



Quaker Peace & Social Witness: an introduction

Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) helps British Quakers live out their faith in the world. As part of Quakers in Britain, we support Quakers who are led by their faith to take action, and work on behalf of Quakers to build sustained action for peace and social justice.

Why Quakers work on peace and social justice issues

Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) work emerges from the deep spiritual experience of Quakers. QPSW aims to tackle the root causes of violence, and to build a more just and peaceful world. Quakers call this form of action *witness* – living out our faith in the world.

QPSW supports Quaker witness in Scotland, Wales and England by accompanying, connecting and providing resources for Quakers and meetings who share common concerns. We also work on behalf of Friends where it is appropriate to act or speak as a whole faith body, and work with other Quaker bodies, including the Quaker Housing Trust and the Quaker United Nations Office. Information on their work is included in this leaflet. QPSW's work is guided by a central committee of 15 Quakers, appointed by Meeting for Sufferings, the national Quaker decision-making body. The QPSW Central Committee appoints Quakers to subcommittees that oversee distinct programmes of work.

In this leaflet we describe the current QPSW programmes, how to get in touch with staff and the different ways we can support Quakers and meetings.

Our work

Social justice

Crime, community and justice

CCJ's vision is of a society that works collaboratively to transform structures that create harm. The programme brings diverse groups together to explore this vision and to campaign for a downsized criminal justice system and a stronger social infrastructure.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/crime-community-justice

Sanctuary Everywhere

Quakers around Britain have responded to the forced migration crisis by acting in solidarity with refugee and migrant communities.

QPSW accompanies Quakers in this work through the Sanctuary Everywhere programme. We offer resources, training, and political advocacy support to a network of local Quaker meetings who pledge to create a culture of welcome in their communities.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/migration



Sustainability

We support Quakers to take action on climate breakdown working alongside them to call for political change to keep fossil fuels in the ground and invest in a green economy that works for people and the planet. We help Quakers find

ways of taking action locally and within their meetings, including divesting their money from fossil fuels, and joining with local communities to resist fossil fuel extraction projects.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability



Quakers hold a meeting for worship against fracking atop Pendle Hill in Lancashire. Photo: BYM

Economic justice

Quakers seek an economic system that has equality, justice and environmental sustainability at its heart. Working alongside other faith and campaigning groups, we are calling for political action to address the damaging levels of economic inequality experienced in Britain today. We provide resources to help Friends better understand

and develop an informed critique of current economic systems. We also support Quaker groups who model practical alternatives to a broken economic system and enable people and the planet to prosper sustainably.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/economic-justice

Housing

Quaker Housing Trust (QHT) is Britain Yearly Meeting's national housing charity since 1967, providing a practical response to a Quaker spiritual concern. It makes grants and loans to social housing projects.

Those funds come directly from Quakers and meetings, independent of BYM. QPSW pays for a part-time member of staff as a reflection of the Yearly Meeting's concern for housing issues.

- Learn more at www.qht.org.uk.

Peace work within Britain



A meeting for worship outside an international arms fair. Photo: Norwich Quakers

Peace campaigning and disarmament

QPSW works to raise awareness of the human and environmental costs of militarism, the arms trade and nuclear war.

We support grassroots action for political change, and work with international peace campaigns to ban nuclear

weapons and challenge the arms trade. We work with different churches and faith traditions, and also offer a faith voice within the secular networks and campaigns of the UK peace movement.

Together we create resources, advocate for peacebuilding, and support nonviolent direct actions that

share the Quaker peace testimony with the world.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/peace

Peace education

Our peace education programme challenges the militarisation of schools and provides training, skill-sharing and resources for teachers, children and volunteers. We aim to nurture inner peace, helping children value

themselves. This work enables children to resolve their own conflicts through peer mediation, explore the root causes of violence and war, and champion justice and human rights. The programme also connects up different peace education organisations, enabling collaborations.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/peace-education.



Peace education in schools helps young people respond to conflict peacefully. Photo: BYM

Peaceworker scheme

QPSW funds year-long employment opportunities within small organisations that work for peace.

People employed through the scheme gain valuable paid experience whilst they develop their skills and deepen their understanding of peace.

They are also able to undertake a significant project or piece of work for the organisation, which could not have otherwise been achieved. The scheme sustains the long-term strength of the peace movement.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/peaceworkers

Turning the Tide

QPSW's Turning the Tide (TTT) programme supports Quakers and others to take nonviolent action in ways consistent with the ends we seek – without harm and with respect for all, including those with opposing views. The

programme provides training and resources with groups working for peace and social justice and places a strong emphasis on networking and shared learning.

- Learn more at www.turningtide.org.uk

International peace work



A human rights monitor volunteering in Palestine. Photo: EAPPI

Israel and Palestine

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is a World Council of Churches programme.

It brings people from 24 countries to the West Bank to serve for three months, on rolling basis, as human rights monitors called Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs).

QPSW coordinates EAPPI in the UK and Ireland on behalf of 16 partners. We work for a future in which the military occupation of Palestine has ended and Israelis and Palestinians enjoy a just peace with freedom, dignity and security based on international law.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/eappi

Conciliation

Quakers are occasionally invited to provide quiet assistance in regions experiencing armed conflict. Historically this assistance has taken place in Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland, Israel-Palestine and South Africa.

At present, a part-time staff member coordinates appointed Quakers who support local conciliators in South Asia. Together they seek to develop nonviolent solutions to entrenched conflicts. Faith is at the heart of the work.

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

QUNO Geneva works with UN agencies and other organisations to develop international standards that promote peace,

human rights and sustainability.

QUNO invite UN diplomats, staff, and NGO partners to Quaker House to work on difficult issues in a quiet, off-the-record atmosphere.

- Learn more at www.quno.org.

East Africa

Since 2000, QPSW has supported community organisers in East Africa to build a nonviolent grassroots peace movement. Starting in Kenya, Turning the Tide peacebuilders are active in Burundi and Rwanda too.

Local staff deliver Turning the Tide training to community groups, empowering them to develop peaceful interventions to violent conflict.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/east-africa-1.

What Quaker Peace & Social Witness offers

Events and workshops

QPSW staff expertise is available to British Quakers, at our annual events and also upon request.



Staff can facilitate complex discussions.

Photo: BYM.

Our annual **QPSW Spring Conference** gives new attenders and members an opportunity to meet the staff and learn more about the programmes. The annual **Quaker Activist Gathering** gives Quakers working for social change a place

to meet up, learn and reflect on different aspects of witness, in a Quaker context.

Staff run regional campaign trainings from time to time and can also be booked to run a workshop at your local meeting.

QPSW grants

QPSW recognises that money can be an important factor in turning faith into action.

Through grants, QPSW fund worldwide projects relieving those affected by natural disaster, climate change, war or conflict. We also fund individuals in need of financial assistance, and local groups working on sustainability or new economy initiatives.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/grant-making.

Accompaniment and networking

Quakers who wish to take action on the issues featured in this booklet but aren't sure where to start can get support from our team.

We'll introduce to you to Quakers in other areas who share your concern about particular issues, and provide you with suggestions and support through phone conversations, emails and in-person workshops.

- To get started, call 020 7663 1056 or send an email to qpsw@quaker.org.uk.

Resources

We offer a range of resources designed to help Quakers and other groups campaign for social change. These cover topics including peace education, building the new economy, and how to plan and document social change actions. All of these resources can be found for free online at www.quaker.org.uk, and we can post many of the briefings, leaflets, and guides to Quakers and meetings upon request.

- Please email qpsw@quaker.org.uk to request information from a particular programme, or to ask what is available.

Volunteering opportunities

Those who wish to experience peacebuilding work in the field first-hand are invited to apply to our Ecumenical Accompaniment scheme in Israel and Palestine (EAPPI). The three month programme trains participants to be human rights monitors within a faith context.

We also help recruit young adult volunteers for the Quaker United Nations Office summer school in Geneva

Paid opportunities

Each year we announce paid placements at peace and justice organisations that have Quaker values at their heart. Our year-long peaceworker scheme enables young peace activists to gain experience of working in charities like Peace Pledge Union, LEAP Confronting Conflict and Medact.

- Learn more at www.quaker.org.uk/peaceworkers

Support our work

Give time

Help us share news of peace and social witness work by becoming a QPSW Correspondent, supporting your existing QPSW Correspondent in sharing updates with others.

Offer service for a QPSW committee or subcommittee:
www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-service

Give money

Donations enable us to go on supporting the Quaker community and working with and on behalf of all Quakers in Britain to make the world a more peaceful, just, equal and sustainable place. All gifts and fundraising efforts help us turn faith into action.

www.quaker.org.uk/donate



About this booklet

Published March 2019 by Quaker Peace & Social Witness.

Copies available on request. Email qpsw@quaker.org.uk.

We would like to hear from you!

Quaker Peace & Social Witness aims to support Quakers in Scotland, Wales and England who are passionate about social change. Get in touch with us to connect with our programmes, share news of witness work happening in your Quaker community, or link up with active Quakers across the yearly meeting.

- ★ Call 020 7663 1000 to be put through to a member of staff
- ★ Sign up to our monthly Quaker Faith in Action email newsletter: bit.ly/FaithInActionNewsletter
- ★ Like our Quaker Faith in Action page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithinactionquaker
- ★ Email us at gpsw@quaker.org.uk
- ★ Browse our work online: www.quaker.org.uk/our-work.