

Epistle of the General Assembly of Quaker Council for European Affairs

March 2024

Dear Friends

Greetings from Quaker House in Brussels where QCEA's General assembly has met over 22 -23 March 2024.

Yearly meeting representatives and their alternates, funding support group representatives, representatives from EMES and EMEYF, together with the Staff team, gathered together to further consolidate work started in 2023. We climbed aboard the small group 'Carousel', to learn more of the work done by QCEA staff on peace building in the areas of migration, climate justice and communication. We heard of their success and challenges and of the closer relationships being built with other civil society and faith organisations. Having had this time to listen and ask questions, GA members are now better equipped to return to their yearly meetings, to explain more fully the work of QCEA, and the vital partnership between it and members throughout Europe.

On Saturday, Friends had the second of three workshops led by Sarah Diedro Jordão on anti-racism and anti-oppression, looking this time specifically at intersectionality. We recognised the complexity of issues faced by marginalised people, especially those with more than one identity that might be the basis of discrimination. We also began to consider some of the approaches we could use to better meet people's needs and become a more inclusive organisation.

Kerri Kennedy, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) associate general secretary was invited by Tracey Martin to talk to us about AFSC's wide ranging humanitarian work in North and South America, Asia and the Middle East. With the meeting's support, Tracey will continue conversations with AFSC about potential collaboration and we look forward to her feedback.

The weekend has reminded us that QCEA's work is sometimes limited to reacting to events. This is balanced by working for reform where opportunities arise and building towards transformation for a more peaceful and just Europe.

In Friendship

Quaker Council for European Affairs
23 March 2024