

Assistance for Palestine

A big “Thank you” to all those Friends who donated money to the QPSANZ appeal for Gaza, which we initiated late last year. Through your generosity we were able to transfer \$58,930 to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a British charity working with local partners in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon.

The appeal began through the question of an individual Friend, asking how QPSANZ minimized the charges banks take for transferring money overseas. Of the money above, about half came from that individual Friend, and the balance from Monthly Meetings and worship groups, individual F/friends and a QPSANZ grant.

Acknowledging the grant, the MAP Supporter Care assistant writes, “Once again, thank you to New Zealand Quakers for your kind donation to Medical Aid for Palestinians. Your support enables us to continue providing vital healthcare and humanitarian aid to those in need”.

It seems timely to re-open and extend the appeal to support Palestinians.

With the recent visit to Aotearoa/NZ by Tim Gee, general secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, we were alerted to the funding difficulties currently faced by the Friends’ School in Ramallah. The first phase of their project to build new facilities has been halted and \$(US)420,000 is urgently required to complete construction. This phase involves building an all-weather sports hall, developing a water collection and storage system for resilience during droughts and providing outdoor bathrooms/toilets near play and sports grounds. This moved one worship group to collect money to support the school. Further information on this appeal is available at <https://www.rfs.edu.ps/en>
For information about the history of the school see:
<https://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/where-we-work/middle-east>

QPSANZ understands that some F/friends are less than comfortable supporting Ramallah Friends School and it is something that has exercised the QPSANZ committee over many years. To enable Quakers and Attenders an alternative to support people in Palestine we will re-open the collection for MAP.

QPSANZ is collecting funding to forward to Ramallah Friends School or to Medical Aid for Palestinians. Those wanting to contribute can make a deposit into the QPSANZ bank account, 38 9004 0795614 01.

- for Ramallah Friends School please use RFS as the reference.
- for Medical Aid for Palestinians please use MAP as the reference.

Donations will be accepted until the middle of January 2026, and be transferred in late January, with the QPSANZ grant for the year.