

Report on FCNL to SAYMA from your representative, Jane Hiles  
Yearly Meeting, June 2025

## Still speaking Truth to Power!

Greetings, Friends. This traditional phrase speaks volumes to where we are now as a nation and as a world in conflict. As your representative on the FCNL General Committee and as the clerk of FCNL's Annual Meeting Planning Committee, I'm proud to report that Still speaking Truth to Power is an accurate description of FCNL's work in the last year. Many of you may not have seen Susan Penn's and my comprehensive report after the November Annual Meeting, so here is an update and some highlights.

I invite you to attend FCNL's Annual Meeting, held virtually on November 14-16. Registration will open soon. Our theme this year is **Still Speaking Truth to Power**. We are fortunate to host a live conversation with noted historian and scholar of authoritarianism, **Timothy Snyder**, whom you may know from news broadcasts, TED Talks and an imposing list of published books that have been reprinted in dozens of languages. He has recently left Yale to lead a new department of Modern European History at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. ( [AM '25 link](#) )

At a time when the political climate is stressful, complex and even frightening, FCNL and other Quaker organizations are acting on Quakers' historic claim to bravery by joining in a lawsuit to prevent ICE and Homeland Security from invading houses of worship. As a recent *Washington Newsletter* reminds us, "In the face of tyranny, every act of democratic participation is an act of moral courage."

As the horror continues in Gaza, FCNL staff and Advocacy Teams across the country continue to petition the legislature to speak out against our government's continued delivery of the tools of war to Israel, our government's intransigent refusal to negotiate effective shipments of food to Gaza to prevent mass starvation, and its refusal to recognize the situation as the crime against humanity it truly is. ( [link here](#) )

FCNL continues to lobby against the administration's budget proposal that would severely cut Medicaid and SNAP to attempt to offset tax cuts for high-income Americans. General Secretary Bridget Moix responded, "this budget resolution takes from the poor to fund tax cuts for the rich, mass deportation, and the continued militarization of our world." This was the lobbying ask for over 300 young adults who attended Spring Lobby Weekend. ( [link here](#) )

Thank you to my joyful and efficient co-worker, Susan Penn, who has stepped away from this work for now. I'll miss her good humor and creativity. However, I hope another SAYMA Friend will join me in this needed work. Please contact Nominating to volunteer.