

## **Minute Supporting a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza**

We grieve for the loss of life and suffering witnessed in Israel/Palestine on both sides. We value the lives of all people equally. In keeping with our Quaker Peace Testimony, we maintain that WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER to ending a conflict that has endured for more than 100 years.

As an initial step we call for an immediate and permanent multilateral ceasefire in Gaza and Israel/Palestine, the return of all the Israeli hostages, release of Palestinian political detainees, and provision of badly needed humanitarian assistance to Gaza. We urge the US government to restore funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees as well as continuing to provide direct aid to Gazans.

We further urge the US to concentrate its efforts on promoting a just and durable solution for Palestinians and Israelis that will form the basis for peaceful coexistence. We urge both parties to acknowledge their joint and separate right of existence and agree to share the land and other resources in a positive sum environment rather than continuing to wage war on each other. This solution, in order to be enduring, must guarantee the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians to live in a safe and secure homeland; provide equitable access to land and water; and ensure equal treatment of Israelis and Palestinians under international law.

We value that of God in all persons. All human rights must be cherished, accordingly we condemn antisemitism, islamophobia, and all forms of racism and ethnic hatred.

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