

ACTION ALERT AA 23:5 ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

As Quakers we seek a world without war. We seek a sustainable and just community. We have a vision of an Australia that upholds human rights and builds peace internationally, with particular focus on our region. In our approach to government, we will promote the importance of dialogue, of listening and of seeking that of God in every person. We aim to work for justice and to take away the occasion for war.

November 2023

DEMAND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE

QPLC is calling on Friends to contact Members and Senators asking them to publicly call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to the Israel-Palestine war.

While there are many issues to be resolved, the most urgent and necessary need is for an immediate ceasefire.

Due to the urgency of the need, we ask that Friends send an email rather than a letter and ring or visit MP/Senators in their local or Canberra office. We encourage Friends to contact not only their own MP, but also other Parliamentarians as well.

Useful video and other material

We encourage Friends to watch this YouTube video from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) briefing on the topic (26 October)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfpZtkPnvM>. Several speakers are from Palestine or Israel, currently working for FCNL or American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Useful information and statements can be found on both FCNL and AFSC websites

- <https://afsc.org/topics/gaza-israel>, includes messages from their staff in Gaza on 19 October, a statement from Quaker organisations calling for a ceasefire, and emergency response donation option
- <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2023-10/calling-ceasefire-advocacy-toolkit>
- Public statement by Quakers in Australia
<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/news/quakers-voice-concerns-over-recent-events-israel-and-palestine>

Suggested points for a short email:

- Ask the Parliamentarian to: publicly call on the Australian Government to call for an immediate ceasefire, and encourage their colleagues to do the same
- A ceasefire is necessary to:
 - Protect lives - the roughly 1 million children and their families still living in Gaza, and the Israeli hostages who are also in Gaza
 - Enable humanitarian relief to safely enter Gaza and for the food, water, medicines and other necessary supplies to be distributed safely
 - De-escalate hostilities from involving other national or paramilitary forces
- Without a ceasefire, there is no potential for de-escalation and respect for international law, let alone a longer-term resolution to this decades-long conflict.

Finding email addresses:

Senators and Members can be found on the Australian Parliament House website [https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators and Members/Guidelines for Contacting Senators and Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members).

Clicking on the list of Senators or list of Members will show each Parliamentarian's contact details with either an envelope/email icon or a contact form. If clicking the envelope icon doesn't work, right clicking the same icon will show the Parliamentarian's email address, which you can then copy and paste into your email address line.