

**Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

**1600 Fifth Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102**

**Reaffirming Our Opposition to the Death Penalty and Urging our Neighbors,
Communities and Governments to Resist the Call to Lethal Vengeance**

Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) reaffirms our opposition to state-sanctioned killing through the imposition of the death penalty.

Our testimony today is grounded in Friends' historic commitment to walk in the way of peace and to respect the Divine presence in every person. We believe "In all human life, there exists a Light that can lay open the Spirit to what is Divine. Because this Light is a sacred reality, and because it exists in everyone, we have embraced an abiding witness against killing, even for the sake of peace [*Intermountain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Faith and Practice, 2009, p.47*]."

When families, communities and personal lives are torn apart by unimaginable acts of violence, it is understandable and human that many may react by seeking violent redress for the violence committed against them. However, we are convinced that vengeance can never restore peace to any person, family or community or to our world.

The death penalty "denies the sacredness of human life and violates our belief in the human capacity for change. This irreversible penalty cannot be applied equitably and without error. Use of the death penalty by the state powerfully reinforces the idea that killing can be a proper way of responding to those who have wronged us. We do not believe that reinforcement of that idea can lead to healthier and safer communities [*Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Statement of Legislative Policy, 1994*]."

Therefore, Albuquerque Friends oppose any laws which reintroduce the death penalty in jurisdictions where it has been abolished or expand the use of the death penalty in any jurisdiction where it still exists. We urge all jurisdictions within the United States to reject this act of collective vengeance and to abolish the death penalty.

*Approved during the Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business
October 2nd, 2016*

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