



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST SECTION

Europe & Middle East Section
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**To Friends attending Britain Yearly Meeting
24-27 May 2019, in London**

13th May 2019

Dear Friends,

Greetings from FWCC's Europe and Middle East Section as you gather for Britain Yearly Meeting, which I hope will be a rich and fruitful occasion. I am very glad that our Executive Secretary, Marisa Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Michael Eccles, and Executive Committee member and BYM Representative, Lee Taylor, will be present. We look forward to hearing from them about your Yearly Meeting, and especially what emerges from the discernment on 'privilege' and our assumptions of this.

As you may be aware, the Central Executive Committee of FWCC is concerned about privilege and historical injustice. Working around the world, FWCC feels a keen need to serve as a convening function. This is an area that relates to anti-bias work and sensitivity, including different conventions in the use of language. FWCC is keen to address the painful behaviour that continues to occur among us, often as a result of historic patterns of inequality. The initial idea is to generate stories from around the world of experiences that are provocative and would open conversation, to create a study guide with queries that can be used in local meetings, the FWCC Sections and as a world body, and to find ways of promoting dialogue online, hopefully culminating in a consultation and dialogue at the FWCC World Plenary Meeting (WPM) in 2023.

This year, EMES held its Annual Meeting in Budapest from 2-5 May. This year's theme was "*Living in a Foreign Land*", which was fitting in that so many of us do just that, and have to deal with the challenges – of privilege and non-privilege - that this can bring. The Annual Meeting's Epistle provides a rich insight into what was a stimulating weekend. We also recommend our Annual Report for 2018, which can be downloaded from the FWCC-EMES website and includes news from the Yearly Meetings, Worship Groups and Quaker organisations in the Section.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank Britain Yearly Meeting for all the contributions it makes to the life of our Europe and Middle East Quaker community – especially its substantial financial contribution to our core costs. We are particularly grateful for the presence, participation and service of your past and present Representatives, who have helped, and continue to help, our community to grow and develop, and for the mutual enrichment and involvement of your Quaker World Relations Committee.

I look forward to hearing about the insights that emerge from your Yearly Meeting and to receiving your Epistle, together with any other news you may like to share.

In peace, hope and Friendship

Sue

Sue Glover Frykman
Clerk

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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