

Dear Friends worldwide,

The Statement below was developed by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Friends Committee on National Legislation for their joint presence at events during the UN Climate Summit in September 2014.

A number of fellow Quaker organizations wished to add their name, including FWCC, which sent the Statement out to Quaker communities worldwide. As a result, we continue to receive signatures which we add to the Statement, uploading the most recent versions onto the QEW, FCNL and QUNO websites.

The Statement was originally written as a ‘witness’ of our role in anthropogenic climate change. Its aim was to inspire personal and community action; it was not meant to define a universal action, since the situation of Quakers worldwide is not universal. However, QUNO has produced a booklet describing individual Quaker actions, *A Call to Conscience*, which is available on its website, and we encourage you to write if your Meeting commits to community-wide action. We are also helping develop a resource for Quaker action on climate change.

The attached Statement was revised in January 2015 to reflect the following concerns: that it have longer life by being non-date specific to continue its relevance, and that the language be less anthropocentric and more strongly acknowledge the grave dangers we face from climate change. It was revised in August 2015, to add the word ‘anthropogenic’ in clarifying the statement relating greenhouse gas emissions to the combustion of fossil fuels on the second page.

We have attempted to do this, while holding to the core message that Quaker organizations and Meetings have already upheld and signed.

If you wish to add your Meeting to this Statement, please contact Lindsey Cook as suggested at the end of the Statement.

If you do not wish to sign, but wish to use this material as a base for a Meeting-specific Statement, you are most welcome, but please take off the signatures.

In peace and with gratitude,

QEW, QUNO and FCNL

August 2015

# Facing the Challenge of Climate Change

## A shared statement by Quaker groups

January 2015

*“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”*

*William Penn, 1693*

As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples.<sup>1</sup> We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations.

We call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement.

As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that the current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth’s ecosystems and species, including human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently.

We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited material growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco-Justice, 2012, p. 1

We recognize that most anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion. We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth. We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction.

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

Quakers in Ghana  
Quakers in Britain  
Living Witness, UK  
EcoQuakers Ireland  
Quakers in Australia  
Quakers in Denmark  
Norway Yearly Meeting  
Quaker Service Australia  
Canadian Yearly Meeting  
Netherlands Yearly Meeting  
Pacific Yearly Meeting, USA  
Miami Friends Meeting, USA  
Quaker Institute for the Future  
Northern Yearly Meeting, USA  
Memphis Friends Meeting, USA  
New York Yearly Meeting, USA  
Storrs Friends Meeting, CT, USA  
Quaker Concern for Animals, UK  
York Monthly Meeting, PA, USA  
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)  
Newtown Monthly Meeting, USA  
Croton Valley Meeting, NY, USA  
Valley Friends Meeting, VA, USA  
Quakers in Aotearoa New Zealand  
FWCC- Asia West Pacific Section  
Cookeville Monthly Meeting, USA  
Eugene Friends Meeting, OR, USA  
Oak Park Friends Meeting, IL, USA  
New England Yearly Meeting, USA

Winnipeg Monthly Meeting, Canada  
Lafayette Friends Meeting, IN, USA  
Princeton Friends Meeting, NJ, USA  
Nashville Friends Meeting, TN, USA  
Trenton Meeting of Friends, NJ, USA  
Honolulu Monthly Meeting, HI, USA  
Palo Alto Friends Meeting, CA, USA  
Abingdon Friends Meeting, VA, USA  
Baltimore Yearly Meeting, MD, USA  
Frederick Friends Meeting, MD, USA  
Humboldt Friends Meeting, CA, USA  
Eau Claire Friends Meeting, WI, USA  
Mattaponi Friends Meeting, VA, USA  
Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, NM, USA  
Rochester Friends Meeting, MN, USA  
Gettysburg Friends Meeting, PA, USA  
Westtown Monthly Meeting, PN, USA  
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, UK  
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, UK  
Little Falls Friends Meeting, MD, USA  
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)  
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, OH, USA  
Sacramento Friends Meeting, CA, USA  
Twin Cities Friends Meeting, MN, USA  
Gunpowder Friends Meeting, MD, USA  
Homewood Friends Meeting, MD, USA  
Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, AK, USA  
Maury River Friends Meeting, VA, USA  
Salmon Bay Friends Meeting, WA, USA  
Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting  
FWCC - Europe and Middle East Section  
Prospect Hill Friends Meeting, MN, USA  
Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, MD, USA  
Northampton Friends Meeting, MA, USA  
Charlottesville Friends Meeting, VA, USA  
Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, OH, USA  
Whidbey Island Friends Meeting, WA, USA  
Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, Ontario, CA  
Delta Monthly Meeting, Stockton, CA, USA  
Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)  
Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Quaker City Unity Friends Meeting, NH, USA  
Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, CA, USA  
Société Religieuse des Amis (Quakers), France  
Eggemoggin Reach Monthly Meeting, ME, USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)  
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)  
Goose Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends, VA, USA  
South Central Yearly Meeting (TX, OK, AR, LA), USA

Please contact Lindsey Cook at [lfcook@quno.ch](mailto:lfcook@quno.ch) if you need more information, or wish to add your Quaker group.

Latest signature update: November 2015