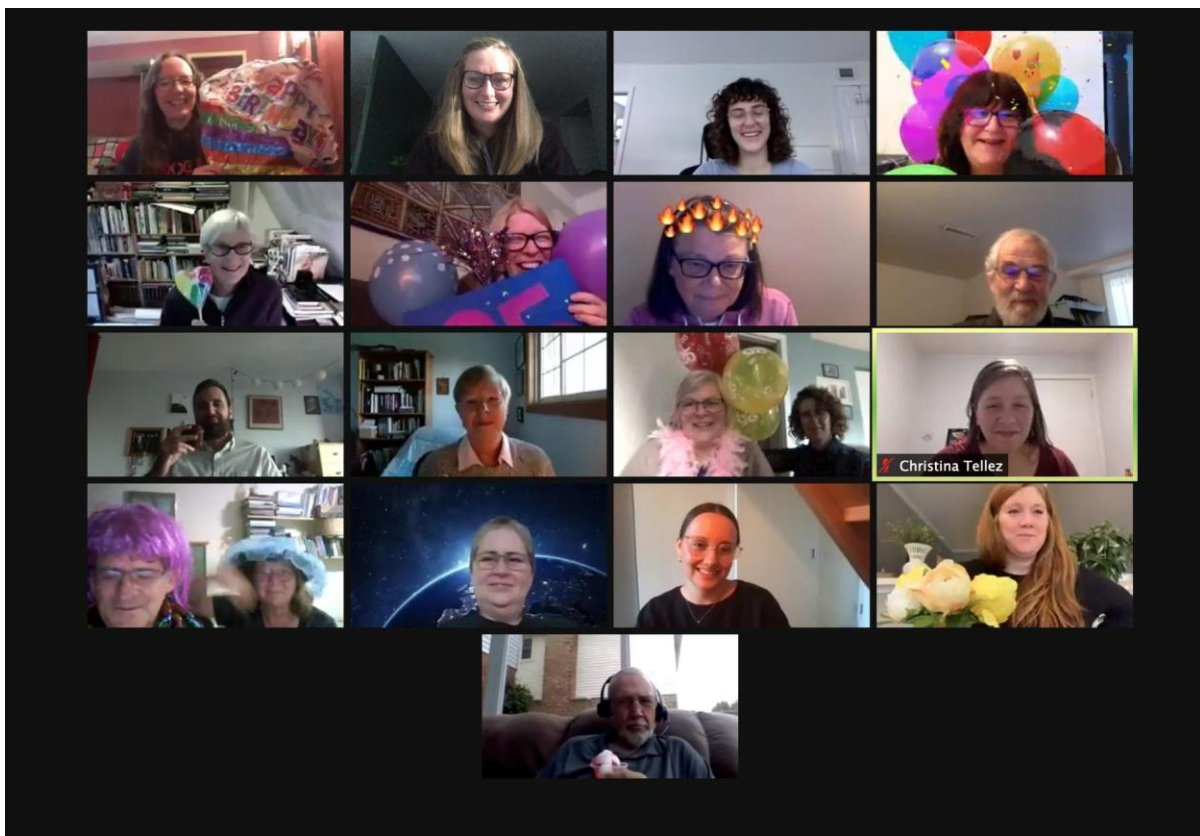


90
YEARS



QUAKERS
Canadian Friends
Service Committee

Giving Tuesday is November 30. As a small charity doing so much, we rely on caring individuals like you. Please consider making a donation to support vital justice and peace work on #GivingTuesday: <https://quakerservice.ca/donate>



Celebrating a major milestone for our General Secretary

CFSC recently celebrated (via Zoom as we have still not been able to meet in person) a major moment for General Secretary and Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator Jennifer Preston. November marks 25 years that Jenn has been working for CFSC! Congratulations Jenn on sticking with us for this long and on all of your many impressive accomplishments with Canadian Friends Service Committee!



Defense for Children International Palestine documents human rights abuses against Palestinian children, providing important information and advocacy. They've just been added to a list of "terrorist organizations." Above screenshot from their short documentary [*Detaining Dreams*](#).



"An attack on human rights everywhere"

On October 22, news broke that the government of Israel had declared six major Palestinian human rights groups "terrorist organizations." CFSC has worked with one of these six—Defense for Children International Palestine—around the [No Way to Treat a Child](#) campaign, which we were founding endorsers of in Canada.

[Human Rights Watch](#), [Amnesty International](#), Israeli human rights groups like [B'Tselem](#), Palestinian groups, and countless others around the world are condemning this move as not based on any reasonable grounds. They're calling it an authoritarian and anti-democratic attempt to silence human rights defenders.

UN human rights experts [concur](#), contending that this is an attack "on human rights everywhere." They note that "anti-terrorism legislation is designed for a specific and restricted purpose, and must not be used to unjustifiably undermine civil liberties or to curtail the legitimate work of human rights organisations."

If so led, consider contacting your Member of Parliament and asking them to speak publicly to encourage Canada's close ally (Israel) to reverse this decision and allow the vital work of peaceful Palestinian human rights organizations to continue.

Find out more about our concern for a [just peace in Israel/Palestine](#) with full dignity and human rights for all.



Congratulations to long-time CFSC partner Ellen Gabriel

Long time CFSC partner Ellen Gabriel, who received funding from CFSC's [Reconciliation Fund](#) for her film work in the past, is showing her new short documentary *Strong Spirits* at the DOC NYC film festival.

Ellen explains that *Strong Spirits* "is a story I was honoured to be gifted with from Romeo Saganash of the Eeyou Nation in James Bay and former Member of Parliament, along with professor Wanda Gabriel of McGill University, from Kanehsatà:ke, which focuses on the issue of historical/multi-generational trauma."

Those in the US can watch *Strong Spirits* and other shorts online: <https://www.docnyc.net/film/doc-nyc-u-new-york-film-academy-4/>



Protesters in Miami, Florida call for "help for Cuba," July, 2021. Source: Luis F. Rojas/Wikimedia Commons



When is polarization beneficial?

Evidence shows that some types of polarization, if well navigated, are useful. For instance, Wikipedia teams with ideologically polarized editors write higher quality articles than homogeneous teams do. In [this blog post for Psychology Today](#) CFSC's Peace Program Coordinator Matt Legge looks at how polarization can be made beneficial.

CFSC is offering free online workshops to build your skills for engaging in difficult and polarized conversations. Find out more and get on the waitlist for a future session here: <https://quakerservice.ca/register>

