



Friends World News

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**About the Friends World Committee
for Consultation**

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC programs unite Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.

Our work with the Quaker United Nations Offices, both by appointing members to their governing committees and by providing consultative status, offers a means to engage Quakers in world affairs. Our consultation extends to those of other faiths through work with the World Council of Churches and Christian World Communions.

Our Mission

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. (Approved 2006)

History

In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the FWCC "to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over." Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in 75 nations continue this work. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. FWCC's World Office is in London.

FWCC World Office

The world office is based at Friends House in London, England. It serves four main roles:

- Organise world gatherings, including triennial meetings and consultations of Quakers world-wide.
- Support and maintain contact with the work of the four FWCC sections and the Quaker United Nations Offices.
- Coordinate the International Membership programme, which joins isolated Friends and worship groups to the wider Quaker community.
- Promote an understanding of the world-wide character of the Society of Friends, through conferences, staff travel, correspondence and publications, and through ecumenical and interfaith work on behalf of Friends.

Further information about FWCC and its activities can be obtained from the World Office or the Section Offices, whose addresses are on the back cover of Friends World News. Contributions to the work of FWCC are always welcome and can be sent to any of the offices.

Friends World News

Friends World News, the bulletin of FWCC, is published twice yearly. If you wish to receive a personal copy, please contact the World Office (or the Section of the Americas if you live in North America). There is no set subscription fee, but a donation would be welcome. Please send to the World Office anything you would like considered for publication in Friends World News – articles, letters, news, photographs and other illustrations, about the activities and religious witness of Friends. All materials received will be acknowledged although the editor cannot make any commitment to publish. Please say if you wish photographs or other materials to be returned.

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Cover photograph: Collateral Damage White Poppies, photograph by Gretchen Castle.

Thank you for your donations to
FWCC, past, present and future.

- Together we are building a strong and vital Religious Society of Friends.
- Together we are strengthening the worldwide network of Friends.
- Together we are bringing our Quaker message to the world.

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For more about FWCC
please visit our website:

fwcc.world

The Sacred Power of Love

Greetings from the General Secretary

Love has sacred power, not because it makes us high, allowing us to rise above ordinary life on clouds of blissful glory, but because it helps us relax the struggle between self and the other that is at the root of human suffering. Love is profound because it roots us in the earth. . . . The profound question love poses is, 'Can you face your life as it is; can you look at all the pain and darkness as well as the power and light in the human soul, and still say "yes"?'
— John Welwood, *Journey of the Heart*

Life certainly is not easy. In fact, survival, dulling routine, conflict with others, circling around the same problems can be defeating. Our lives are a journey of learning how to cope with pain and loss, and to be increasingly effective in our interactions. We keep learning how to live more fully into love.

Love has a sacred power that both lifts us up and 'releases the struggle'. When the indescribable God of life is our guide, when Jesus fills our hearts to overflowing, when we let go of our small perspective and allow God to transform our hearts and minds, then . . . what ease and joy we have in saying "yes".

We see with new eyes, we serve with new purpose, we love with more depth. God is the giver of life — of new life. We are made new and transformed by God's love. It is simple. And its practice is just that — the practice of opening to new light every day.

Oh God, open me to your loving Spirit. Help me to keep learning from you. Help me put you, oh God, at the center of my life. Surround me with love that I might love myself and others more and express love for the person in front of me. Help me relax the struggles I feel so that I might hold equally the suffering and the light of the human soul, and say a resounding 'Yes' to this sacred life of love and peace. Amen

With an open heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gretchen Castle". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gretchen" and the last name "Castle" clearly distinguishable.

Gretchen Castle

GENERAL SECRETARY, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

Report from the FWCC Treasurer

Dear Friends,

The work of FWCC is sustained by gifts from individual Friends, which come to FWCC either directly, or through Local and Yearly meetings, or FWCC Sections. Some are the result of earlier generosity as legacies and trust funds. They all represent concrete expressions of support from across the Quaker world for the work of FWCC. Being charged with carrying out work on your behalf under the auspices of FWCC, we are very grateful for your support.

It is clear that pressures on personal budgets are higher than ever, faced with competing demands for funds from other Quaker activities, calls to respond to distress around the world resulting from conflict, inequality and climate change, as well as to provide for our families and the increasing costs of our own personal care.

As Alastair Reid, my predecessor as Treasurer, has described in previous issues of Friends World News, the finances of the FWCC World Office continue to be challenging. Expenditure from unrestricted funds for staff salaries, office and travel costs, including bringing together Central Executive Committee (CEC) members from across the world annually, continues to exceed income. In 2017 the deficit, before unrealised investment gains, was £33,000. The projection for 2018 is expected to be similar. Planned accrual for senior staff replacement and for the 2023 World Plenary has not been possible. We are challenged, as a world network, to operate in an increasingly sustainable way, both financially and environmentally.

FWCC has retained a professional fundraiser to solicit major gift donations for the World Office and for Section specific projects. Fundraising of this type is a long-term, costly activity, and the CEC is monitoring progress. Some significant gifts have been raised, but if additional funding is not forthcoming, the CEC will need to review this strategy.

We are committed to supporting Young Adult Friends in developing networks of friendship across the Quaker family. We have combined restricted legacy funds of approximately £190,000 from the Sections for this purpose and are now open to proposals. Details of how to apply for support from this fund are on the FWCC website.

We are looking to the future, trusting that the means will be forthcoming to carry out the work laid upon us.

Fenwick Kirton-Darling

TREASURER, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

Sharing the Good News

World Quaker Day 2018

Quakers around the world celebrated the fifth annual World Quaker Day on 7 October. The theme, *Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories*, drew us into our shared experience of worship, celebrating our wonderful diversity of expression.

As the sun rose around the globe, Friends engaged in worship, fellowship and special activities that reinforced a sense of sharing, both between Friends and with the wider world.

You can see full reports (including some videos) at www.worldquakerday.org. Below are a few examples from all four FWCC Sections.

Asia-West Pacific Section

We had reports from Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Japan, India, the Philippines and Singapore.

In Bhopal, India, Friends started with silent worship and young Friends made banners. The children made greeting cards for New Zealand Yearly Meeting children. Worship was followed by refreshments and a group photograph, and young Friends presented a play. Friends in Itarsi and Rasulia Friends Rural Centre also held events.

In Australia, Canberra Quakers celebrated their global connection with a visit from Michael Wajda and Alison Levie. They talked by video conference to Friends in Cambodia, Japan and the Philippines. In Sydney, some members joined the Asia West Pacific Section online meeting hosted by Canberra Meeting.



Friends in Bohol, Philippines

Singapore Worship Group celebrated by having meeting for Worship in a park and then going out together for lunch.

In Aotearoa/New Zealand, Friends held activities in Dunedin, Taranaki and Palmerston. Common activities included talks, displays, welcoming visitors and shared food.

Africa Section

We had reports from Kenya, Ghana and South Africa.

At Hill House Meeting in Ghana, each member took one of the testimonies and spoke about how he or she had used it or had been affected by it.

Imbinga Village Meeting in Kenya celebrated World Quaker Day by sharing the little food they had and learned more about their Quaker roots, while Friends in Mumias were reminded about the great things done by Quakers in Kenya, Africa and the entire world, especially on peace and the environment.

Friends in Kitale, Kenya, held a worship service with FWCC Africa Section Clerk Bainito Wamalwa as the main speaker.



Imbinga Village Meeting, Kenya



Friends in Dublin enjoyed a special World Quaker Day cake.

Europe and Middle East Section

We received reports from Britain, Ireland, Latvia, Palestine and Switzerland.

In Clacton-on-Sea, Britain, early ministry identified World Quaker Day and how, although practice at Meetings for Worship varied around the world, we were all participants in the Quaker family following the revelations and teachings of early Friends. Also in Britain, Hexham Meeting celebrated by welcoming a number of visitors to Meeting for Worship and hearing from two Friends. One spoke about her spiritual journey and how it had led her to become a Quaker. The other shared his experience of working with Quakers in different parts of the world, with the tensions as well as joys that can arise from different and evolving cultures. Many meetings in Britain held shared meals.

In Palestine, Ramallah Friends recited original poetry that spoke to the Meeting's long-standing priority for a just peace, and recounted how they served the community during the 1948 war.

An International Member in Riga, Latvia, sent a video which can be viewed on the website, while five Friends who gathered in a tiny mountain village in Switzerland to

prepare the Swiss-German border Meeting in 2019 held two meetings for worship, one of them including local Friends and guests, some of whom experienced their first meeting for worship.

Rathfarnham Friends in Dublin, Ireland, did a peacebuilding workshop with AVP Ireland facilitator Tim. They ate a special WQD 2018 cake too!

Section of the Americas

We received reports from Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador and the USA.

Friends in Belize City celebrated by sharing a meal after Sunday Meeting for Worship with two visitors, AVP facilitators Carmen Hamilton and Bette Hoover. At the end of the meal, a substantial amount of food remained, and the youth at the church packed it in order to share the food with several families in the community they knew needed a meal.



Friends at the Iglesias Amigos Soyapango in El Salvador dressed as early Friends to welcome visitors.

In Cuba Friends celebrated in Holguin, and in Puerto Padre the children had a lesson about how Jesus Christ was able to cross the barriers of gender, ethnic origin and country to come close to people, especially through the story of the Samaritan woman.

Friends in the USA celebrated from coast to coast. There are many photos on the World Quaker Day website.

Friends in Downers Grove, Illinois, held in the Light all refugees and their children who are being detained and often separated from parents by the US government. They displayed the map which shows where Quakers gather around the world, then used push pins to point to places around the world where Friends from the Meeting had attended other Meetings.

Friends in West Chester, Pennsylvania, gathered for their annual pancake breakfast at a local park and enjoyed conversation and time to play together. They used the art project from the FWCC “Where are the Quakers in the World?” curriculum to make suns representing the journey of the sun rising over Quakers around the globe. Some Friends went on a hike during worship and others sat in waiting worship.

The First Day School in Evanston, Illinois, talked about how many Quakers there are in the world, where they live, how they worship compared to how other Friends worship and then sang songs to show how other Quakers worship.

In Hanover, New Hampshire, First Day School children and teachers led the meeting in singing in Swahili the popular hymn Wana Baraka. They heard about a service project in Zambia that one of their teens participated in last year before enjoying a typical Zambian meal.

Indianapolis First Friends celebrated World Quaker Day during their Meeting for Worship. Part of the Meeting was a reading of a poem called “The Inner Light,” a special Children’s Message about World Quaker Day. The choir sang, Be Thou My Vision, and the pastor brought a message about how Quakers work to bring wholeness in our fragmented world.

**Next year, World Quaker Day will be celebrated on Sunday 6 October 2019.
Mark your calendars now!**

News from the FWCC World Office

Think Globally, Act Everywhere

by **Gretchen Castle, General Secretary**

The motto ‘Think Globally, Act Locally’ originated with Patrick Geddes, a Scottish urban planner. ‘Global’ connoted environmental inclusiveness, not the worldwide geopolitical dimension as we understand the term today. Thinking globally calls us to take in an expanded vision and sense of interdependence around the world, and acting locally draws us into the importance of becoming active participants, not passive by-standers, in our lives and all that surrounds us. We are inexorably linked across the globe as Friends, as people of faith, as human beings, and as a compassionate and loving people.

As the world Quaker body, FWCC’s capacity and purpose is to bring awareness to our global presence and to amplify the Quaker voice. As Friends, we live and act within a global context, and we begin by looking around us, generating motivation for change by what we see, both locally and globally. We are energized by love.

Martin Luther King said:

“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anaemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”



Gretchen Castle, General Secretary of FWCC with colleagues from American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, Quaker Council for European Affairs, and Quaker United Nations Office exploring the work Quakers need to do in the world.

Meeting together as several Quaker agencies in Europe recently, we revisited several goals that grew out of our consultation, asking ourselves: What is our Quaker witness at this time of change and constriction? How can we move together in order to increase potential change and Quaker influence? We noticed our goals reflected Quaker testimonies.

Goals	FWCC and Quaker Work	Testimony
1. Change the narrative Counter misinformation Expose the agenda	Express a new way of thinking Imagine peace and Justice Re-shape world perception	Truth/integrity
2. Strengthen the social fabric Reclaim civic space Address social fragmentation	Engage with ecumenical and interfaith communities Build community wherever we are We are as powerful as the network we inspire	Community
3. Promote case for the common good Challenge selfishness	Care for others Community orientation	Equality
4. Promote diversity and inclusion Lay bare structural inequities	Cultural learning Promote dialogue around equality Integrate Young Adult Friends	Equality
5. Remove the sense of powerlessness Affirm hope and the power of love	Honour all creation Led by the Divine in all of life	Peace
6. Create strong sense of urgency Stay the course	Known for our determination Keep doing what we know to do	Simplicity
7. Build sustainable systemic change Create self-energizing systems	Work with Quaker United Nations Office and other organisations Work in all parts of the world for peace and justice	Stewardship

These are actions we can do, both locally and globally, within the Quaker context and across our many relationships. We can think of ways in which we address these goals, many of which come naturally, and others that challenge us.

Quakers are engaging in ecumenical and interfaith activity at all levels. As the FWCC World Office, we represent Friends at the world level. We participate in the Christian World Communions Conference of General Secretaries, where we bring a collective faith perspective to challenging national and religious problems. Connecting to the World Council of Churches, FWCC participated in the Ecumenical Diakonia and the Sustainable Development Goals and in its Central Committee. We promote Thursdays in Black to stand in solidarity against violence towards women and invite you to go to the World Council of Churches website where you can learn more.

Martin Luther King wrote,

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. . . . If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. . . . But if the church will speak and act fearlessly and insistently in terms of justice and peace it will enkindle the imagination of human kind and fire the souls of (people), imbuing them with a glowing and ardent love for truth, justice, and peace.”

FWCC’s sustainability programme is global in scope, spiritually based, and inviting to all who want to join in the world’s outcry for attention. As we love all of creation, we choose to work together, to cry together, to be together. We are able to sign international statements for sustainability and for peace on behalf of all Friends.

As Quakers, as travellers, as those who appreciate cultures, we experience our interactions as enriching at best but also potentially troubling in unconscious and unexpected ways. In response to our work around the world, FWCC invites Friends to consider issues of equality, privilege, and historical injustice.

As global partners in humanity, we want to be more aware of how we treat each other and bring our awareness to it. And as people of faith, as Quakers, we yearn for the ability to simply be human and easy with one another. In the coming year, we will gather stories and create a study guide for use by meetings. The input gathered from these conversations, will feed into further dialogue at the World Plenary Meeting to be held in Durban, South Africa in June or July of 2023.

“Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.”

– Martin Luther King

Sustainability

On October 8, FWCC hosted a vegan meal for faith leaders and representatives at Friends House, London which celebrated sustainable living as part of the global response to climate change. At the event FWCC joined with Quakers in Britain to call for enhanced faith dialogue with the UK government on climate ambition in response to the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C which delivered a sharp message that keeping global temperatures to 1.5°C is essential in order to avoid climate breakdown.

As a result of this interfaith collaboration, Gretchen Castle and Susanna Mattingly were invited to attend a reception at the UK Parliament organised by The Climate Coalition celebrating 10 years of the UK Climate Change Act, where FWCC again joined British Quakers in adding a Quaker voice to a coordinated interfaith call for more ambitious climate change targets, including a net-zero emissions target before 2050.



Gretchen Castle, General Secretary of FWCC with Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Christian and Buddhist faith representatives at the 10th Anniversary of the UK Climate Change Act, November 2018.



UN climate negotiations 2017. Photograph by Sean Hawkey/WCC.

Gretchen Castle was quoted in the press release for the event:

“Quakers are led by faith to urge the UK to build a truly sustainable economy and help avert climate breakdown. This is vital for a peaceful and just future for all creation. This demands bold leadership from government to cut carbon and keep fossil fuels in the ground. The UK has the potential for exhibiting exemplary leadership by committing to a net-zero emissions economy.”

Susanna Mattingly attended the UN climate change summit COP24 in Katowice, Poland from December 8–15, alongside colleagues from the Quaker United Nations Office, representing Friends worldwide at an interfaith coordination meeting. 2018 proved to be a crucial year for climate action, with the climate talks hailed as the most important since COP21 in Paris in 2015. Countries gathered to review their progress towards the targets agreed 3 years ago in Paris. Quakers were among those led by faith calling for stronger commitments, as the current national pledges are too weak to avert catastrophic climate breakdown. To find out more about this work, you can read the Quaker submission to the UN Talanoa Dialogue on the FWCC website: www.fwcc.world-sustainability-resources

Young Adult Friends Development Fund

FWCC is pleased to announce the availability of the new Young Adult Friends Development Fund, designed to strengthen the network of Young Adult Friends around the world. The fund has been created from Quaker Youth Pilgrimage monies, and we hope it will generate similarly powerful experiences of deep spiritual connection and encouragement for Young Adult Friends across all four FWCC Sections.

The Young Adult Friends Development Fund will differ from pilgrimages organised in the past in two key respects:

- The target age group will be Young Adult Friends (18–35 years)
- Programmes will not be limited to the Europe & Middle East Section and Section of the Americas, but can involve any of the four FWCC Sections, individually or in partnerships of two, three or all four

FWCC is delighted to have approved funding for two applications to date and we look forward to following the progress of the successful proposals.

Please visit the World Office website to read the case statement, invitation to apply and to download the application form. These documents are also available in Spanish on our website. Applications are being handled on a rolling basis during the first year.

We encourage you to write to Susanna Mattingly with any questions or to share your thinking before submitting an application. Email: susannam@fwcc.world



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depends
on all Friends.

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through your
Section.

Upcoming Meetings

The **FWCC Central Executive Committee** will meet June 17–22, 2019 in Waubashene, Ontario, Canada

The next **World Plenary Meeting** is planned for June or July 2023 in Durban, South Africa. More details will follow soon

The **Section of the Americas** will hold their Section Meeting from March 21–24, 2019 at Lake Doniphan Camp and Conference Center just outside Kansas City, Missouri in the United States. The theme will be iCome and See! (John 1:46). Registration is now open on the Section of the Americas website: **www.fwccamericas.org/events**

The **Europe and Middle East Section** Annual Meeting will take place May 2–5, 2019 in Budapest, Hungary

The **Africa Section** Meeting will take place in March 2021 in Mwanza, Tanzania

The **Asia-West Pacific Section** recently held their Section Gathering in Hong Kong, from September 12–16, 2018. You can read the Gathering Epistle on their website here: **www.fwccawps.org/category/recent-events**



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