

Religious Society of Friends in Switzerland (Quakers)
Religiöse Gesellschaft der Freunde in der Schweiz (Quäker)
Société religieuse des Amis en Suisse (quakers)

c/o QUNO, 13 avenue du Mervelet, 1209 Geneva

15 May 2026

To Members of the Swiss Federal Council,

We write to you as the Switzerland Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), guided by our commitment to peace, nonviolence, and the recognition of that of God in every person, or in secular terms the essential dignity of every human being. We maintain that war and violence cannot bring lasting security or justice. Rather, they deepen suffering, perpetuate cycles of fear and denigrate the humanity of all involved. From these convictions flow our call for the rejection of violence as a means of resolving disputes, and the active pursuit of justice through nonviolent means.

We applaud that Switzerland holds a unique and longstanding role in the international community as a nation committed to neutrality, dialogue, and humanitarian principles and has been clear and steadfast in advocating these principles on the global stage. We are heartened whenever the Department of Foreign Affairs offers its good offices to support the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

However, more needs to be done due to the unprecedented challenges to the current international order. We urge the Swiss government to reassert respect for the Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and to speak out against violations of both, for example the recent attacks on civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools, as well as journalists and medical personnel. We expect Switzerland to defend the UN in its role of upholding international law and as a platform for international discourse, collaboration and problem-solving. We call on the Swiss state to reinforce and strictly apply its laws prohibiting the export of military hardware and terminate collaboration with military affiliated institutions in countries involved in wars.

In times such as these, moral leadership is essential. We exhort the Federal Council to act with courage and compassion, promoting dialogue over division and reconciliation over retaliation. The choices made now will shape not only immediate outcomes but the prospects of peace for generations to come. We trust that Switzerland will continue to be an instrument of rapprochement in a troubled world.

In friendship,

Switzerland Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)