

Ways to Move Forward

The Yearly Meeting Sessions has approved minutes, but beyond that, how do we develop a heart connection to this issue for ourselves and others in our meetings? How do we move from information to action?

Here are some suggestions for how to get started and how to nurture interest:

1. Personal Testimony:

Listening to or reading about someone's experience puts a face on the news. We have included videos and writing that can provide insight and could be used for a session or a book group. People are available to come to your meeting (or zoom). You can send a request, however vague, to: neym-ip.org

2. The Role of Quakers in the Region:

Ramallah Friends School has a long rich history, connected to Friends United Meeting. The AFSC, American Friends Service Committee, works with allied organizations in Israel/Palestine. Skip Schiel, Teeksa Photography, has traveled and photographed for many years pursuing a variety of issues and has displays and slide shows available. All of these have websites listed under Resources.

3. Culture:

Cinema or food (or both!) can be an entry point for experiencing the culture of the area, a step toward humanizing the situation and creating interest in learning more.

4. Mining the News:

When antisemitic or Islamophobic incidents make the news, it could be an opportunity for solidarity, for an action that would express our testimony of equality. News from the region may also be a touchstone for more learning, especially if it involves US aid.

5. Exchange/Travel:

Ways to visit Israel/Palestine that go beyond the holy sites, educating about current realities, will have a dedicated space here when more opportunities open up. Virtual tours are available from [Eyewitness Palestine](#) who also are reinstating on-the-ground delegations; [We Are Not Numbers](#) who are youth focused; [Green Olive Tours](#). [Quakers Advocating Justice for Palestine](#) has a Memorial Fund to help travelers.

6. Campaigns:

Organizations that have already researched and started a movement may be an entry point for action, the wheel has already been invented. See the section on Campaigns of Organizations.

7. Intersectionality:

Drawing on connections with other issues pulls the issue closer to home. Facing fear of "the other", white supremacy, colonialism, antisemitism, islamophobia –all relate to lack of connection with the lives of others. Those who feel that Israel/Palestine is far away may discover similarities with the treatment of indigenous people by the United States. Militarism is so evident in military aid, of which Israel is a big recipient; as well there is the similarity of military culture between the two countries.