



Yearly Meeting of  
the Religious Society  
of Friends in Britain

## **Calling letter for nominations to Meeting for Sufferings for the triennium Yearly Meeting 2018 - Yearly Meeting 2021**

30 August 2017

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask you to send nominations for service on Meeting for Sufferings for the triennial period Yearly Meeting 2018 – Yearly Meeting 2021. Please pass this letter and attachments to the clerk of your nominations committee. We will need to receive the nominations by 5 January 2018, to go to Yearly Meeting 4-7 May 2018 for appointment.

In line with the Meeting for Sufferings constitution we are asking you to nominate Friends for the triennial period Yearly Meeting 2018 - Yearly Meeting 2021. (It may be that your meeting has minuted a nomination for a different period; but in practice all current representatives and alternates will end their service at Yearly Meeting 2018 - any who continue service will need to be renominated.)

Guidance for the Nominations Committee:

Please forward the name of two Friends, both in membership:

- one Friend to act as the representative;
- one Friend to act as the alternate.

The alternate should be treated as someone who has the same capability and ability to represent as the alternate. Only one at a time will attend meetings, but both will receive all the papers and minutes, so they can keep fully abreast of the work of Meeting for Sufferings.

The representative and alternate nominated by Young Friends General Meeting are not required to be in formal membership of an area meeting, but to be part of YFGM.

Further guidance on the ways the representative and alternate relate together is found in the attached background information. This may be a useful job description to give the Friends being approached.

Please use the form provided. Nominations should be sent by email to [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk) or by post to Graham Spackman at Friends House at the latest by 5 January 2018. Please do contact me if you have any queries or need other assistance.

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Juliet Prager'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Juliet Prager  
Deputy Recording Clerk

# **Nominations to Meeting for Sufferings YM 2018 – YM 2021 – guidance for nominations committees**

Yearly Meeting minuted:

**AT YEARLY MEETING HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK 29 July - 5 August 2017**

*Minute 31: Meeting for Sufferings: Call for nominations for the triennium 2018 –2021 26:  
In accordance with section 7.05-7.08 of Quaker faith & practice,*

*a) Area meetings are required to nominate representatives to Meeting for Sufferings for the triennial period from Yearly Meeting 2018 until Yearly Meeting 2021. Representation from area meetings is on the basis of two Friends per area meeting, one designated as the representative and the other as an alternate.*

*b) The following standing committees are required to nominate representatives and alternates to Meeting for Sufferings for the triennial period from Yearly Meeting 2018 until Yearly Meeting 2021:*

*Quaker Life Central Committee  
Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee  
Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations  
Quaker World Relations Committee*

*c) The following bodies are asked to nominate representatives and alternates to Meeting for Sufferings for the triennial period from Yearly Meeting 2018 until Yearly Meeting 2021:*

*Young Friends General Meeting  
General Meeting for Scotland  
Meeting of Friends in Wales.*

*All nominations will come to Yearly Meeting 4-7 May 2018 for appointment. Area meetings, committees and other bodies making nominations are reminded of the requirements and advice contained in sections 7.05 – 7.08 of Quaker faith & practice.*

DEBORAH ROWLANDS, Clerk

## **Advice to area meetings for the nomination process (in addition to *Quaker faith & practice* 7.07)**

Please note: there is more information about Meeting for Sufferings, including the Handbook which explains more about the role, available on the BYM website ([www.quaker.org.uk/sufferings](http://www.quaker.org.uk/sufferings)) or on request from Graham Spackman at Friends House.

### **The appointment process**

We are asking for nominations from 77 bodies that are represented on Meeting for Sufferings:

- Area meetings
- General Meeting for Scotland
- Meeting of Friends in Wales
- Young Friends General Meeting
- and the four standing central committees:
  - Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR),
  - Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC),
  - Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC) and
  - Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC).

Each is asked to nominate two Friends to act as their representative and alternate. The appointments are made by Yearly Meeting.

The appointment is for a triennium – starting at Yearly Meeting 2018 and ending Yearly Meeting 2021. If Friends are unable to serve the full term, they may be released in which case the nominating body should send new nominations sent to Yearly Meeting (or Meeting for Sufferings in between Yearly Meetings) for appointment. The period of service is normally limited to six years.

### **Nominations**

In nominating Friends to serve on Meeting for Sufferings, area meetings are reminded that between sessions of Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings is the place where deep worshipping discernment of the Yearly Meeting's vision, its direction and priorities of faith and action should be taking place; the Meeting must have the spiritual authority to speak in the name of Quakers in Britain.

When seeking names, it will be helpful to remember that the same qualities are needed and appropriate for both nominations: the representative and the alternate.

This guidance may be helpful for nominating bodies:

1. Representatives need to understand and be experienced in our meetings for worship for church affairs.
2. They should be Friends of spiritual maturity, with a good grasp of our testimonies and of our structures.

3. They need to appreciate and be willing to engage in Meeting for Sufferings' primary function of discernment
4. Meeting for Sufferings needs Friends who have a degree of confidence in meeting in large meetings for worship for business. The needs of the meeting must focus on its brief of discernment and must allow as much time as possible for this in full plenary business sessions. The representatives at Meeting for Sufferings need to be able to respond well to working together in full session. Time for getting to know each other will be found in break times, over meals and at occasional residential.
5. They need to be able to foster a two way channel of communication between their area meetings and Meeting for Sufferings

You may have seen this sentence in the Yearly Meeting minutes: *'We have heard the call to examine our own diversity, particularly in our committee and organisational structure, locally and nationally'* (Minute 38, Yearly Meeting Gathering 2017). When your AM is considering nominations, we hope you can think about how Meeting for Sufferings as a body can include Friends of different ages and backgrounds.

### **Support for representatives**

Your AM (or your Committee, or Meeting) is asked to consider ways in which Friends can support and encourage your Meeting for Sufferings representative and alternate, and help them in involving and communicating with local Friends. It might be especially helpful to consider this at the time of making the nomination.

The previous representative(s) and alternate(s) may also be able to offer advice.

Representatives and alternates will be given induction and a handbook.

### **Representative and alternate**

Various models are used by different Area Meetings. Most commonly, the representative attends most frequently with the alternate deputising when necessary. In some cases the representative and alternate decide together who will attend which meeting based on availability and/or proposed agenda items.

*Quaker faith & practice* 7.06 explains that 'Each nominating body will decide which option best suits their situation'. We hope that the nominating body will work with the two Friends and help them to arrange a pattern of attendance that suits them both. The pattern of attendance might best be agreed by the two appointed individuals according to their personal circumstances, but the overall emphasis needs to be for continuity and consistency in regular participation in Meeting for Sufferings. In cases of doubt or difficulty, further advice can be obtained from the Recording Clerk.

Experience tells us that it is very important for the two Friends to work together and support each other.

For example, it can be useful for the two Friends to work together in going through the papers and preparing for meetings, and also in preparing reports for Area Meetings or consultations with local meetings.

The first meeting of the new Triennium (7 July 2018) will include induction for new representatives. We will invite both representatives and alternates to this meeting so that both Friends can participate in the induction.

**Further information:**

*Quaker faith & practice* (5th edition) Chapter 7 describes the role and constitution of Meeting for Sufferings.

There is information for representatives and those supporting them on the [BYM website](#), including the handbook.

The [website](#) also has information about dates of meetings, and guidance for Friends



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## **Nominations to Meeting for Sufferings for the triennium Yearly Meeting 2018 - Yearly Meeting 2021.**

Please return to Graham Spackman, C&S, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ, or email the information to him on [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk) by 5 January 2018.

**NAME OF AREA MEETING OR OTHER BODY:**

**NAME OF NOMINEE FOR REPRESENTATIVE:**

Nominated by minute number: \_\_\_\_\_ on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS including postal code:

Email:

Telephone:

Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ  
Telephone 020 7663 1000 Fax 020 7663 1000  
Internet [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)  
Registered charity number 1127633

**NAME OF NOMINEE FOR ALTERNATE:**

Nominated by minute number: on (date):

ADDRESS including postal code:

Email:

Telephone: