

## **Statement From Quaker Yearly Meeting 2025 Opposing Israel's Occupation of Palestine.**

Quakers believe in the sacred worth of each person and stand against violence in all its forms. As Quakers, we mourn all lives lost and lament with everyone suffering. We grieve for those in Israel and Palestine who have lost precious lives. We pray with those waiting for the return of loved ones and those living under siege and bombardment. l

We recognise that Israel feels threatened by the existence of Hamas, but we unequivocally condemn Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the ongoing atrocities committed against the people of Gaza. The systematic displacement, deprivation, starvation, and killing of civilians constitute grave violations of international law and fundamental human rights.

We are encouraged by the growing number of Israeli people who support the call for negotiation of a peaceful settlement.

For decades, Palestinians have endured oppression, blockade, and military aggression, with the international community failing to hold Israel accountable. The current assault on Gaza has involved the indiscriminate bombing of homes, hospitals, and refugee camps, leading to the deaths of thousands, including children. This is not self-defence and is indefensible. There can be no lasting peace without the establishment of human rights for all.

We call on governments, institutions, and individuals worldwide to demand an immediate ceasefire, an end to the occupation, justice for the Palestinian people and the release of all hostages. The world cannot remain silent in the face of ethnic cleansing and war crimes. We also call for these demands to be backed by a complete arms embargo and a comprehensive programme of sanctions and boycotts.