



Quakers in Britain briefing for candidates

Quakers in Britain are a faith group committed to peace, equality, truth and sustainability.

Our national church and charity supports a network of thousands of Quakers across England, Scotland and Wales. You may already be in touch with Quakers in your constituency.

In this briefing, we set out four key issues for all UK political parties to address, and our vision in each of those areas, along with three ways you can work with us.

Our vision

1. Democracy

Democracy puts our commitment to equality into practice. We are concerned that UK democracy is under threat. Laws such as the Policing Act 2022 have undermined human rights. The words and behaviour of some politicians have weakened people's trust in the political system. People, and the groups who represent them, are often excluded from the decision-making process.

We are calling for:

- a. Candidates and party leaders to behave with honesty, integrity and respect during and after the election. We encourage candidates to sign the Jo Cox Foundation's [Civility Pledge \(tinyurl.com/JCF-civility-pledge\)](https://tinyurl.com/JCF-civility-pledge).
- b. Steps to strengthen the processes and culture in Westminster to promote truth, integrity and equity.
- c. UK government and parliamentarians to protect and promote human rights and civil liberties at home and abroad. Recent legislation that undermines them must be repealed.

2. Climate justice

Quakers are committed to equality and sustainability. We want to see a world in which all living beings can thrive. The climate crisis is a grave situation affecting us all, but it does not affect us all equally. The poorest people around the world, who have done the least to cause the crisis, are hardest hit by climate breakdown. By taking action on the climate crisis, we can address the cost-of-living crisis in the UK and help millions of people overseas.

What we're calling for:

- a. The UK government to phase out fossil fuels, ending public subsidies and policies that enable oil and gas extraction.
- b. UK government funding to be redirected to fair and sustainable solutions to the climate and cost-of-living crises, such as renewable energy and home insulation. We need a just transition from fossil fuels to a sustainable economy.
- c. The UK government to tax fossil fuel giants to pay for the loss and damage caused by climate breakdown.



3. Peace and peace education

Quakers believe that all life is precious. We have opposed war and promoted peace since the earliest days of our faith. We believe that genuine human security comes from investing in all the things that make us feel secure, such as healthcare, a fair economy, a healthy environment, peacebuilding and diplomacy.

We are calling for:

- a. The UK government to use diplomacy to seek an end to the devastating conflict in Ukraine, and to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. In the longer term, the government should work to bring about a just and sustainable peace.
- b. Taxpayers' money that is currently spent on weapons and the military must be redirected to fund the foundations of a safer world, including climate justice.
- c. The government must help create a culture of peace and nonviolence through the education system, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. See our report, [Peace at the heart](https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/peace-at-the-heart) (www.quaker.org.uk/documents/peace-at-the-heart).

4. Migration

Quakers have long worked to offer sanctuary to people forced to flee their homes. We believe a more compassionate approach to migration will benefit everyone in our society. We want governments to tackle the root causes of societal problems, rather than scapegoating migrants for them.

What we're calling for:

- a. Replace recent draconian migration legislation with a humane, coordinated international approach that includes safe and legal routes and does not involve deporting asylum seekers to other countries like Rwanda.
- b. Process people's asylum applications more quickly and fairly. This means lowering fees, providing adequate accommodation in the community, and granting the right to work.

How we can work together

Do you share our vision? If so, here's three things you can do:

1. Show your support on social media

Suggested tweet:

I support @BritishQuakers #GE2024 campaign for democracy, peace and climate justice.

2. Get in touch with your local Quaker meeting

Contact local Quakers to find out more about their work in the community and share ideas for bringing about positive change.

You can find your local meeting here: www.quaker.org.uk/meetings.

3. Contact Quakers in Britain

We'd love to discuss how we can work with you and your party to bring about positive change in the new parliament. Please email politics@quaker.org.uk.