



Dear **NC Peace Action** Supporter,

The daily headlines can overwhelm us—the horror of war in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, threats of nuclear attacks, militarism’s impact on the climate crisis—but they also remind us that the world needs **Peace Action**. Those of us who remember the 1960’s are again seeing a tremendous outcry from young Americans as we recall the power of a community forged in protesting war.

As Gaza death toll mounts, the peace lobby fights for influence in Washington

Nationally, **Peace Action** has been creating coalitions to strengthen our grassroots activism. Earlier this year, *The New York Times* gave an insightful picture—quoting **Peace Action** staff—of the “Peace Lobby” and our efforts to stop the war in Gaza. The article helps explain how the Israel Lobby—AIPAC—has tremendous influence blocking American efforts toward a ceasefire.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/16/us/politics/gaza-peace-lobby-washington.html>

Here in North Carolina, we have the opportunity to ramp up our efforts by building bridges with the many new groups becoming active. Since the beginning of the war in Gaza, we have lobbied our congresswoman in Raleigh three times in an attempt to get her to publicly support a ceasefire. We included student representatives from NC State University, Palestinian groups, the NC Council of Churches, and the Progressive Caucus of the NC Democratic Party.



NC Peace Action organized a "Ceasefire Now" lobby visit at Rep. Deborah Ross's office in Raleigh. From L to R: Jamal Mohamad, Arab Student Organization at NCSU; Sarah Quadri; Ross's District Rep. Caroline Spencer Sparks; Joe Burton, NCPA; Reem Subei, NC Democratic Party; Rev. Jennifer Copeland, NC Council of Churches; Joe Cicero and Scott Oates, NCPA

Along with our efforts to gain support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we’ve been working on Gaza ceasefire resolutions in cities throughout the state. Months-long efforts to persuade NC city councils to endorse a ceasefire have brought record numbers of attendees to give public comment. Efforts in Raleigh are yielding results with new members of the council holding a vote on a ceasefire resolution with a result of 4-4.

Will you help sustain and strengthen **North Carolina Peace Action** with a contribution?

Many of us who thought young people would not be active without the threat of the draft have been inspired by the effort on campuses today. We are in a new era of peace activism. In an effort to reach out to younger generations, **NC Peace Action** is upgrading our website, Facebook page and our database system, including more social media channels to better communicate with the growing community of young peace activists. We are also expanding our internship program to build **NC Peace Action** chapters on college campuses statewide.

This year, along with democracy, peace in the Middle East is on the ballot. Politically, we are at an historic crossroad. Young voters no longer accept the status quo of unrestricted military aid to Israel. The White House and Congress are on the line over this war. Now is the time to connect with this new generation of anti-war activists, and future leaders of **Peace Action**.

As you know, this Peace Activism needs your Peace Support

The work we are doing now, and the work we have done over the last 40 years, could not have been accomplished without generous members like you. Would you consider continuing and/or increasing your support by donating *monthly* with one secure transaction on our website at <https://ncpeaceaction.org/join-renew-donate>, please? \$5, \$25 or \$50 a month means we can plan our work for peace through the coming election year. We've also included a return envelope with this newsletter if you prefer to send us a check. Will you please support **North Carolina Peace Action** now?

On behalf of all those suffering from a militarized world and faltering democracies who are our present and future voices for peace, democracy, and diplomacy—**Thank You**.

Joe Cicero - **NC Peace Action**



North Carolina Peace Action Board Member
Rachael Bliss attends the **All Eyes on Rafah**
demonstration in Asheville, June 2, 2024.
Photograph by Laura Mayes