

MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS IN MIDDLE EAST YEARLY MEETING

As Friends will have read, the Epistle of our Yearly Meeting last week started as follows:-

“We welcomed many Friends from around the world, as well as representatives of other church bodies and other belief communities. As was the case in the last number of years, those attending in person were joined by a large number of online Friends. We are mindful, at a time of war and environmental breakdown, of what a privilege it is to be able to gather together as Friends, a privilege denied to our Friends in Middle East Yearly Meeting who had also planned to gather at this time. Our thoughts were very much with our Friends in that region and with all who are suffering as a result of war.”

We shared our Epistle widely, including with Sami Cortas, the Clerk of Middle East Yearly Meeting, who lives in Brummana, near Beirut. Sami responded to our Epistle as follows:

I send you and Irish Friends the heartfelt greetings of the Brummana Friends. Thank you for sharing the Epistle of the Ireland 2026 Yearly Meeting. I have forwarded it to the rest of the Brummana Friends,

Many of the concerns you have addressed align with our concerns and give us hope that the poor, dispossessed, and vulnerable are on the minds of Friends worldwide.

The ongoing revision of the "Red Book" is but an indication that the Quaker Faith is alive, open, and growing, and still rooted in the good teaching of the Master. The book is a welcome and an encouraging guide for the young people in search of answers to the concerns of current times.

Allow me to share with you a wonderful musical project, somewhat akin to the musical theatre mentioned in the Epistle, intended to bring young Palestinians and Israelis musicians together through music. It is called the "West Eastern Divan".

One can read more about it in Wikipedia, Following is a link to a musical performance. Enjoyable listening with a mission to further peace.

[West Easter Divan Beethoven's 9th.](#)

<https://youtu.be/4lqnVCc-Yqo?list=RD4lqnVCc-Yqo>

In Justice, Peace, and Friendship

Sami