

## **NOVEMBER 2023 CALL TO ACTION:**

***Worried about the Israel – Hamas war?***

### **LEARN MORE**

#### ***Some Quick Facts:***

*Israel has fought 7 wars since it was founded in 1948.*

After two Arab-Israeli wars, Palestinians were moved to refugee camps in Gaza and other neighboring countries. Gaza suffered economically after Hamas took over in June 2007. It is a densely populated area containing about 2.3 million people.

Palestinians in Gaza faced increasing restrictions from Israel after Hamas' violent attacks and when international peace efforts for a 2-state solution (1994) seemed to fall apart.

#### ***Think about this:***

Both Hamas and Israel have committed UN-established criminal acts especially towards children and the elderly. According to international laws of war (jus in bello) adopted by the United Nations, civilians "cannot be targeted for military purposes, or disproportionately harmed as a means to a military end."

### **TAKE ACTION**

Read October 12 NY Times article "[Israel, Gaza and the Laws of War](#)"

Read Friends' [Historic Peace Testimony](#)

***We can call for a ceasefire and supporting humanitarian aid to Gaza.***

American Friends Service Committee <https://afsc.org/>

Friends Council on National Legislation <https://www.fcnl.org/>

### **GO DEEPER**

Donate to Doctors Without Borders <https://doctorswithoutborders.org>

Donate to United Nations Relief and Works Agency <https://www.unrwa.org>

## **OCTOBER 2023 CALL TO ACTION:**

**On October 9, we celebrate *Indigenous Peoples' Day*...**

### **LEARN MORE**

It was in 1977 that Indigenous peoples first proposed the day at a United Nations conference.

Thirty years later, on September 13, 2007 the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly. There were 4 votes against its adoption (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States).

***Read more about the UN Declaration [here](#).***

In the U.S., Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated instead of, or in addition to Columbus Day in Alabama, Alaska, California, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

In 2021 President Biden issued the first-ever presidential proclamation of Indigenous Peoples' Day

### **TAKE ACTION**

There are several celebrations of Indigenous Peoples' Day taking place in the Philadelphia area. Check out what's happening [here](#) and join the celebration!

### **GO DEEPER**

Read what the Friends Council on National Legislation has to say about our responsibility to Native Americans [here](#).

As we struggle to find a way to live in harmony with all of nature for our mutual benefit, we have a lot to learn from Indigenous peoples. Since 2016 Native nations have been holding "climate camps" to explore ways to live in a time of climate disruption. You can read about "Native Nations on the front line of climate change" [here](#).

## **SEPTEMBER 2023 CALL TO ACTION: REDUCE FOSSIL FUELS"**

How Do We go About Seeking an Earth Restored? From our Core Values as Quakers.

### **LEARN MORE**

*Facts: The US released 13 metric tons of pollution per capita in 2020.* The increase in greenhouse gas emissions drives up the heating of the earth's atmosphere. Increased gas emissions cause warmer weather, which translates to reduced moisture in plants, and hotter and drier air, which are ideal conditions for fires (PBS NewsHour, 6/29/2023)

### **TAKE ACTION**

*Sign onto a recent Senate Bill on supporting funding for climate change.* Tell Congress to support increased climate funding for the Fiscal Year 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. Global Climate assistance helps other countries to transition to clean energy. <https://www.fcni.org/issues/environment-energy>

### **GO DEEPER**

*Learn about the Inflation Reduction Act* It provides a clean energy tax credit to religious organizations, which purchase energy efficient equipment to renovate buildings – for example, electric stoves, electric vehicles, and solar panels. It provides for funding for non-profits that renovate existing buildings with materials that reduce carbon emissions <https://www.fcni.org/updates/2023-07/inflation-reduction-act-benefits-houses-worship>

## **AUGUST 2023 CALL TO ACTION: “ECONOMIC JUSTICE“**

Roughly half of NJ residents live in “environmental justice communities” that contain large numbers of limited English, low income, and/or minority groups. These communities are where urgent rules need to be enforced: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/communities-location/>

### **LEARN MORE**

The Department of Environmental Protection recently adopted rules implementing New Jersey’s environmental justice law. (2 years after approval). This means that state officials can now block new polluting industries or expansions of existing facilities for projects that would have an environmental impact on these already “overburdened” communities.

*According to a recent Sierra Club Newsletter, other states that have adopted similar rules, ...Including: CT, MA, MI OR, IL, CA and WI.*

### **TAKE ACTION**

- Donate to and volunteer for the NJ Sierra Club: [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey).
- Report polluting violations to NJDEP by calling 1-877-WARNDEP.

### **GO DEEPER**

- Learn more about economic justice laws in New Jersey here: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/law/>.
- At the US federal level, read Friends Committee on National Legislation’s statement on Economic Justice here: [www.fcnl.org/issues](http://www.fcnl.org/issues).

## **JUNE AND JULY 2023 CALL TO ACTION: SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES**

This month we are presenting a hands on call to action. We are partnering with the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee to collect school supplies to equip children of refugee families in South Jersey for the 2023-24 school year.

**Last August, almost 150 refugee students from pre-school through college received backpacks with school supplies. Thanks to the help of many donors, we are hopeful that we can supply about this many students with supplies for the 2023-2024 school year.**

For many years, Priscilla Adams of Haddonfield Meeting, distributed school supplies to refugee students through her job working with refugees at Catholic Charities. She and the Meeting continue that work through the *Refugee Assistance Fund of Haddonfield Meeting*.

Students come from Myanmar (Burma), Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Colombia, Pakistan and Iraq. These families now live in Burlington, Camden, Cumberland and Atlantic Counties.

**Below are suggested items, but any supplies are welcome. \*Starred items are in demand.**

- **\*backpacks**
- **\*highlighters**
- **\*spiral notebooks & composition books**
- **\*pens**
- **\*pencil sharpeners**
- **erasers**
- **markers**
- **colored pencils**
- **crayons**
- **pencils**
- **pocket folders**
- **glue sticks**

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT MT. LAUREL MEETINGHOUSE DURING WORSHIP

We, as Quakers bear witness to the following related testimonies; peace, stewardship and equality. [www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/friends-witness-world](http://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/friends-witness-world).

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## May 2023 Call to Action: Food Insecurity

A new study released by [Feeding America](#) reports that 34 million Americans, including 9 million children are food insecure.

As of November 2022, the United Nations reported that the number of people on earth totaled 8 billion for the first time. The April edition of [National Geographic](#) says that world population will reach its peak and start to decline before the end of the century.

*Where and why are so many hungry?*

Statistics from the UN World Food Program claim that major causes of food insecurity come from conditions such as climate change, man-made conflict, and natural causes.

Further research demonstrates that the number 1 global cause of food insecurity comes from man-made conflict. Human conflict causes basic disruption in food resources for entire areas; an example of this can be witnessed in Syria and the Sudan.

Visit the following Organizations to Learn More and Take Action...

- The UN World Food Program at <https://www.wfpusa.org>
- Friends Committee on National Legislation at [www.fcnl.org/issues/economic-justice](http://www.fcnl.org/issues/economic-justice)
- Feeding America at [www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america](http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america)
- The Foodbank of South Jersey at [www.foodbanksj.org](http://www.foodbanksj.org)

## April 2023 Call to Action: Earth Day

Climate disruption is in our daily headlines but our concern for the Earth is nothing new. On April 22, 2023 we again celebrated Earth Day, which was first celebrated on April 22, 1970.

### Learn more

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 was the brainchild of Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. You can learn more about the history of Earth Day [here](#) and scroll down the history page to the bottom to see a video about Senator Nelson and his “vision for the Earth”.

HISTORY OF EARTH DAY: <https://www.earthday.org/history/>

### Take action

Environmental issues can seem overwhelming and intimidating but in fact we have the knowledge and technology we need to solve our climate crisis. All we need is the will to take action.

***Get personally involved:*** Whether you want to increase environmental literacy, end plastic pollution, discover “sustainable fashion” choices, make more ecofriendly investments or plant trees, you can take action today right [here](#).

<https://www.earthday.org>

***Contact your Representatives in Washington:*** Friends Committee on National Legislation provides information on environmental issues ways to send a message

<https://www.fcnl.org/issues/environment-energy>

### Get inspired

Feeling discouraged? Let poet Amanda Gorman remind you why our precious planet is worth working to save in her poem “Earthrise”

<https://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/home/resource-list-for-ejc-and-a-poem/>

## March 2023 Call to Action: Women's History

Since 1995, U.S. Presidents have signed proclamations declaring March as Women's History Month. Of course, women's history extends well beyond just one month of recognition.

1. **In 2023, women make up 28% of all members of U.S. Congress- this is the highest percentage in US history:** \*House of Representatives: 128 \*Senate: 25 out of 100 seats
2. Inclusive of both House of Representatives and Senate, women number 153 of 540 voting and non-voting members of Congress
3. [Becca Balint](#) (VT) first woman and openly LGBTQ person elected to the House of Representatives in 2022.
4. [Katie Britt](#), first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Alabama in 2023.

LEARN MORE: Women's Legacy in U.S. Government History



1916, [Jeanette Rankin](#) was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives from state of Montana; four years before the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed the right of women to vote. She declared, *"I may be the first woman member of Congress, but I won't be the last."*

1964: [Patsy Mink](#) (Hawaii) became first Asian-American woman elected to Congress

1968: [Shirley Chisolm](#) (New York) became first black woman elected to Congress

1983: [Marcy Kaptur](#) (Ohio) elected to office in the House of Representatives; she currently holds the longest tenure of any woman in Congress -- 1983 – present

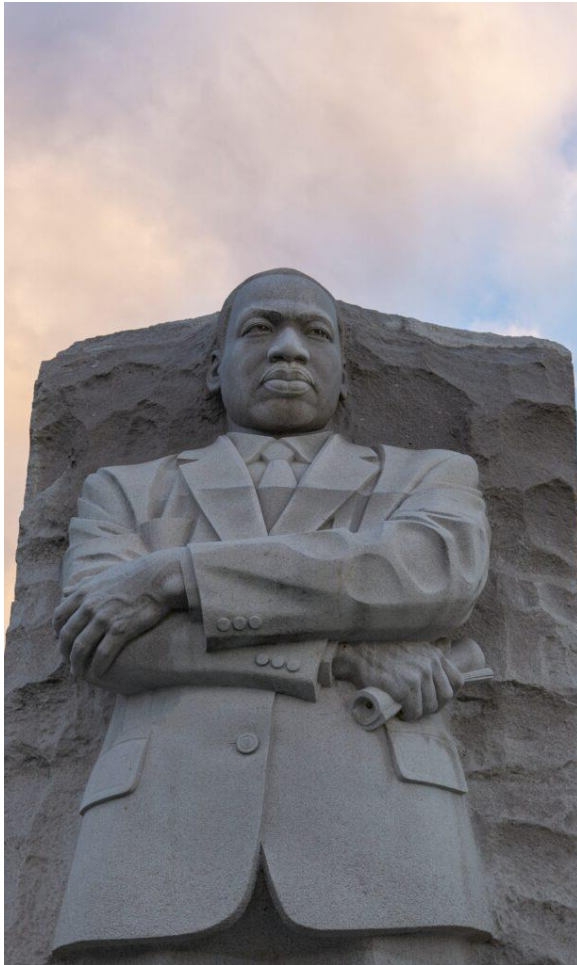
TAKE ACTION: Celebrate Women's History

**Volunteer Time or Donate** to [Alice Paul Institute](#)

**Learn More about global advocacy for women:** [Women Deliver](#) - an organization that champions gender equality and the health and rights of girls. It encourages investment – both political and financial – in the lives of girls and women worldwide.



## February 2023 Call to Action: Black History



It is the celebration of achievements by African Americans and the recognition of their central role in U.S. history.

### Learn More:

**Watch** Black History [Documentaries](#)

**Read** or reread about the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s.

**Listen** to music that expresses Black resistance and/or Black experience. Try gospel, folk music, blues, rock and roll, hip hop and/or rap.

**Notice** that Black athletes have used sports to express their resistance. (Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Colin Kaepernick and more)

**Visit** the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History in Washington DC. (\*Statue of Martin Luther King, Jr below can be viewed there)

- Black History Month was first recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976.
- Other countries around the world also celebrate Black History month.
- This year's theme for Black History month is [Black Resistance](#).

### Take Action:

Join Moorestown Monthly Meeting's *Anti-Racism Committee* and attend the *Let's Talk* series (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays every month)

### Go Deeper:

Sign up for [MooreUnity](#) Brave Conversations on Race

Create a [White Learning Circle](#)

Connect with [Black Lives Matter](#)

## January 2023 Call to Action: TITLE 42

*“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome...”* Matthew 25: 35.

### Welcoming The Stranger

Since March 2020, the United States has been using emergency public health order, *Title 42*, to expel migrants at our southern border to limit the spread of communicable diseases during a pandemic. More than 2.5 million migrants, many of whom were asylum seekers, have been expelled under this rule.

With Covid-19 now under control, *Title 42* was set to end in 2022. But 19 states sued the federal government to stop the order. On December 27<sup>th</sup> the Supreme Court decided 5 to 4 to continue its use, at least until February 2023.

### Learn More

The Friends Committee on National Legislation opposes *Title 42* stating we have a legal and moral obligation to welcome people fleeing persecution and oppression. Read more about FCNL’s opposition [HERE](#).

### Take Action

Tell Congress to Support the End of Title 42 Now! Contact your local officials [HERE](#).

### Go Deeper

Tell Congress now is the time for enacting effective and just immigration laws. Contact your local officials [HERE](#).