

Peace Vigil October 21, 2023

Good afternoon. We would like to express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.

We welcome you on behalf of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Nanaimo. Our focus is to hold space for peace and to be witnesses to this latest conflict.

After our brief presentation we will give everyone an opportunity to speak.

WILPF is deeply saddened at the ongoing and escalating loss of life in Palestine and Israel, which takes place in the context of ongoing Israeli government's occupation, war crimes and impunity. Israel must end its illegal occupation of Palestine.

We denounce all attacks against civilians by all parties. Indiscriminate attacks on civilians are a crime under international law and cannot be justified.

The absolute priority is to prevent further atrocities and loss of life.

We call for an immediate ceasefire and a release of hostages by Hamas and of those illegally detained by Israel.

We call for an end to the siege on Gaza, to allow access to food, water, electricity and humanitarian aid.

We call on our Canadian government to end military and other support for Israel's occupation of Palestine and to demand Israel and Hamas abide by International law.

A durable and fair peace will only be achieved by eliminating the root causes of violence and oppression.

May we grieve the tragedies we are witnessing. May our hearts awaken allowing some, as yet, unimagined ways to move toward a peaceful world.

Turning to the heart is the way. Peace is the way. Let us see the world through the eye of the heart.