



Yearly Meeting of
the Religious Society
of Friends in Britain

August 2019

Dear Area Meeting Clerks,

Young Quakers Participation Day December 2019

This correspondence sets out the opportunity for Area Meetings to nominate a young person to participate in a national Quaker activity. It is not expected that every Area Meeting will be able to find young people to book onto the day. Do remember to nominate if you have young people interested.

About the day: The Young Quakers Participation Day happens alongside Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) this October. It is an opportunity to seek the views of young Quakers on issues of concern to them and Quakers in Britain - and it is for any young people who are interested in taking part. This mailing outlines what to do to enable young people from your area meeting to attend on Saturday, 7 December 2019 starting at 10:00am to 4:30pm.

To book young people onto the day Please read the information overleaf, and the attached booking process (which makes suggestions about how you might find young people), fill in the booking form which can be accessed at: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/yqpd/> The closing date for bookings is Sunday, 17 November, 2019. If you are unable to complete the online form please contact Alex Zawadzka at cypadmin@quaker.org.uk or call her on 020 7663 1013 for a paper copy.

Who the day is for: Young people who want to explore issues of concern to them and to Quakers in Britain. They should understand that this is not exclusively a young people event and that it includes taking part and spending free time with members of MfS.

Each Area Meeting can book two young people onto the day; they should be aged 14 – 18 (born between 1.9.2001 and 31.8.2005, inclusive).

Responsible adults:

We hope MfS representatives will be willing and able to act as responsible adults on the day for those young people who need it, but recognise that for some this may be too onerous. The level of responsibility required will be different from person to person, depending on the young person's level of independence. If a MfS representative is not able, then the AM can appoint someone from the meeting to take on this role (see below). For more detail see the attached responsible adult information sheet.

We hope that the Responsible Adult for the day will be able to meet the young people and any young adults attending for lunch on the day. The intention is that this will strengthen the relationship between adults and young people from the same Area Meeting.

Cost and bookings: Britain Yearly Meeting will cover the cost of travel and, where required, accommodation for the young person.

If for practical reasons someone other than the MfS representative accompanies the young person then the Area Meeting will need to meet the travel and any accommodation costs of the alternate accompanier.

Bookings should be returned by Sunday 17, November at the latest.

In friendship



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Attached

A booking process sheet: Please use the process to guide your booking. Please note that the form should be completed by Sunday 23, September at the latest, it is helpful if it can be returned as soon as possible.

Responsible adult information: This is the person accompanying the young person to attend the Participation Day. The information outlines what this role might entail, please pass this to this person so that they are aware of what the expectations are. Please indicate their name and details on the booking form.

A leaflet about the day: This should be given to any young people who you are asking to consider participating in the day. If you require further copies of this please email Alex at cypadmin@quaker.org.uk or phone 0207 663 1013 to request this. If you wish to send it to young people electronically it can be found at www.yqspace.org.uk/yqpd2019

Young Quakers Participation Day

Booking process



Alongside Meeting for Sufferings

Saturday, 7 December arrivals and refreshments from 9:00am with worship alongside Meeting for Sufferings at 10:00am, the day will conclude by 4:30pm.

Booking deadline Sunday 17 November.

1. Communicate with the Area Meeting (AM), Meeting for Sufferings representatives:
 - a) Find out whether your AM Meeting for Sufferings representative or their alternate would be willing or able to support young people to attend the day (aged 14 – 18, born between 1.9.2001 and 31.8.2005, inclusive).
 - b) If this is not the case you need to decide whether there are any eligible young people who are old enough to travel independently to London or whether to find an individual that is willing to take on this responsibility (if so the Area Meeting needs to agree to meet the cost of this Responsible Adult's travel and if necessary their accommodation).
2. *It is important the young people attending this day are genuinely interested and willing to participate in linking with their Meeting for Sufferings Representative during lunch.* Although there will be some fun activities during the day, the focus is on young people giving their views on a range of issues. You can identify young people as your Area Meeting considers appropriate, some examples of how you might do this are as follows:
 - You could pass the information to your AM's CYP Advocate or the person who co-ordinates activities for young people in your Area or a Local Meeting.
 - You may have some young people who immediately come to mind and you could directly approach them about this opportunity.
 - You might follow a nominations process.
3. You can book up to two young people (aged 14-18) onto the day.

If you have more young people who are interested, you could use the following criteria:

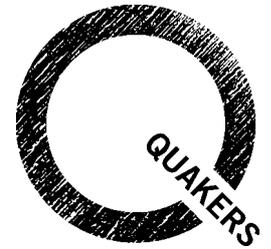
- Confirm that they are the correct age.
- Otherwise prioritise those who are the oldest or least likely to be able to take up the opportunity in the future.

Alternatively you might agree as an AM to cover the cost of travel/accommodation for additional places.

4. On receipt of the booking form we will contact the young people and ask them to confirm that they will be attending, and for their parent/guardians to consent.
5. We will then write to all young people who have confirmed their places (and if relevant their responsible adults) in the week beginning 25 November with full details of the day.

Young Quakers Participation days alongside Meeting for Sufferings

Responsible adult information



The young people I accompanied said they'd really enjoyed the day and I found them very inspiring, engaged and articulate about everything. They wanted to know what we had been doing and as I went through what had happened at Meeting for Sufferings they asked all sorts of questions. Wonderful! Let's do it again! Quote from a responsible adult who supported young people on the Participation Day.

Who takes on this role?

It is hoped that Meeting for Sufferings representatives or their alternates would be willing and able to take on this role. If this is not possible the Area Meeting could ask someone else within the meeting to take on the role. In this case the Area Meeting would need to meet the additional travel costs of the alternate accompanier.

Why do we have this role?

This role is about being responsible for those young people who require some support to enable them attend the day. This includes wherever possible having lunch with the young people attending the day. We also hope that it provides opportunity for conversation about Meeting for Sufferings and the Yearly Meeting's work and that over time the link that this creates would strengthen relationships between adults and young people from the same Area Meeting.

What is required of a responsible adult?

Every circumstance will be different. In advance of the day the responsible adult will need to liaise with up to two young people and their parents. This would be to establish the parameters of the role, depending on the age and needs of the young people and to make practical arrangements about travel etc.

Older young people (17 or 18 year olds for example) may be able to travel independently and require little if any support to be able to attend the day. Whereas, 14 or 15 year olds may need more help. It may only be necessary to meet young people at a London station and then see them back onto a train. The responsible adult should agree what is needed with the individual young people and their parents.

On the day having lunch together is a valuable opportunity as it creates a space for dialogue between the young people and those serving on Meeting for Sufferings. It is an aspect that was clearly appreciated by the young people who have attended previous days. However if it is not possible for Meeting for Sufferings representatives to take responsibility over the lunch break (for example those with other lunch time commitments) then members of the team working with young people on the day would be able to undertake responsibility for young people at lunch time or link them up with a representative from a meeting nearby.

The expectation is that Meeting for Sufferings representatives only do what they are comfortable to do and communicate this to AMs in good time so that if necessary appropriate alternative arrangements can be made.

What are the safeguarding considerations?

In most cases Meeting for Sufferings representatives would not require a DBS (formally CRB) check. If the young person is travelling together with the Meeting for Sufferings representative in the public domain or being met at a station, it is not usually necessary for the responsible adult to be DBS checked. If the young people were staying overnight with a Meeting for Sufferings representative or travelling with them in a car, then this might be necessary.

As each circumstance is likely to be different it is not possible to generalise. Friends should consult their Area Meeting Safeguarding Coordinator who is advised to seek advice from Churches Child Protection Advisory Service advice line (most Area Meetings are CCPAS members or should have made alternative arrangements for obtaining safeguarding advice).

Do we have to do this?

It is not expected that every Area Meeting will be able to find young people who wish to take up the Participation Day opportunity, or it may not be possible to find an adult to support a young person's attendance. It is not a formal requirement that Area Meetings book young people onto this event.

Young Quakers Participation Day

for 14-18 year olds

Saturday 7 December 2019

Friends House, London



I wanted to be and feel part of the decision making process. It is really important that a range and variety of people are involved including the voices of young people.

The day made me feel encouraged to be an active member of the Quaker community to which I belong, and that all contributions, whether their giver is five or fifty, are treated with equal respect and consideration.

Participation Days are an opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect you and Quakers in Britain. We want to hear about your experiences and concerns as young Quakers as well as ask you about issues that affect this organisation.

I enjoyed the Young Quakers Participation Day and it taught me more about other people's approaches to Quakerism. The day made me think about my perspective.

The day is being held alongside Meeting for Sufferings, which oversees our Yearly Meeting and makes some key decisions about the overall direction we're moving in. It will offer you the chance to consider items on their agenda that are of relevance to young people.

You will have your lunch with the Meeting for Sufferings representative. This is an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between adults and young people from the same Area Meeting. It's also chance to connect and find out about Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting work.

This day has given me hope that young people care about issues that are interesting and relevant to me.





We are asking Meeting for Sufferings representatives to take responsibility for accompanying those young people who need it on the day.

As well as a chance to spend the day with people your own age, you will meet up with your Area Meeting Representative. The intention is that this provides the opportunity for you to find out more about Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting's work, as well as strengthening relationships between adults and young people from the same Area Meeting.

The overriding sense that I took from that day was how much young people desired to be involved in such processes. At the close of the day, we were asked to raise our hands if we would like to take part in a similar event again. Every hand went up.

Who can come: Each Area Meeting can book up to two young people (aged 14-18) to attend the day, the cost of travel and, where essential, accommodation will be covered from Britain Yearly Meeting funds. If you are interested in attending the day, speak to your Area Meeting Clerk (or the person who gave you this information) to find out how to book your place.

Details: The 2019 CYP Participation Day is on Saturday, 7 December arrivals will be from 9:00am with worship alongside Meeting for Sufferings at 10:00am, the day will conclude by 4:30pm. The day is for young people aged 14 – 18 years (**born between 1.9.2001 and 31.8.2005, inclusive**).

Booking The deadline is Sunday, 17 November, 2019.

Being at the Participation Day made me feel a part of Quakerism and Britain Yearly Meeting

