

Quaker Life  
Friends House, 173 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2BJ



Clerk,  
Area Quaker Meeting  
Britain Yearly Meeting

Dear Friend,

## THE WELCOME DIRECTORY

The Welcome Directory is a multi-faith organization which maintains a directory of faith communities who have declared their commitment to welcoming prison leavers and providing them with support in the community should they need it. The directory is used by prison chaplains, probation officers, resettlement agencies and prison leavers themselves to identify welcoming faith communities.

The Welcome Directory vision is to help people with a faith, who leave prison, to find a welcoming and supportive faith community to call home. It wants to bring about changes of attitude in society towards the people who leave prison and attempt to resettle into new patterns of life. Research shows that positive engagement with faith communities after release helps to reduce offending. Stigma and negative attitudes are widespread however and fear of judgement often holds prison leavers back from engaging with a new community. However new patterns and interests and a shared belief system is a strong basis for belonging and can be a significant factor in resettlement.

The Welcome Directory offers an online Prisons Awareness Course designed to offer insights into the prison experience and to equip faith communities to support and welcome prison leavers.

Could you please discuss this at your Area Meetings and discern which Local Meetings would be willing to join the directory.

For a Quaker meeting to register themselves they would have to have permission from Quaker Life, have a safeguarding policy with named lead, a 'promoter' or 'champion' who will advocate on issues relating to prisons within the meeting and a 'prison link' who has significant experience of prisons or who has completed the Prisons Awareness Course.

The directory exists in both an annual hard copy and an up to date on line copy with a searchable map which can be found at [www.welcomedirectory.org.uk](http://www.welcomedirectory.org.uk).

Diana Luther Powell  
Clerk  
Quaker Prison Chaplains Committee

Naomi Major  
Quaker Life

Emily Green  
The Welcome Directory