

Israel-Palestine Resource Group Report to Permanent Board
February 28, 2026

Dear Friends, and members of the Permanent Board,

We remain committed to facilitating discussion and discernment about Palestine and Israel, and are clear to seek ways for us in NEYM to provide support for travel to the region. See below, **Recommendations From IPRG re: Travel to Palestine and Israel for Solidarity, Witness and Support**, for our assessment of the feasibility for travel at this time.

Bob Watt of Providence Meeting is back from his trip in December, 2025 and is very willing to share with your meeting or Quarter about his experiences, as is Linden Jenkins, who continues to travel in the ministry under the care of N. Sandwich (NH) Friends, having given her message, *Pilgrimage to Palestine, Pilgrimage to Home: A Report* back to 17 groups since returning November 2024 after 3 months there. Bob can be reached at wattesq@aol.com and Linden at lightreveals2prevail@proton.me.

We will also be offering a workshop at the upcoming Living Faith gathering featuring Bob and Linden, facilitated by Martha Yager of Providence called "Come and See, Go and Tell".

First, we wanted to provide some updates on the status of the region, primarily from American Friends Service Committee, and their decision to remain despite recent demands from the Israeli government

<https://afsc.org/newsroom/quaker-org-will-continue-gaza-work-despite-israels-threat-ban-ingos>

And this link to their Palestinian Program webpage, featuring their monthly newsletter on Palestinian activism.

<https://afsc.org/programs/us-palestine-activism-program>

In addition, here is the Northeast Region newsletter announcing Keith Harvey's retirement. We are requesting that the Permanent Board approve a Minute of Appreciation for Keith's work over the last three decades.

<https://afsc.org/sites/default/files/2025-12/afsc-northeast-region-holiday-2025-newsletter.pdf?ms=EMA26NE1231YE&emci=917aefc3-59e6-f011-8195-000d3a1d58aa&emdi=739fc0b6-73e6-f011-8195-000d3a1d58aa&ceid=770453>

Here is a report from Britain about the recent court decision on the group Palestine Action, which I hope to update on the 28th

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/c8x90q9nyzyt>

And, a recent investigation by Al Jazeera about the types of weapons Israel has deployed against Palestinians

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/2/10/israel-used-weapons-in-gaza-that-made-thousands-of-palestinians-evaporate>

Here is a series of offerings from Friends Meeting at Cambridge, scheduled for March

Upcoming programs at Friends Meeting Cambridge:

Divesting for Palestinian Rights (Zoom) WED, 3/11, 2--4:00pm

Dov Baum, Director of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Action Center for Corporate Accountability, will talk about divestment—both personal and institutional—and answer our questions.

Check back for more information about this event. To participate using Zoom, click this [link](#) or provide the meeting ID 783 475 1861 and passcode 1652 (if requested) on Zoom.com, the Zoom app, or after calling 1-646-558-8656. Contact Stephen Houseworth at gaza@fmcquaker.org

Palestinian-Themed Simple Lunch (Friends Room).

Sun, 3/22, 12:15--1:00pm

A \$6-7 donation is requested to cover the cost of the vegan soup, salad and bread provided, but you are invited regardless of whether you can contribute money. An extra donation is welcomed to cover extra foods purchased for this event. Contact Tom Sander / David Smith at simplelunch@fmcquaker.org.

The Trump ‘Peace Plan’ and the Future of Palestine (Friends Room /Open Zoom). Sun, 3/22, 1:15--3:00pm

After a Palestinian themed lunch, we will hear from two activists about Gaza—Nancy Murray (scholar and writer) and Leila Farsakh (Palestinian-American political scientist at UMass-Boston) with discussion following their presentation.

To participate using Zoom, click this [link](#) or provide the meeting ID 783 475 1861 and passcode 1652 (if requested) on Zoom.com, the Zoom app, or after calling 1-646-558-8656. Contact Skip Schiel at gaza@fmcquaker.org

And a recent appeal from Jewish Voice for Peace

<https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2025/12/05/israel-bonds-victories-27/>

We offer these resources so that we may be reminded of the international efforts of so many, and to provide more background than is easily available through mainstream media.

Here is an update on Shadi Khoury, Ramallah Friends School Graduate from Friends United Meeting, as of 2/16/26

(via Kathleen Wooten of Lawrence Meeting and a member of the Permanent Board)

For the past several years, we have lifted up the story of Shadi Khoury, a member of our Ramallah Friends School community, who was arrested by the Israeli military, and has since endured repeated trials, prolonged delay, house arrest, imprisonment, isolation, physical abuse, and the strain of the Israeli military court system.

After extended proceedings and retrial, a verdict has now been issued: The court sentenced Shadi to 32 months in prison, a fine of 12,000 shekels, and a six-month suspended sentence. He must turn himself in on March 29th.

We continue to pray for him and for his family.

We are deeply grateful for the care, the prayer, and the advocacy that so many Friends have offered around the world. As we pray for Shadi, we also remember the many Palestinian youth held in military prisons. We pray for their protection, and we must continue to shine a spotlight on the injustice of these prisons that operate outside regular oversight and accountability.

- Kelly Kellum, Friends United Meeting

** Max Carter is in touch with the family, and trying to determine if folks can donate to the fee, or their needs. I will share more info as I receive it. (from Kathleen)

Recommendations From IPRG re: Travel to Palestine and Israel for Solidarity, Witness and Support

Following the approval by the Permanent Board of the recommendations from the Called Meeting on Gaza, the Resource Group has explored and researched several options for travel to the area, primarily the West Bank and East Jerusalem, since it may not be possible to travel to Ramallah (which was the case in December, 2025 per Bob Watt).

We have consulted with Friends who have relationships in the area, with staff at the American Friends Service Committee and with other faith groups who have or are planning similar trips.

Here are some options:

- To partner with Sabeel <https://sabeel.org/category/delegation/>

which is the group that coordinated the delegations that both Linden and Bob were in. Linden has volunteered with them since 2024 and helped to organize several trips and is willing to do that for us. Estimated cost is \$4,500-5,00 per person for ten days.

- To partner with the World Council of Churches (as suggested by Brian Blackmore of AFSC)

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) with the World Council of Churches: [Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel | World Council of Churches](#). This program brings 25-30 people to Palestine for a three-month period to do the kind of work NEYM is envisioning. Quakers in Britain and Ireland are very involved in EAPPI. You can learn more about their involvement here: [Eyewitness Stories from Palestine and Israel – EAPPI UK &](#)

[Ireland – We share the eyewitness stories of Palestinians and Israelis and advocate for justice, equality and an end to the military occupation of Palestine.](#)

In addition to the fee, participants gather, pre-trip, in Washington, D.C. for some days of training and orientation, and post-trip for debriefing & prep for the 10 talks they agree to give, as part of their witness.

Estimated cost \$10,000 plus airfare

- Another possibility is to partner with AFSC,

We have been exploring that with their staff. Because of the demands and restrictions of the Israeli government, that may not be the best option at this time, but we are not ruling it out.

When Bob Watt participated in his trip with Catholic Workers, that group made the commitment to raise enough money to self-fund their trip. We look forward to ways that NEYM may be able to assist with travel costs, including the possibility of a matching fund, or a discussion with the Gifts Committee (formerly the Legacy Gift Committee) of NEYM to support individuals in their travel. In any event, there does appear to be both ways and means that these trips can happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Manning (Durham and 3 Rivers), Skip Schiel (Friends Meeting at Cambridge)

Bob Watt (Providence), Linden Jenkins (North Sandwich), Martha Yager (Providence), Petra Doan (Brunswick), Steve McKnight (Wellesley)