred or violence. We abhor any attempt to use our words to question the existence of Israel or the Israeli people's right to live in peace and security.

We call on the United States government to:

--suspend arms sales, military aid, and financial support for the acquisition and/or use of weapons of war to the government of Israel;

--restore funding from the United States to the United Nations Relief and Works Administration (UNRWA)

--hold Israel accountable to its agreement in March 2024 to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza by stopping the use of starvation as a weapon of war and to allow all humanitarian aid to enter and be distributed to the people of Gaza and other war-affected areas

--coordinate with all European and Middle Eastern partners, and with the United Nations Security Council, to actively and publicly engage in peace building between all warring parties in order to achieve permanent peace in the Middle East.