

Hello, Friends,

I apologize for my absence and hope you are all having a fabulous day with awesome Friends.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Uprooting Systemic Racism is active and meeting monthly.

Olympia Monthly Meeting is working on organizing a training by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond on Undoing Racism. They require 30 committed individuals for other meetings in order to make this successful. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Steven Aldrich.

South Seattle Monthly Meeting has recently held a retreat on Racism, and is hosting a number of related Adult Religious Education sessions in the coming months, also on this topic.

Eugene Friends Meeting is submitting the following Minute to NPYM (as is probably being handled elsewhere):

Minute regarding Consideration of US Renewed Military Action

Against North Korea

Eugene Friends Meeting ("EFM") of the Religious Society of Friends ("Quakers") urges U.S. leaders to resist any temptation to a military strike against North Korea.

The use of military force on the Korean peninsula would cause massive loss of life and other horrific consequences to Koreans and other nations' people including our own. Over 100,000 Americans reside in South Korea, including thousands of civilians. Such a war, especially nuclear war, also would do terrible, long-term damage to the world's ecosystem. As with the war in Iraq, an attack on North Korea would have unintended consequences.

Only continued patience, diplomacy and non military interactions hold the promise for true peacebuilding and a better future for the Korean

peninsula. Our nation must reject the false promises of war and threats of war.

EFM has a long commitment to the Quaker testimony of Peace, with members engaging in peacebuilding work across the globe. Quakers have supported peaceful resolution of conflicts for more than 350 years, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, participating in establishment of the United Nations and other practical, ongoing conflict resolution organizations. Consistent with Friends' historic Peace Testimony, we "utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever."

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BACKGROUND-

In August 1, 2017, before North Korea demonstrated its ability to deliver nuclear weapons over thousands of miles, U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham stated on NBC's Today Show, "There is a military option to destroy North Korea's (missile) program and North Korea itself If there's going to be a war to stop them, it will be over there. If thousands die, they're going to die over there, they're not going to die here and (President Donald Trump) told me that to my face."

On July 30, 2017, Vice President, Mike Pence stated that "all options are on the table." UN Ambassador Nikki Haley was reported by CNN to have announced, "The time for talk is over."

The destructive horror of the Korean War (1950-1953) needs to be remembered in this country, as it is reconciliation, not more war or violence, which is so badly needed in Korea. As Newsweek reported on May 4, 2017, "During the course of the three-year war ... the U.S. dropped 635,000 tons of explosives on North Korea, including 32,557 tons of napalm, an incendiary liquid that can clear forested areas and cause devastating burns to human skin. (In contrast, the U.S. used 503,000 tons of bombs during the entire Pacific Theater of World War Two....) In a 1984 interview, Air Force Gen. Curtis LeMay, head of the Strategic Air Command during the Korean War, claimed U.S. bombs 'killed off 20 percent

of the population' and 'targeted everything that moved in North Korea.'" Among the dead were over 2.5 million people including 1 million civilians.

The false alarm in Hawaii on 1/13/18 reading "Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill." is a reminder of the very real danger of nuclear war. Any military action would carry an enormous human death toll.

There is a broad international consensus that economic pressure has had a major impact on North Korea and should be continued; its primary remaining trading partner, China, recently agreed to increase its economic actions.

A version of this minute was originally approved by Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Quakers) of the Religious Society of Friends during Annual Session at Frederick, Maryland on 8/6/17.

We (Peace and Social Concerns) are also internally seasoning a minute offered by the Montana Gathering of Friends:

MONTANA GATHERING OF FRIENDS MINUTE ON COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
We, the Montana Gathering of Friends, are heartbroken over the lives lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida last week and the 33,000 people who lose their lives to guns each year through suicide, spousal abuse, accidents, and mass shootings. We are heartened by young people across the country finding their voice on the issue of gun violence with clarity about how it impacts their safety, security, well-being and hope for the future. We empathize with the pain and fear they feel going to school every day, with the knowledge that the students and teachers they value in their own schools and in schools across the country face this threat.

Though we recognize the current need for defense procedures, we hold the belief that establishing lasting safety is more important than solely ensuring physical defense. The idea of bringing guns into schools to protect from shooters- who often are students themselves- is a violence that is just as scary as the threat it's reacting to. Our schools are not war zones.

Our children demand that our government, school systems and the adults in their lives take this problem seriously and take steps to face the root causes of violence in our society. A sense of safety needs to be established for everyone in our schools, including and especially those students who could potentially be violent towards themselves or others. We support our youth in sharing their hopes and concerns. We join in their vision of a world without a ubiquitous background of violence where people learn how to express feelings of anger and pain constructively. We have been numb to this need for too long. An issue this important should not be polarizing and it should not be postponed. We should look towards peace through compromise and engagement. This is an issue for us to unite around in protection of the kids and people we love.

MGOF does not wish to submit it to Annual Session as a whole at this time.

The website where we can share our engagements is up and running, but not yet beautiful or 'active' at peaceandsocialconcerns.org. I (Sea) will be going to easy-to-reach meetings to try to get buy in for this website during the Spring. I hope to see some of you there.

It is intended to be a resource-sharing site where we can also swiftly and easily request assistance with various projects throughout the yearly meeting. Please let me know if you or anyone you know would like to be added.

Finally, it's a little lonely on Peace and Social Concerns. I have recently written Nominating Committee.

Be well!

best,

Sea