

Minute of Concern on Israel and Palestine

March 24th, 2024

The members of Lancaster Friends Meeting are horrified and appalled at the ongoing violence, death, and destruction suffered by the civilians of Israel and Palestine, brought on by the misguided policies of Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli Government, and other third-party actors.

As Friends we envision a peaceful Israel and Palestine, the long-yearned-for peace of these two peoples. The seeds of this peace have already been planted by an extraordinary number of Israeli/Palestinian peace groups and everyday cooperative interactions between Israelis and Palestinians. As Friends, we are committing ourselves to let the world know this truth and support their efforts both practically and spiritually

We renew our call for the leaders of these governing bodies, drawing on the respect for human life that their faiths teach, to lay down their arms, and begin negotiations for a peace that recognizes the rights of their adversaries. We urge them to immediately cooperate with international agencies in providing food, shelter, medical care, safety, and other essential services to those displaced by the Israel-Hamas war.

We call on the government of Israel to abide by international law regarding Israeli settlement of the West Bank, fully recognizing the state of Palestine and the rights of Palestinian citizens to live in their ancestral homeland in peace and security.

We call on Hamas and the Palestinian Authority to recognize the state of Israel and the rights of the Jewish people to live in their ancestral homeland in peace and security.

We call on all parties to negotiate mutually acceptable, fixed borders for the nations of Israel and Palestine in which their peoples can live in peace, respecting the rights of each other.

This minute was approved by Lancaster Monthly Meeting & approved by Caln Quarter. Downingtown and Reading Meetings have approved minutes in support of this minute.