

Shepherdstown Friends Meeting Minute on War in Iran

As members of the Quaker community in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, we are spiritual heirs to 375 years of testimony and action against all war and violence. We reaffirm the Quaker Peace Testimony of 1660 which states: “We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons, for any end and under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world.”

As Quakers, we believe in the sacred worth of all individuals. This belief underlies our Peace Testimony and leads us to acts of compassion and support for anyone who is suffering. A sustainable and workable peace requires understanding and addressing the root causes and differences that drive nations to war.

As a spiritual community, we call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and a commitment to diplomacy and peacebuilding. We join the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and other Quakers in urging the United States Government to pursue non-violent pathways to peace through diplomacy, international cooperation, and peacebuilding actions:

- **Immediate Ceasefire:**
Congress should prioritize an immediate and permanent ceasefire and reject billions in funding for war. Expanding military funding risks further civilian casualties and human suffering.
- **Humanitarian Concerns:**
We mourn the deaths of Iranian civilians and U.S. service members. We condemn the U.S. missile strike that reportedly killed over 100 girls at an Iranian school. We decry the destruction of schools, houses, power plants, bridges, and basic infrastructure, which violates both U.S. law and international law. We abhor genocidal threats “to wipe out a whole civilization.”
- **Congressional Action:**
Shepherdstown Friends Meeting opposes all war. We urge Congress to assert its constitutional authority to take action to ensure that no president can unilaterally lead the nation into war. Bypassing Congress in decisions on war and peace prevents the debate and the time needed to understand the root causes of conflicts and to find non-violent resolutions.
- **Diplomacy Must Be the Path Forward:**
Diplomacy, negotiations, and sustained international cooperation are the only viable path forward to military de-escalation, regional stability, and lasting peace.

Adopted by the Shepherdstown Friends Meeting, WV, May 10, 2026

<https://shepherdstownfriends.org/where-we-stand>