

Minute of Witness and Opposition to Violent Actions of the U.S. Executive Branch

Our Quaker community stands in witness and opposition to the drumbeats of war, authoritarianism, and supremacist philosophies coming from the Executive Branch of the current United States government. We urge all the branches of government and the US Military to adhere to founding principles including the aspiration to “establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”. These Constitutional principles are in turn rooted in the Declaration’s affirmation that “all men (persons) are created equal”.

Furthermore, Gunpowder Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), called by the scriptural commandment to “seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God,” condemn recent attacks on Venezuela and the kidnapping of its leadership. Similarly, we decry the President’s threats to attack Greenland and other sovereign nations around the world. These actions, undertaken by an Executive branch bent on fomenting war abroad and strife at home, were performed without constitutionally mandated congressional involvement. They violate international law and treaties, depriving nations of their sovereignty and harming their innocent civilians. All this is anathema to the concepts of liberty, equality, and justice for all: values upon which the United States was built.

From the beginning, the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) has held to values that arise from an understanding that God embraces and is indeed within and accessible to every person. We denounce all efforts at installment of authoritarian regimes and assist in no abuses of power. We affirm the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We bear witness, and we endeavor to encourage through both words and example.

Therefore, this is our call to action:

- Witness: Show up, pay attention, tell the truth. Be ready to video-record and publicly share abuses of power and authority.
- Work to build a society supportive of all who live in it which reflects the values we hold sacred.
- Remain nonviolent in words and actions. Hate cannot drive out hate.
- Know your rights and responsibilities. Obey lawful orders where possible. Be prepared to accept legal and possibly unjust consequences for resistance.
- Peacefully and proactively engage those with whom you may disagree. Practice communication skills, and be vigilant for opportunities.
- Write or call elected representatives to let your views be known. Ask them to find the courage to use their legislative authorities to rein in the rogue Executive.
- Practice compassion yet firmness toward those in your social orbit – including active duty military whose call to serve with honor may be severely challenged.

Approved by Friends of Gunpowder Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), also known as Gunpowder Friends Meeting on the eighth day of the second month of 2026. (February 8, 2026)