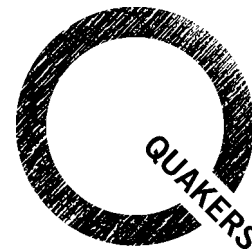


# Junior Yearly Meeting 2022

held at Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire.  
9-12 April, 2022



Minute 1 from JYM: "As Quakers, how can we transform thought into action?"

We believe that Quakerism is a faith grounded in conscientious action and positive change. However, a significant undercurrent of JYM is the question of how best to take action, and the effects of rushing into what we believe is right, without taking the time to listen. We gain strength and direction through the spirit, and it is important for us to base the actions we take in spiritual engagement.

As Quakers, we should take time to discern the root of oppression and inequality in order to be able to carry out effective action, and not get caught up in loud, yet superficial, action. One way this can be done is by streamlining the Quaker business process, and strengthening our faith community, acknowledging that through unity and love we can best seek clarity.

Additionally, as Quakers, we must individually acknowledge the privilege that we have of a platform, and realise that simply through talking on ignored topics we can spark change from one person to the next. We should consider how we can lead by example, but equally, make efforts to not only act, but recognise and amplify the actions of others. When learning about peace workers, we were reminded of the importance of working with communities. We believe it is time to start giving back and using our Quakers networks to do this.

As Quakers, we should not be afraid to interact with political and social issues. Oftentimes, current affairs are the driving force of discourse within our Religious Society, and our society as a whole, and we may feel called to respond. Conversely, we must acknowledge that through speaking politically we have the potential to exclude valuable opinions. Instead, we should be mindful of our tradition of discernment, and listen to those who oppose us with empathy and the aim to understand, remembering that the truth is sometimes hard to hear.

It is important for us to consider that it is more difficult for some to take action than others. It can be quite daunting to speak out against those who we are told are above us, who we are told 'make the rules', and who we are told are important figures. We must use the vast and valuable resources the Quakers have at their disposal to empower, educate, and enable the quieter voices to be heard.

In the last few decades, the Religious Society of Friends has had a lot of conversations about oppression, persecution, and namely racism. While we recognise the important work done by Friends on these matters, we feel that not enough tangible action has been carried out. The participants of JYM are only a small fraction of Quakers in Britain, and yet the power held by us is phenomenal. As a religious society, we have the numbers. We have the power. However, we are running out of time. We must now apply ourselves and create conscientious action and positive change.

Signed, in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting,

Imi Hills,

Clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting 2022

Kit King,

Clerk Support