



Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) in Britain

## **Meeting for Sufferings 5 October 2024**

### **MfS/24/10/09 Our work in Palestine and Israel**

Further to minute MfS/24/06/09, we receive paper MfS 2024 10 11 which provides a report on discernment from Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC) on the use of the terms genocide and apartheid in relation to the current conflict in Palestine and Israel.

Our twin roles as prophets and reconcilers may be difficult to balance. We reaffirm that ultimately our task is to engage in peace building focused on ending the illegal occupation and seeking justice for all who live there and the surrounding region, however we note that in this situation our primary role is to bear witness. “The first skill [in addressing conflict] is naming: being clear and honest about the problem as I see it” (Quaker faith & practice 20.71). We note the recommendation that we should align with the International Court of Justice rulings that the term apartheid is an accurate description of the situation in occupied Palestine and that there is a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza. We accept this advice as honouring our commitment to speak truth in love. As George Fox said, “My allegiance lies in truth and faithfulness” (*Quaker faith & practice* 19.37)

We also note the increasing tensions in our own society, where some faith communities face significant hostility, and that we have significant work to do in supporting interfaith relationships here. “Let all things be done for building up”, (1 Corinthians 14:26). We recognise that additional work may require the commitment of additional resources.