



CLIMATE JUSTICE

A Quaker view

“Seeking to reduce carbon emissions is an urgent priority, but without interrogating and disrupting our existing economic systems, this will only lead us back to an unjust system”

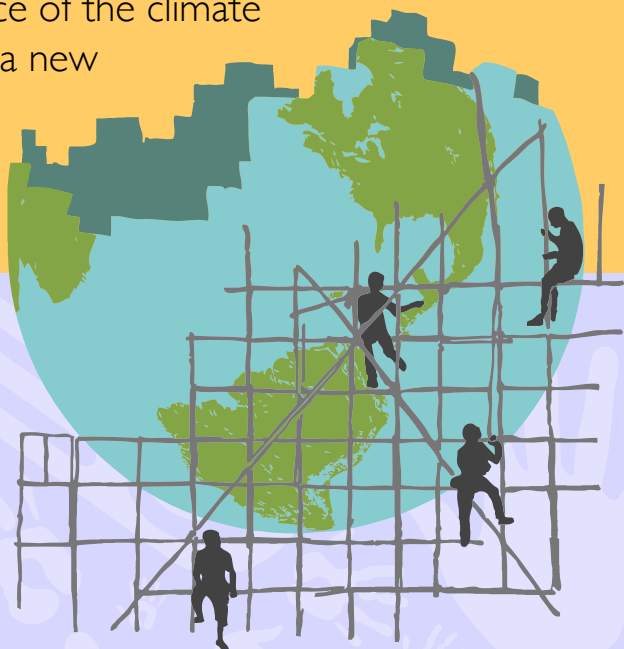
Minute 33, Yearly Meeting 2021



HEATWAVES, FLOODS, HURRICANES AND DROUGHT: climate breakdown affects us all, but it does not affect us all equally.

The people who benefited the least from the fossil-fuel era are now suffering the most, in countries that were made vulnerable to the climate crisis by years of colonialism, natural resource extraction and punishing debt arrangements.

The Quaker faith is rooted in a belief in the humanity and equality of all people. We are therefore called to address the injustice of the climate crisis, and to build a new world – one rooted in climate justice.



Paying a fair share

Over the last few centuries, the governments and corporations of wealthy countries further increased their wealth by colonising and exploiting other countries. By depleting those countries' natural resources, they made them more vulnerable to climate breakdown.

Today, the wealthiest countries have already emitted far more than their fair share of carbon. But our economic systems encourage those in power to keep burning the fossil fuels that are causing this crisis – safe, for now, from the worst of its effects.

Climate justice means working against oppression to repair these root causes of climate breakdown.

This will require us to transform the ways we relate to one another and to the more-than-human world, rebalancing power and wealth away from corporations and towards people and planet.



The Quaker way

Our testimonies are not a form of words, but a way of life, arising from our experience that there is something of God in everybody.

This has resulted in Quakers playing significant roles in movements that were radical at the time, like votes for women and the abolition of the slave trade. This witness has evolved over time and developed into a commitment to principles such as integrity, equality, simplicity, community, stewardship of the Earth, and peace.



These principles are the basis for Quakers' work on climate justice and on many other linked areas of concern. Today, as before, there are practices and beliefs that Quakers feel compelled to challenge. Some examples include challenging racism and militarism, working for peace, and reforming the justice system.

QUAKERS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Quakers in Britain provides educational resources to empower people of all faiths and none to take action for climate justice. Quakers in Britain also helps coordinate interfaith action and advocacy for climate justice, joins climate justice campaigns and offers support to individual Quakers in their witness.

Many Quakers across Britain are also involved in local or national climate action individually, with other climate campaign groups, and with Quaker-specific groups. This can mean attending protests, making artwork, taking direct action, holding vigils, improving buildings' energy efficiency and much more.



To find out more about Quaker climate justice work visit:
www.quaker.org.uk/climate-economic-justice
or scan the QR code.



Did you find this resource useful? To let us know your thoughts, to share a story of witness or to request support from QPSW, please call 020 7663 1046 or email climatejustice@quaker.org.uk.

A large-print version is available: please email publications@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1162.

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