

January 31, 2024



World Fellowship Center Board Statement on Gaza

Since its founding in 1941 amid the horrors of WWII, New Hampshire World Fellowship Center, Inc. (WFC) has consistently advanced peace and dialogue among all people. Throughout its history, WFC has sought “to build bridges of understanding across chasms of prejudice” and to “unite all people for the solution to problems of war, persecution, [and] injustice.” Our core principles and work stem from the commitment made so many years ago – “in time of war, prepare for peace.”

From the horrific attack on October 7th to the ongoing collective punishment raining down on Gaza, overwhelmingly civilians have been the victims in this conflict. With each passing day, the prospects for any sustainable peace in the region slip further out of reach as more suffering and trauma occur. That is why we now speak out about the war in Gaza. We speak out against the monumental destruction, devastation, and death suffered by Palestinians. We speak out against antisemitism and Islamophobia. We speak out because American tax dollars are being spent to perpetuate war and subvert the dialogue that is the only path to peace. For these reasons, we cannot remain silent as the violence continues. We call on Israel to comply with the International Court of Justice's order that it take all measures to avoid genocide in Gaza. We also call for an immediate ceasefire and the provision of sufficient humanitarian aid to alleviate impending famine and disease in Gaza.

We recognize that the current hostilities have a long and complex history and ultimately can only be resolved through negotiations that recognize the common needs for all citizens of Israel and Palestine. We now seek understanding of how WFC can use our resources to carry on our mission of seeking justice through dialogue and inclusion. To that end, we are taking several steps to advance our community's engagement on these issues. This process will begin with community meeting(s) to begin the conversation and later these questions will be a major focus of the summer 2024 program. We hope that all will join this dialogue.

Patricia Cantor Petrucelly and Marc Mauer, Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees