



Among Friends

Friends World Committee for Consultation Europe and Middle East Section

No 158 ■ Autumn 2023



EDITORIAL

AT HOME IN OUR UNDERSTANDING: IS IT POSSIBLE WE MAY BE MISTAKEN?

I first moved to this Section in 2001. I was a high school exchange student, leaving the United States to study abroad in Istanbul. I left so many familiar things behind as I set off on that journey, but at the same time I sought a deeper connection with another familiar homeplace. My mother was born while my Quaker grandparents served at the American hospital in Southern Turkey near the Syrian border, so I'd always felt a link to this part of the world.

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But on September 11, 2001, I lay sick in bed with food poisoning and watched the World Trade Center attack through a feverish haze. I wasn't hallucinating, but seeing the actual events wasn't my biggest surprise. A far bigger shock came from the near universal message Turks offered as consolation: "Don't worry, you Americans will bomb all the people responsible for this back to the dark ages. You always do. You should have expected this from supporting Israel with no questions asked." As a young pacifist, imagining myself worldly but still too young even to register as a Conscientious Objector, I didn't expect this certainty. I heard the patriotic fervour and thirst for blood back home, but also the surprise and shock that this could have happened to us. I knew my country was responsible for all kinds of violence around the world, but why were Turks so sure not only of a singular cause but also a singular outcome from this horrific event?

The events of October 7th, 2023 have frequently been cast in Israeli media as "Israel's 9/11", appealing both to conventional Western wisdom justifying two decades of war since 2001 but also the ahistorical approach to associating some outrageous acts while simultaneously ignoring others. I have heard Israeli officials condemning the idea of contextualising these attacks in a bigger picture, a larger worldview that considers root causes. Evil is evil, they say, no need to draw further conclusions or question "inevitable outcomes". >>



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» I live now again in the Europe and Middle East Section because, as I came of age from my sickbed and saw my home country in a whole new light, I began to explore root causes of terrorism, war and especially the United States' "special relationship" with Israel. After my exchange experience, my curiosity led me to become an activist, eventually travelling to Israel and Palestine where I met my future wife Federica in a village in the South Hebron Hills of the West Bank. Later, I moved to the farm where I live and work in the hills outside of Bologna seeking to support other activists. I have never forgotten that moment of realisation in Turkey, that brief window that challenged my perspective on the world and the stark difference in how those around me perceived the exact same events.

I believe that is the place we find ourselves collectively in this second decade of the 21st century: will we continue to fall back into Dark Ages narratives on retribution, vengeance and justifying our actions through a rigid worldview that excludes all others, or will we allow events to change us, challenge our conventional wisdom and push ourselves to ask "why"?

I think this issue of Among Friends offers several perspectives on this second approach, from exploring our Quaker history and practice as George Fox's 400th birthday approaches, as we renew historic spaces like QuakerHaus in Bad Pyrmont, or in a new book on the simplicity of our faith in complex times. Young Friends and our partners also share important work exploring climate, racial and criminal justice, while EMES' Peace and Service Network reflects on a year of work as a network and mobilises several subgroups to address the multiple conflicts across our Section.

I invite you, as you read, to consider how your perspective or even your worldview might change based on what is going on around us today. As we consider our collective home in this Section, threatened by tremendous challenges, what can we do to address the root causes of conflict, in ourselves and around us, by asking "why" and being prepared to be surprised by the answer? I never expected when I first set off in 2001 that I would one day make my home in Europe and the Middle East but I allowed for the possible I could change, which has made all the difference. **Evan Welkin**

QUAKER ATTENTION ON PEACE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Friends across our Section are deeply saddened by the increasing violence in Israel and Palestine. Similar to the page we created to share information and resources about the [war in Ukraine](#), we made a new page as an emerging resource and point of reference for various opportunities to get involved around the war in Israel and Palestine: [link](#)

We welcome contributions from Friends to this page, specifically on Quaker initiatives focusing on the region and peacebuilding there. We would like to highlight that we have opened our [weekly worship](#) to pray for peace into a universal prayer to uphold peace and an end to war everywhere, with invitations in Ukrainian, Russian, Arabic and Hebrew.

We have also received a specific request from the Ramallah Friends School to support wellbeing and psychological support for that community in this incredibly difficult time for all of Palestine. Recorded during our Peace and Service Network Gathering, we edited Palestinian Friend and RFS Head of School Rania Maayeh's short video for a campaign led by the Quaker International Educational Trust, in partnership with RFS' US sponsor Friends United Meeting, to raise money for wellbeing programming at RFS. Despite the campaign already reaching its original goal, consider supporting that project [from Europe and Britain](#), or [from the US](#).



! The programme has recently begun.

PEACE AND SERVICE NETWORK MEETING OCT 20-22, 2023: BRUSSELS & ONLINE

by Evan Welkin

Last year, the Peace and Service Consultation of EMES became the Peace and Service Network, shifting from co-clerks and staff leadership for an annual representatives meeting and monthly check-ins to a coordinating group model with open membership and a direct link between monthly meetings and an annual gathering. In this year's gathering, we thought it was important to review this year and what it really means to be a network, considering the theme "What does it mean to be a Peace and Service Network?". We also appointed two new Coordinating Group members, welcoming Marigold Bentley of Britain Yearly Meeting and Mikheil "Misha" Elizbarashvili of Georgia Worship Group to serve from the rise of the gathering to the rise of the next gathering. We thank Paul Holdsworth and Sue Glover Frykman for their service to PSN as outgoing Coordinating Group members.

After an evening of introductions, our first full day began with a session on network design and facilitation, which inspired a small subgroup to form to consider different ways we could approach our regular meetings. Several people had come with the hope to network around matters related to the war in Ukraine, specifically supporting Conscientious Objectors. Yuri Shelizhenko, who we have supported as a targeted CO, participated in the whole event and offered useful contributions. QCEA offered an excellent overview of their current work and concrete tasks we can take to vote and support advocacy in Europe, as well as inviting Mennonite guests from Colombia who spoke about their peacebuilding work there. Finally, the outbreak of active war in Israel and Palestine was very much on people's minds, so we featured speakers Joyce Ajlouny of the American Friends Service Committee talking about AFSC in Gaza and Rania Maayeh, Head of the Ramallah



Erik Dries

**Friends World Committee for Consultation
Europe & Middle East Section
Quaker Peace & Service Network**

Friends School, whose remarks we recorded and used to launch a wellbeing campaign for RFS headed by the Quaker International Educational Trust. Going forward, these themes of network design, Ukraine, and Palestine will certainly be a key focus, while there also continues to be interest in including ecology and creation care in our work.

We received good feedback overall as well as reporting on travel to and from the event, with all but two Brussels participants taking the train to arrive and almost all participants filling in a travel form. From this very complete feedback, we see that we travelled 14,600 kilometres for a total carbon footprint of just under one tonne of CO₂ emitted. Interestingly, our travel form also offers a fairly complete picture of the impact of land travel versus air travel, in that we spent over 130 hours travelling and spent somewhat more than double the amount we would have if we'd all travelled by plane. Full notes including minutes on appointing Coordinating Group members are [here](#) [PDF].



Palestine rally in Brussels after PSN Gathering.

Lucy Roberts

EMES YOUTHGROUP GATHERS IN HEERLEN TWO REPORTS

Timothy Corrigan from Ireland Yearly Meeting and **Barbora Marušincová** from Prague Recognised Meeting tell us about their experiences at the EMES Youthgroup gathering in Heerlen, The Netherlands in September 2023.



This year was the second in-person gathering of the EMES youth group which took place in Heerlen, The Netherlands, from the 8th to the 10th of September. It was amazing to see each other again and also to meet some newcomers for the first time. Eight Young Friends attended from five different countries including France, Georgia, Germany and the Czech Republic. Once again it took place alongside the Border Meeting and we shared their theme which was **Activism for Climate Justice**.

Our weekend together began on Friday evening, and was spent getting to know each other, introducing our theme and playing games. One that stood out was a card game where no-one was allowed to talk and everyone had a different set of rules. We all found it really entertaining and it also got us thinking about the challenges of being in a different country. We then joined the Border Meeting for Epilogue before heading off to bed for a well earned rest.

Saturday started bright and early with a communal breakfast, where many of us were introduced to Dutch delicacies such as chocolate sprinkle sandwiches. We then had a short meeting for worship followed by our first session, where we transported ourselves to a perfect future and imagined the changes that had been made. We thought about the positive things that were happening in our ideal world and also how and when this global change in perspective occurred.

We then learned about EMES's sustainability policy and ended the session by reading an inspirational letter about the importance of climate activism that was written to us by a German Friend called Kasimir, who is part of *The Last Generation* and the brother of one of our participants. We also joined the Border Meeting for their session before lunch, where attendee George Thurley talked about his experience as a climate activist.

After lunch we began a *Dungeons & Dragons* campaign where we had to save our village and the surrounding nature from a pink and evil force. We were making good progress before being defeated by a collective desire for ice cream and we had great fun walking to the local shop and seeing a bit of the city. When we returned we had some free time before dinner and enjoyed having a rest while getting to know each other a little better.

In the evening we joined the Border Meeting for their social, which involved singing stories and sketches and was lots of fun. The young people ran a game and also performed a sketch where we only spoke using common expressions from each of our native languages such as 'I give my tongue to the cat' and

'don't be such an offended liver sausage'. It was a lovely way to spend the evening as it brought to life the community we were part of.

On Sunday we finished our *Dungeons & Dragons* campaign and spent the rest of our time writing postcards to each other that would act as a reminder of the time we spent together. This is a much loved EMES tradition, so it was nice to spend the final few hours this way. We then had one more meal as a community before making our separate journeys home.

It was an absolutely wonderful weekend and I am very grateful to have this experience.

Timothy Corrigan Ireland YM



Na začátku září jsem měla možnost navštívit setkání mladých kvakerů z Evropy. Konalo se v Nizozemí ve městě Heerlen. Bylo to pro mě moc zajímavé, zábavné a jsem za tu zkušenost vděčná. Konečně jsem se naživo potkala s lidmi, které jsem znala jen z online schůzek, což bylo skvělé, protože jsem si s nimi mohla popovídat, lépe se seznámit a dozvědět se, jak se žije v jejich zemích. Téma víkendu bylo v překladu "aktivně za klimatickou spravedlnost".

Za to jsem byla taky moc ráda, protože mě změny klima a globální oteplování zajímají a ráda se dozvím něco nového, třeba i z jiných úhlů pohledu. Bylo fajn si o tom popovídat i se staršími lidmi z border meeting, kteří s námi sdíleli ubytování, ale měli vlastní program. Tento víkend jsme si užili spoustu zábavy, legrace, skvělých zážitků a když se to podaří, ráda se zúčastním setkání i další roky.

Barbora Marušincová z České republiky

222 YEARS AGO BRITISH FRIENDS BUILT A QUAKERHOUSE IN GERMANY

THE CHANGEFUL HISTORY & HOPEFUL FUTURE by Kerstin Mangels

One of two Quakerhouses on the Continent, **Quäkerhaus** in Bad Pyrmont is an important testament to Quaker history in Europe. German Yearly Meeting, founded in 1924, has had 260 members in the last few years and many more attenders. After years of struggle, in 2022 they reached an important decision: German Yearly Meeting will keep the house and make it fit for the future.

In 1800, a Quakerhouse was built in Bad Pyrmont on the site of the existing Quaker cemetery, funded by London Yearly Meeting. As spa guests came to Bad Pyrmont from all over Germany and Europe, this house of worship was intended to make Quakerism better known in Germany and mainland Europe. During the spa season, many spa guests attended the Sunday Meetings, including Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. In the mid-19th century, the number of the original 80 Quakers declined sharply, so that ownership reverted to London Yearly Meeting. In 1893, London Yearly Meeting sold the house.

In 1932, after changing owners, the house was put on sale. German Yearly Meeting leased the property and rebuilt the house in the same year using the old wooden beams. 200 people celebrated the topping-out ceremony in August.

The reconstruction was again financed by Great Britain (23,000 Reichsmark (RM) 2,500 RM came from Germany, 1000 RM from the USA and by smaller donations from Switzerland, Norway and Palestine.

In 1943, there was no way to prevent it from being confiscated for the Hitler Youth. Then, shortly before the end of the war (January 1945), the house was used as emergency accommodation for 90 “sick and dying” people from the Volkswohlfahrt.

After the end of the war, the American commander returned the house to German Quakers, so that after two years the

first Meeting for Worship could be held there again in April 1945. In 1965, the house was remodelled again at a cost of 160,000 DM.

In the 1990s, the property, which had been leased until then, was bought by German YM with funds from a single donor, and the sanitary facilities were modernised.

The Yearly Meeting made the decision in 2020 to keep and renovate the house. To this end, the Committee “Future Quakerhouse”, has drawn up a concept, which the Yearly Meeting approved in 2022:

1. Renovation of the kitchen: The kitchen is largely in the state of the 1930s. The old floor tiles are cracked and the worktops need replacing etc.
2. Conversion: With the words “I hope I have been able to bring light into the darkness” ‘our’ architect closed one of his emails. We had to smile – because that is exactly what it is about.

Adjacent to the kitchen (bright, friendly, with south-facing windows) is the dining room. It was very dark because it only had windows facing north. Even during the day it needed artificial lighting and was mostly perceived as a dark passage into the brighter ‘garden’ room. To create a comparable light and friendly atmosphere here in the basement, as upstairs on the level of the Meeting Hall, we took out the wall that stood between the dining room and the south windows. The dining room became larger and brighter with natural daylight. One of the south windows became a patio door into the garden. The room and garden then became much more attractive and versatile.

Money, money, money... Of the minimum 250,000 euros we needed for the start, we started a fundraising campaign among our members and attenders after Yearly Meeting in October, which miraculously brought in this amount by Spring 2023. There are still some more things to renovate and improve. Maybe there are Friends in Europe who know the QuäkerHaus in Bad Pyrmont and would like to support us?

Further information and daily reports can be found [here](#).

The Quaker community is happy about donations to its account at the GLS Bank:

IBAN: DE46 4306 0967 4008 8027 01

From abroad SWIFT Code: GENODEM1GLS



Kerstin Mangels

A SIMPLE FAITH IN A COMPLICATED WORLD

 by Kate McNally

Review by Lee Taylor

Quaker Quicks, ISBN 978-1-803-413-037

We'd all agree that we live in a complex world, so the idea of having a 'simple faith' is intriguing and draws us into this newly published Quaker Quicks books by Kate McNally.

The book is very accessible and engaging for anyone interested in exploring Quakerism – whether new to Quakerism or wanting some refreshment of their thoughts and practice. Kate weaves her own stories into her descriptions and discussion of Quaker faith and practice and does not shy away from the difficulties of being faithful.

The book begins with her own journey from mainstream Christian religion, describing her growing disappointment with the church she'd grown up with, then 'coming home' to Quakerism. She points out that the Creed talks about Jesus' birth and death – but what seems to her important is his life, based in love and compassion especially to those in need. This emphasis on the faith of Jesus rather than the faith about Jesus is a powerful insight. His request to us is 'follow me' not 'worship me'.

Kate challenged herself to describe Quakers, as one might for someone asking, without using any negatives – no creed, no minister (in the unprogrammed tradition), no dogma, no hierarchy, no place more sacred than another etc. – and came up with these two:

- Quakers believe that each of us can have a direct, unmediated relationship with the divine;
- Quakers believe that each creature has a bit of the divine within.

Our testimonies flow from these, and the practices we use to help us navigate the complexities of life. Kate describes five practices clearly – upholding, worship sharing, clearness, threshing and discernment.

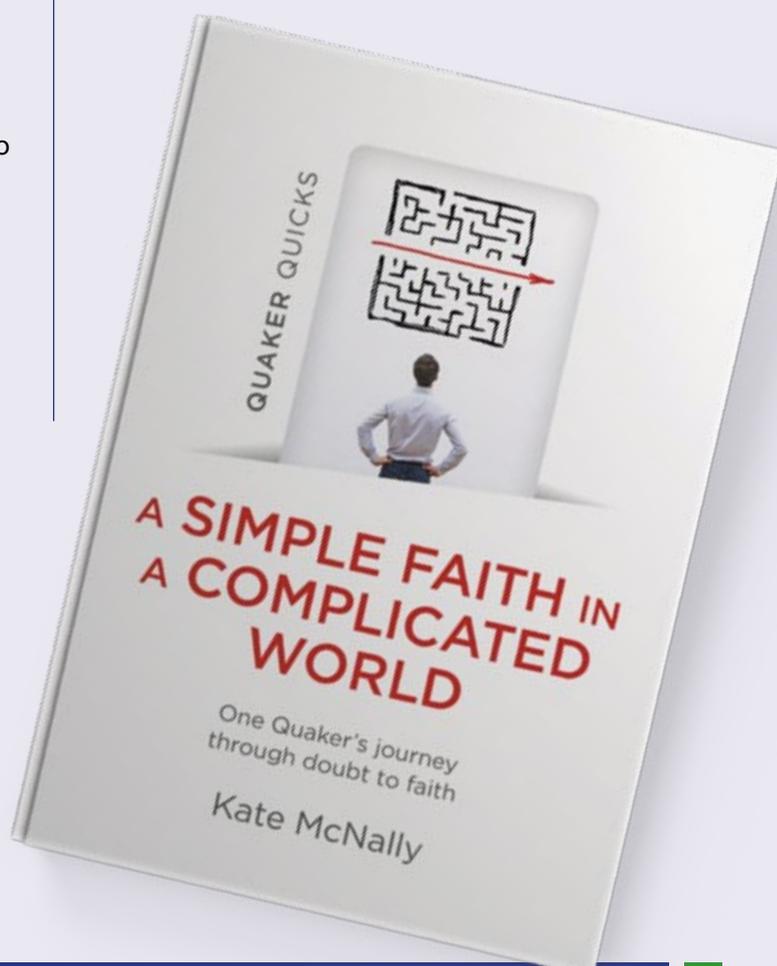
I particularly liked the three chapters on connections – connecting to God, connecting to ourselves, and connecting to others. She addresses head on why she uses the term God to define the indefinable,

and being comfortable with whatever words others use, and the concept of being 'perfectly imperfect', accepting our own gifts and the interplay of our weaknesses and strengths.

The metaphor used of 'in between spaces' is powerful – the space between fear and hope, inhale and exhale, and how this is a space where God can enter in.

The final chapter is about letting our lives speak in this troubled world. This can be in clear action: for example, her own work welcoming refugees and migrants, or through the ministry of presence, accompanying in all kinds of ways including simply acknowledging and saying 'I'm here for you'.

As we prepare for the World Plenary Meeting next year – whether we'll be there in person, online or upholding – Kate's book is timely and helpful in reminding us about the fundamentals of Ubuntu – I am because you are – and how our simple faith connects us in a complex world.



REPORT ON ATTENDING THE CHURCH AND PEACE CONFERENCE IN BAARLO, THE NETHERLANDS

SEPT 29–OCT 1 by Evan Welkin

Friends in the Global North are beginning to grapple with our history of colonialism, mission work and profit from the exploitation and enslavement of people. As a relatively new faith forged when revolutionary fervour was high in England and the transatlantic slave trade was booming, Quakers in the 20th and 21st centuries have preferred to remember our passionate participation in the abolitionist movement but not our direct profits from enslaved people.

To this day, we are relatively small in number worldwide but our wealth, acclaim and global recognition are concentrated in the Global North while the majority of our members live in the Global South. It was with all this in mind that I joined the recent conference of Church and Peace, the ecumenical peace church network in Europe, which focused on the theme “Overcoming Racism in the Church” and the verse “*Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness’*” —Genesis 1:26.

Nearly 100 people from 15 European and non-European countries came to the conference.

People of colour, affected by racism, contributed their experiences and analyses as speakers during plenary sessions and in workshops. I was particularly struck by what I perceived as a relative agreement that “something must be done about racism” and indeed, even an acknowledgement that many of the congregations represented did not necessarily reflect the full, multicultural and multiethnic character of our European communities. This seemed like refreshingly new and welcome openness. But what should we do? One speaker, who is originally from Nigeria but lives and leads a congregation in the UK, made a comment about how the majority of Quakers are in the UK.

Attendees, including German Friend Mike Zipser, explain the rules of Football For Pacifists.

I realise that not only have Friends left many questions about colonialism, mission work and racism unanswered, the relatively few of us in Europe or the US who’ve directly benefitted from these injustices must do more to acknowledge the majority of our “spiritual siblings” who live in Africa, for example. This would help others who are aligned with us, as peace churches or activists or even other beneficiaries of injustice, see the example of a faith community taking issues of inclusion and ultimately truth and reconciliation seriously.

This is part of what I appreciate so much about attending ecumenical gatherings of this kind. Sharing in worship that is both similar and different to what is familiar to me. Hearing other faith communities struggling with familiar challenges and celebrating common joys. Because we all have our work cut out for us. Are Friends familiar with this decision by Britain Yearly Meeting on reparations, for example? This is quite an ambitious plan, well aligned with much of what we discussed at the Church and Peace conference and I am eager to support those of us across the Section who are looking for concrete ways to acknowledge, learn more and ultimately help repair some of the hurt caused by the legacy of racism in our faith. I think an important first step is gatherings like this conference, where we come together and acknowledge the collective challenges we must face.

Note: A version of this report also appears in the Fall newsletter of Church and Peace.

Church and Peace is also seeking a new General Secretary. Read the position announcement [here](#).





GEORGE FOX IS 400

Plans are underway to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Quaker co-founder George Fox in 2024 through intergenerational events and activities that share the stories that connect us.

To support Friends wishing to organise events and activities, the FWCC World Office has published a birthday pack featuring children's stories, a dramatic monologue, Bible study and prompts for worship sharing, as well as links to possible songs, meditations, courses and games. You can access the pack [here](#).

Although Fox was born in July, celebrations will take place throughout the year including a special exhibition at the Quaker Tapestry museum, celebrations at several Yearly Meetings and online courses from Woodbrooke.

The World Office is compiling a full list of events which will be published online. If you are planning any events, or you would like more information please get in touch with susannam@fwcc.world.

WORLD PLENARY MEETING 2024

Registrations are still open for the FWCC World Plenary. All Yearly Meetings associated with FWCC are invited to send nominees, as are nominees of partner groups. Open Places are also available.

Please prayerfully consider if you feel led to take part, whether in person or online. If you have a further question, clarification or correction please email wpm@fwcc.world.

All bookings need to take place through our [dedicated online form](#). Participants will need a letter of recommendation from the clerk of their local Friends Meeting, or Section Secretary.

fwcc.regfox.com/fwcc-world-plenary-meeting



QUNO

Quaker United Nations Office

'JOYOUS' WILLIAM KNOX WAS A QUAKER WHO SPOKE HIS MIND



Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) staff in Geneva have sent condolences to the family of William Knox, who served for two years on their governance committee until his recent passing. Knox passed away in early October at his adopted home in Penang, Malaysia.

Robert Gibson, a fellow QUNO Geneva governance committee member, attended a memorial service for Knox in Oxford in England.

In a letter to the Knox family, QUNO Geneva staff wrote that "Even from the Zoom meetings he brought with him his deep humanity, expertise and humour... Once we could meet again in-person, our meetings were brightened by his kindness and his appreciation for our QUNO work. He often spoke of his family in the United Kingdom, his life journey, of his home in Malaysia and his draw to Quakerism. He made us smile, and was grateful for even the most simple things, such as a mattress on our office floor to rest his jet-lagged state."

A governance committee member who worked alongside Knox remembered him as "Such a joyous person. It is hard to

imagine that energy gone from the world today. I will miss his enthusiasm at our meetings."

Another committee member wrote: "William was only on the QUNO Geneva committee for a couple of years, but brought with him long experience of Quaker witness in the world. Having served for the British Quaker Peace and Service, working in Sri Lanka, he had been involved in practical peacemaking that QUNO and others do, and his years living in Malaysia brought with it an understanding of Quakerism in Asia. He was always curious, happy to speak his mind and inspired by the work that QUNO does."

The Singapore Quaker Meeting, of which Knox was an integral part, said in its condolence message that Knox was "A greatly valued and much-loved member of our Meeting. He met regularly with us by Zoom and also travelled to Singapore for Meeting. Members of our Meeting also travelled to Penang to visit with William. William was our Representative and the Representative for Asia West Pacific as a whole to QUNO Geneva. William's passing will be felt by many in this region and he, his warmth, wisdom and humour will be greatly missed."



William Knox, in a red striped shirt, passed away in October 2023. He is seen here with QUNO Geneva governance committee members in Switzerland in May 2023.



AUTUMN UPDATE FROM QCEA

by Alice Privey, QCEA Climate Justice and Peace Programme Coordinator

Four months ago, I embarked on a journey as the Climate Justice and Peace Programme Coordinator at the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA). The timing couldn't have been more crucial, as climate action has gained prominence on the European Union's political agenda, thanks to the EU Green Deal. This initiative, initiated in 2019, aimed to combat the climate crisis and reshape EU policies accordingly.

However, the path toward climate action and justice is not without its challenges. The growing tension surrounding the urgency of climate regulations within the EU has exposed deep rifts, demanding a deeper discussion on justice within the climate sphere. My scoping work for QCEA's Climate Justice and Peace Programme enabled me to get insights into the intricate interplay between climate and peace in the EU's political landscape.

The forthcoming EU elections offer an opportunity to rekindle the focus on a new EU Green Deal. It is essential to ensure that the most vulnerable communities all around the world do not bear the brunt of the EU green transition. Yet, climate justice remains a neglected area within the EU. By promoting justice, equality, peace and compassion regarding climate and conflict prevention, we hope to see a fair and inclusive transition paving the path toward climate justice and peace.

Several vital policies, like the Critical Raw Materials Act or an EU Blue Deal (for water), are on the horizon. Implementing these policies with conflict-sensitive approaches and strong social safeguards can usher in a more just and sustainable future for all. Yet, there's a pressing need for vigilance. Some EU leaders have called for a halt in environmental legislation due to concerns about populist sentiment. The upcoming elections offer a platform to demand a stronger commitment to climate justice, ensuring a just and peaceful transition. If you are interested in these issues or you have been working on related matters, feel free to reach out to us or check out our website at qcea.org.



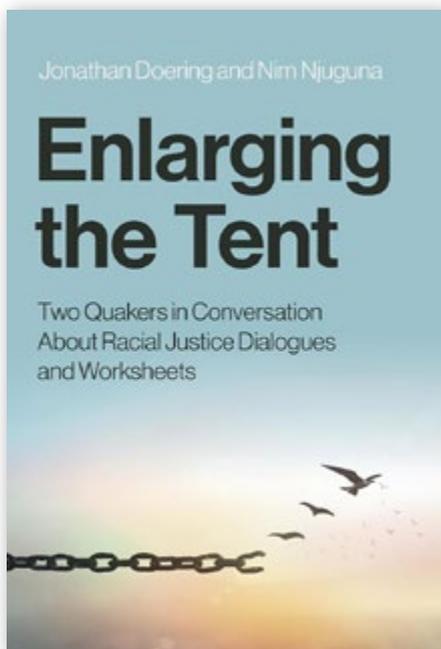


WOODBROOKE UPDATE

Our new programme for the first half of 2024 just launched. To mark the 400th anniversary of George Fox's birth we have a range of courses examining his complex influence on Quakers ranging from online courses and sessions to residential events.

We have increased our support for those in Quaker roles, have several online retreats on aspects of Quaker spirituality, and have a variety of courses responding to the challenges of war and climate crisis.

In February we are also pleased to be running a course in partnership with FWCC-EMES called *Racial Justice Dialogues*, which is based on Jonathan Doering and Nim Njuguna's book, *Enlarging the Tent*. Do have a look at our full programme, we're confident there's something of relevance to everyone from seasoned Friends to those new to Quakers: woodbrooke.org.uk/courses.



Jonathan Doering
& Nim Njuguna



We have had a number of exciting announcements in the past few months. In August we introduced our next cohort of Eva Koch scholars: M. Amelia Eikli, Caroline Chandler and Jo Cremins. The scholars will be exploring topics such as learning lessons from historic activism, creating sustainable places and Quaker gardens.

At the start of September, we were delighted to announce **Ben Jarman** (pictured above) as the 2024 Swarthmore Lecturer. Ben is a member of London West Area Quaker Meeting and he has worked in and around prisons and the penal system for nearly 15 years, in a range of roles. His lecture will focus on imprisonment and punishment, exploring what Quakers distinctively have to say today about these topics. Sessions in early 2024 also continue to explore the themes of last year's lecture on accessibility.

Throughout October and the start of November we ran the once-a-decade British Quaker Survey. We received over 4,300 responses to the survey which, following ones we ran in 1990, 2003 and 2013, gathered basic information about who Quakers are and what we believe. We are planning on holding a worldwide survey of Quakers in 2024.

We continue to regularly hold online meetings for worship in partnership with EMES, providing opportunities for worship for those all over the world. We also hold an online Young Adult Worship and Quaker Parent Worship. In October we began offering a monthly Quaker Educators Worship which is hosted by members of Quaker Values in Education (QVinE).



Le Centre quaker international à Paris déménage et cherche des amis résidents, parlant français, pour s'occuper de la nouvelle maison. C'est le début d'une aventure pour les quakers en France et nous avons besoin d'amis enthousiastes et pleins d'idées pour redémarrer une présence dans la région parisienne, ensemble avec le Groupe de Paris. Pour plus de détails sur le profil des personnes recherchées, les qualifications requises et les conditions offertes, voir: quakersenfrance.org/cqi

NEW POSTAL ADDRESS FOR EMES

Due to the **closure** of the Woodbrooke Centre in October 2023, FWCC-Europe & Middle East Section has a new postal address:

FWCC-EMES, PO Box 18578, Birmingham, B30 9GH, United Kingdom

If you need to send us a letter (or cheque!), please use this address from now on. Thank you! Our other contact details remain unchanged:

Michael Eccles

michael@fwccemes.org | +447934310715

Evan Welkin evan@fwccemes.org

QUAKER PARENT WORSHIP

Part of weekly online worship offered by EMES, Quakers in Britain and Woodbroke, 2nd and 4th Mondays.



Find out more:
woodbrooke.org.uk/worship/quaker-parent-epilogue