

Minute Affirming Universal Human Rights and Opposition to Antisemitism and Islamophobia

Approved September 26, 2021

In accordance with Friends historic testimony of Equality, the Eugene Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirms universal human rights.

Friends believe that we are all equal before God and that there is that of God in everyone. We are united in respecting and defending the human rights of all persons. We reject any claim that one human group is better or more entitled than others. We stand against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all other forms of religious intolerance and racism in the U.S. and abroad.

With regard to the conflict in Israel/Palestine, Eugene Friends Meeting embraces policy positions of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). As pacifists,

- We have stood in solidarity with the Jewish and Muslim communities in Eugene when there have been acts of antisemitism and Islamophobia. We have joined in worship, attended vigils, marched in solidarity, and we will do so in the future.
- We seek a just and lasting peace for all people.
- We affirm the legitimate right of Israeli statehood to exist in accordance with UN resolutions and the importance of historic religious and cultural claims.
- We affirm the legitimate right of Palestinian statehood and self-governance of that state, in accordance with UN resolutions and the importance of historic religious and cultural claims.
- We affirm the right of return in accordance with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that families in refugee encampments have a right to be resettled within a Palestinian state.
- We are in favor of peace between Israel and its neighbors, and between the peoples of those states.
- We oppose acts of violence by all parties to the conflicts in Israel/Palestine, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and the Israeli government/military.
- We support economic action, including Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) only when it is targeted against corporations which profit from the occupation of Palestinian Territories and does not target the Israeli economy as a whole.
- We support economic boycotts, divestment, sanctions against any corporation which supports terrorist attacks against Israel.
- We support consensual, sustainable, economic development within Israel and Palestine.
- We support the exercise of universal human rights, and recognize that within Israel and Palestine there is a severe power imbalance, favoring Israel, which requires particular attention. We affirm that concerns about Israel and Palestine do not limit our broad concern for human rights globally.
- We are in favor of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions being respected.