

## **Newtown Friends Meeting Condemns Attacks on Iran by the US**

Newtown Friends Meeting condemns the military actions, past and continuing, against Iran.

Newtown Friends (Quaker) Meeting rejects violence and works actively for peaceful solutions and a more just world, rooted in the belief that all life is sacred. Due to their actions based on this belief, the Religious Society of Friends was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for their relief work for all people affected by World War II.

From early in our history, Quakers have taken a clear stand for peace and against military action. The words we have written, and action we have taken in opposition to war and in support of peace, have come to be known as the Quaker "peace testimony." The Peace Testimony reads as such:

***"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world."*** (Excerpt from Declaration of Friends to Charles II, 1660)

We believe that lasting security comes through diplomacy, accountability, and international cooperation rather than violence. Active diplomacy with Iran has been abandoned in favor of a massive military attack. There is no justification for these illegal actions. This is a "war of choice" as there was no imminent threat facing the United States.

We call for the immediate withdrawal of all US military forces moved into the area of Iran and for continued US diplomacy.