



Yearly Meeting of
the Religious Society
of Friends in Britain

To members of Britain Yearly Meeting and to Local Meetings & Area Meetings within BYM

Dear Friends

We are writing as your representatives serving on Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) to ask for your prayerful upholding and financial support of FWCC's work. Four Sections worldwide make up FWCC; all of us in BYM are part of the Europe & Middle East Section (EMES) which also hosts the World Office. Our Quaker concerns cross continents and varied ways of worship and theology. FWCC works to encourage fellowship among all these branches. Its title reflects the fact that while all our national Quaker bodies are independent and autonomous, we gain enormously from sharing our understandings of what being a Quaker today means.

What is FWCC?

- There is no worldwide hierarchy of Quaker Yearly Meetings with a single figurehead like the Pope or the Archbishop of Canterbury in authority across the world. Instead FWCC models the Quaker way, with Yearly Meetings joining voluntarily together to make a difference and to make the Quaker voice heard worldwide.
- It works on a shoestring. Its world office is a small room in Friends House, where the sole full-time employee (FWCC General Secretary, Gretchen Castle) works with two part time assistants.

What is its vision and work?

- ❖ The Quaker Family: knowing one another in the things that are eternal:
 - How can Quakers from diverse cultural and theological backgrounds grow in unity and understanding? FWCC's role is in 'connecting Friends, crossing cultures, changing lives.' We need a body committed to ongoing dialogue between Friends from all traditions.
 - Personal contacts are the basis of a deeper understanding of one another and awareness of our shared work in the world.
 - FWCC balances care for our planet with finding ways to create real relationships between individuals and Yearly Meetings.
 - It shares BYM's concerns for sustainability, social action and fostering leadership amongst Young Adult Friends.

- ❖ Speaking to the world: making the Quaker voice heard
 - FWCC is in the unique position of enjoying the highest possible consultative status at the UN through the Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and in Geneva
 - It appoints to international Christian bodies (the Faith & Order Commission and Christian World Communions) and has observer status at the World Council of Churches
 - It participates in interfaith dialogue.

There may be much larger groupings of Quakers in Africa (especially in Kenya) & in Latin America, but Britain Yearly Meeting is a large and prosperous Yearly Meeting with the privilege of having the FWCC World Office situated on the premises of Friends House.

Why is it seeking funds?

- To maintain the existence of FWCC by paying modest salary and office costs.
- To support essential international travel, keep an up to date web presence and a world profile, to build up funding to bring together representatives of the four World Sections (EMES, Africa, the Americas, Asia-West Pacific) from time to time.
- To enable Quaker appointees to represent Quakerism on the world stage.
- With more money, FWCC can provide material support for isolated individual Friends and meetings caught up in humanitarian crises and natural disasters as it did in Nepal.

Help us support FWCC as it continues to connect Friends in our work, our worship and our lives. All donations coming from within Britain Yearly Meeting are shared, 75% going to FWCC and 25% to our own Section, EMES. Please consider taking a collection in your meeting or raising funds through a sale. You can donate by sending a cheque by mail to (FWCC, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ) by giving online via the website: <http://fwcc.world/about-fwcc/donate> or by setting up a standing order.

As FWCC representatives, we would be glad to come and share with your Area, Regional or Local meeting something of the current work, to bring alive its reality. You can contact us via Marleen Schepers at Friends House (marleens@quaker.org.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your support.

In Friendship,

Anne Bennett	Lincolnshire AM
Ann Floyd	Chilterns AM
Alick Munro	Kingston & Wandsworth AM
Liz Scurfield (co-opted)	North West London AM
Huw Still	York AM
Lee Taylor	Luton & Leighton AM
George Thurley (co-opted)	Sussex East AM
Barbara Windle	York AM

Britain Yearly Meeting's representatives to FWCC and members of BYM's Quaker World Relations Committee