



Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee Action Alert 25-2: Month of Action for Palestine 15 May (Nakba Day) to 15 June 2025

Pledge to join the month of action at <https://forms.gle/G7VV68pFcKyGESpx5>

Moved by the horrific suffering of the people of Palestine, particularly in Gaza, the Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee (QPLC) have taken up a suggestion to coordinate and support **a month of action for Palestine by Australian Quakers from 15 May-15 June**. The 15 May has been chosen as it is commemorated as Nakba Day for Palestinians, where they remember the catastrophe of their displacement, beginning in the 1940's and ongoing until today.

These actions could include simple actions like writing to your newly elected federal MP or Senator or a letter to the editor of a newspaper; calling a parliamentarian or talk back radio; attending solidarity events identifiable as a Quaker; writing to your superannuation company or a company profiting from Israel's occupation; inviting other Friends to sign-up; organising an event with other Friends. QPLC will offer support and ideas for Friends along the way. **While people can make the commitment as significant as they feel led, with 6 hours someone could do ten quicker actions.**

When Friends [pledge to take action](#), you'll be added to an email list that will receive further details about how to take actions and helpful links.

Suggested actions for Quakers – both individually and collectively:

1. Promote the Pledge of Action idea through your Meeting's electronic notices or newsletter. Encourage other Friends to be involved.
2. Nakba Day events. Attend yourself. Promote amongst Quakers in your local area. Attend visibly identifiable as a Quaker. Details of events will be at <https://apan.org.au/events/list/>
3. Write to your newly (re)elected federal MP and Senators, identifying as a Quaker, and asking for action on Palestine. Letters can be sent from individuals as well as local and regional meetings and worshipping groups. A draft letter and contact emails will be supplied.
4. Reach out to media about the issue. Contacting talk-back radio, write letters to the editor, make complaints/praise of good media coverage. Tips and ideas will be provided.
5. Attend another solidarity event for Palestine. Ideally join with other Quakers, under a Quaker banner.
6. [Write to your superannuation fund](#) asking them to divest from companies profiting from Israel's illegal settlements
7. Research companies complicit in Israel's breaches of international law and that are priority targets for [consumer boycotts](#). Choose at least one company to boycott, and write to them, identifying as a Quaker about why you will not support their company. Some ideas will be sent to those committing to pledge.
8. Organise a Quaker led vigil/protest/action. This could be at a Government building, or a company complicit in Israel's genocide in Gaza such as an arms company.
9. Wear your support for Palestine. Buy a [Kuffiyeh](#) (Palestinian scarf); [Palestinian made jewelry](#), [solidarity jewelry](#) - and many products for sale at solidarity events

Background

Australian Quakers are distressed at the ongoing violence in all of historic Palestine, and are particularly seeking ways to respond to the genocidal attacks on the people of Gaza.

Significant Events

1. The long-standing occupation of Palestine and the increasing repression of human rights and limits of basic resources of infrastructure.
2. The October 2023 attack by Hamas militants on Israel, resulting in the killing of about 1,000 Israelis and internationals and the taking of hostages.
3. The subsequent military assaults of the Israel Defence Force in bombing and invading Gaza, killing many civilians including children, cutting off its basic facilities, and forcing the displacement of thousands of people from their homes. Over 50,000 have been directly killed by these military assaults.
4. The continuation of military assistance to Israel from USA and other countries (including from Australia) despite rulings by the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court.
5. The efforts by mediators from the region and beyond to negotiate ceasefire arrangements to enable some hostages to be freed and many Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli detention. This process has been ceased by Israel.

Australia's Role

Government responses reflect a pro-Israel sentiment that has existed for many years. This has meant a muted series of public statements but not giving voice to increasing concerns about the excessive use of force by Israel and its unwillingness to comply with international law. The upsurge of concern among citizens has been associated with conflicting views of antisemitism and anti-Israel government policies.

The Australian Government has taken some steps to address the crisis. Foreign Minister Penny Wong has spoken strongly at the United Nations about human rights and responsibilities and the need for a long-term peace. The government has (apart from a short period) supported the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Most recently (28 March) the Minister has announced a further \$11m for humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza to address urgent needs for healthcare, food and water.

It is clear that military trade is occurring between Israel and Australia, but the details are not being disclosed by the Australian Government. Ministerial and Departmental responses to questions about Australia's direct military exports to Israel suggest Australia is selling weapons components to Israel. Additionally, Australia is definitely part of supply chains that provide weapons to Israel, such as on the F35 aircraft. Both are explicitly forbidden by the Arms Trade Treaty if there is knowledge or an overriding risk that these will be used to facilitate human rights abuses.

Quaker Responses

There have been individual statements and actions by Friends participating in public events to draw attention to the injustice of the situation and calling for a more active government role in achieving an end to the war. At national level, the Yearly Meeting Clerk has been communicating our concerns in letters to the government as follows: urging the Foreign Minister to resume payments to UNRWA and to accept an obligation under international law to prevent and punish the crime of genocide as outlined by the ICJ, urging Australia to work with other countries to recall their ambassadors from Israel, suspend weapons transfers to the region, and ensure that the Pine Gap facility is not used for the targeting of Gaza by the IDF, expressing the feeling of the Yearly Meeting gathering and calling for restrictions on travel by Israeli government officials and the divestment of Future Fund money from Israeli arms manufacturers such as Elbit.