



Quakers in
Britain



A Quaker Statement on Migration

Quakers believe that there is ‘that of the sacred’ in everyone. We are spiritually led to uphold the inherent value and agency of every human being, and are committed to building a world without violence. So we are heartbroken by migration policy that dehumanises some members of our human family on the basis of where they come from. We reject the notion that security for some can be achieved through means that use or result in violence and insecurity for others. We abhor the many forms of violence used in the management of migration and the effect current migration systems have in dividing our human family.

We are committed to working for a world where dignity and rights are upheld regardless of migration status and not on the basis of citizenship or perceived deservedness. Our faith calls us to work alone and with others for migration justice.

Context

Migration is a fundamental facet of human behaviour. People migrate for many different reasons. While recognising that migration injustice is perpetuated across the world by a diverse range of actors, we highlight the disproportionate role that countries of

the global north play and have played in fuelling the displacement of people. When migration policies do not acknowledge and respond to these contexts and these inequalities, they perpetuate injustice. This understanding informs our vision of migration justice.

Our vision of migration justice

Migration justice acknowledges that migration is an inherent part of human behaviour and enables people to move in safety and dignity.

Migration justice is built on a shared understanding of our common humanity and spiritual connectedness, which transcend borders. It recognises that migration enriches both individual lives and communities.

Migration justice promotes holistic and coherent policy frameworks. Migration justice means ensuring there are no divisions between migration and integration policies. It connects internal and external policies and mitigates their impact to ensure that migration is, and remains, an informed and positive choice.

Migration justice protects, respects and upholds the human rights of all migrants. It requires us to ensure that migrants have equal access to all essential services, including health services, so that they can fully enjoy the rights to which they are entitled.

Migration justice is ensuring welcome, inclusion, dignity, shared security, sanctuary, love and compassion – as needed – because we are all part of the same human

family whether we migrate or not.

Migration justice sees each of us as unique and precious. It recognises the individual journeys, gifts and struggles of every migrant. It enables their specific needs to be met, gifts to be nurtured and dignity to be upheld.

Migration justice requires us to ask who profits from stopping or directing the flow of human movement. It requires us to ask who benefits from the deliberate or reckless actions that prevent people from feeling safe and valued where they currently are. **Migration justice** requires those who profit to shoulder their increased responsibility for the costs of their actions.

Migration justice means an end to injustices inherent in migration management policies; in practices which emphasise division over connection and privilege the wellbeing and perceived security of some over the lives and security of others.

To achieve **migration justice**, we will work to end these injustices and mitigate the harm they do within our own organisations and through the work that we do.

We reject the policies and practices that perpetuate this pain and we call for migration justice.

This statement was developed by American Friends Service Committee, Quakers in Britain, Friends Committee for National Legislation, Quaker Council for European Affairs and Quaker United Nations Office drawing on their Quaker foundations and work with migrants and on migration.