

Eugene Friends Church

Minute on Apartheid-Free Palestine and on Being an Apartheid-Free Church

Approved November 17, 2024

Eugene Friends Church affirms that all people are equal and should be treated with dignity and respect. For decades, however, the Palestinian people have faced Israeli settler colonialism and military occupation enforced through violence, discriminatory laws, and systematic human rights abuses. International human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and twenty-one Jewish Israeli human rights groups have investigated and determined that this situation constitutes the crime of Apartheid.

The 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, define apartheid as a crime against humanity that involves: 1) a system of separation or segregation for domination (based on race, creed, or ethnicity) that is 2) legally enforced and entails 3) the commission of inhuman acts as part of that system.

As a congregation of the Society of Friends (Quakers), Eugene Friends Church joins the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in the Apartheid-Free campaign, and with hundreds of other communities of conscience, to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and support their call for their equal rights. Inspired by the biblical witness, our Quaker forebearers, and all who labor for freedom, equality, inclusion, and peace, we affirm the following and declare our church to be "Apartheid-Free." As such:

1. We affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;
2. We oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and
3. We declare ourselves an Apartheid-free congregation, and to that end;
4. We pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

Furthermore, we ask other Quaker organizations and all communities of conscience to learn about Israeli apartheid and to respond as the Spirit leads.