

BYM Young Friends Minute on Palestine and the War in Gaza

We acknowledge that as Young Friends we are a fundamentally privileged community in this situation: we live thousands of miles away from the conflict and enjoy relatively safe lives. Despite this privilege, we are guided by Quaker Faith and Practice to condemn the violence in Israel and Palestine. As outlined in our beliefs, every human life is equal and violence only begets more violence. We therefore condemn all those who perpetrate the violence, including the Israeli Defense Force, Hamas, and the United States. We call for the continuation of the current ceasefire, a lasting and peaceful end to the war, the release of all unjustly incarcerated Palestinian prisoners, and the complete disarmament of both sides.

While this is not a new conflict, the siege of Gaza following the October 7th attacks has been marked by a particular ruthlessness. The United States' continued supply of weapons and support for Israel's offensive actions has in large part led to the particular ruthlessness of the current hostilities. We therefore call upon the United States to halt all military aid to Israel. The full historical context, however, is much more complex than can be feasibly summarized here, so we urge all members of the community to properly educate themselves on the history of the conflict.

A minute alone is not enough. Real, tangible action must be taken to provide access to resources that will help aid victims of this conflict.

While it's not a comprehensive list, consider donating to the organizations below:

- The Palestine Children's Relief Fund: <https://www.pcrf.net/>
- World Central Kitchen: <https://donate.wck.org/give/525879/#!/donation/checkout>
- Doctors Without Borders:
<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/palestine>

If donation is not a viable option for you, there are other ways you to help:

- Write letters to your representative. To find your local representative go to:
www.congress.gov/search
- Attend local protests
- Educate community members

This minute is an important starting point, but conversations and community education are, and will continue to be, a vital part of active objection to these atrocities.