

Keir Starmer MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA



Britain Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious  
Society of Friends

10 June 2025

Dear Keir Starmer,

**Subject: Call to Act on Gaza Genocide**

I am writing to you on behalf of Quakers in Britain about the urgent humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. On the 26<sup>th</sup> May, after deep and careful discernment, we became the first British church to state our belief that genocide is underway in Gaza.

Quakers in Britain are a faith group committed to peace, equality, truth and sustainability. Our long history of witness and peace work in Palestine and Israel gives us particular experience from which to speak on this issue, and we do not use the word genocide lightly.

We have watched with horror as the Israeli government has deepened its collective punishment of Palestinians for the heinous, unjustified crimes of Hamas on 7 October 2023. We have witnessed the deliberate mass starvation of a people and dismantling of almost all life-sustaining systems within Gaza. We have seen the forced movement of Palestinians and a stated intention to expel them from Gaza. We have heard Israeli government ministers incite hatred against and dehumanise Palestinians. We have heard language and witnessed actions that cannot be justified and strike at the core of our common humanity.

Central to Quakerism is the experience that there is that of God in everyone. From this belief we speak out in the hope that the UK government now takes decisive action to stop the genocide and towards a lasting peace for all Israelis and Palestinians.

We believe there is now an urgent moral and legal imperative for the government to:

1. **Immediately ban all sales of arms**, direct and indirect, that may be used by the Israeli military in Gaza, including components for F-35 fighter jets;
2. **Call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire** and return of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners;
3. Reject the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation model and instead **demand unrestricted access for all aid providers** based on established humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence;

4. **Back international accountability mechanisms**, including the International Criminal Court's investigations into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity;
5. **Suspend the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement (TPA)** in light of the Israeli government's genocide in Gaza and continued illegal occupation of Palestine;
6. **Pass urgent legislation to ban all UK trade with and investments in Israeli settlements** and ban UK-based companies and financial institutions from engaging in business with settlements or their support structure;
7. **Immediately recognise the state of Palestine** and challenge all attempts to encourage and implement the ethnic cleansing and forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and annexation of Palestinian land.

We urge you to meet this moment with the courage and clarity it demands. The UK must not be complicit through its actions. We are witnessing atrocities in real time; history will ask what we did to stop them.

With hope for peace and justice,

In Friendship

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Parker', written in a cursive style.

**Paul Parker**  
Recording Clerk  
Quakers in Britain

CC:

Ellie Reeves MP, Minister without Portfolio (Cabinet Office)

Douglas Alexander MP, Minister of State (Cabinet Office)

Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Attached:

[Quakers in Britain Statement on Gaza](#)