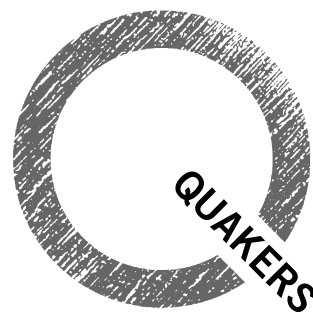



Building a more peaceful and sustainable world

An introduction to the peace and social
witness work of Quakers in Britain







Quakers believe that each person is unique, precious, a child of God. The work of Quakers in Britain reflects this belief. Photo: Mike Pinches for QiB

Introduction

Our work emerges from the deep spiritual experience of Quakers. We tackle the root causes of violence and build a more just and peaceful world. Quakers call this form of action 'witness' – living out our faith in the world.

Quakers in Britain supports Quaker witness in Scotland, Wales and England by accompanying, connecting

and providing resources for Quakers and meetings with shared concerns. We also work on behalf of the whole Quaker community in Britain where it is appropriate to act or speak as a faith body.

Our work is guided by the Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC) – comprising 15 Quakers – which is appointed by Meeting for Sufferings, our national representative body.

Speaking out

Climate justice

We work with Quakers, other faith groups and secular campaigners to call for the economic and political transformation needed to address climate breakdown – a global ‘just transition’ that tackles extreme inequality and prioritises the rights of poor and marginalised people. We campaign for finance to be diverted from fossil fuels into climate action. We also highlight the racism and colonial exploitation inherent in the climate crisis and explore what reparative justice might look like.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/climatejustice.

Peace

We work to raise awareness of the human and environmental costs of militarism, the arms trade and nuclear war. We support grassroots action for political change and work with international peace campaigns to ban nuclear weapons and challenge excessive military spending. We work with different churches and faith traditions and offer a Quaker

voice within the networks and campaigns of the British peace movement. Together we create resources, advocate peaceful alternatives to militarism and war, and support nonviolent direct actions that share the Quaker peace testimony with the world.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/peace.

Democracy

Quakers across Britain care about democracy because it embodies our testimonies to equality, peace, truth and simplicity. Quakers are concerned about the erosion of democratic principles such as integrity and the right to protest. We work to protect and promote democracy in the UK by campaigning against laws that threaten it and supporting efforts to strengthen human rights. We co-convene a network of civil society organisations that are working to safeguard the right to campaign, and we work with politicians to promote truth and integrity in public life.

Learn more at bit.ly/DemoBlogs.



Quakers and other interfaith protestors in Parliament Square Garden during Loss and Damage Action Day. Photo: Lydia Harrold



Friends holding a silent peace march in York as part of a Faith in Action Gathering. Photo: Dixé Wills for QiB

Supporting Quaker faith in action

Faith in Action

The Faith in Action team supports and creates connections among Quakers working for social and political change. Faith in Action coordinators work alongside locally-led community initiatives as well as national and international projects to share learning, skills and inspiration and to build community through networks and gatherings. We offer workshops, worship, phone chats, network meetings, strategy and planning skills-sharing, and shared spaces to reassure each other, find strength and celebrate together.

If you feel called to act, alone or with others, email faithinaction@quaker.org.uk to ask for support or to share your story of witness.

Housing

The Quaker Housing Trust (QHT) provides grants and loans to organisations that provide safe and secure homes for people at moments of transition in their lives. We rely on donations from Friends to support projects with high environmental standards that house refugees and asylum seekers, people

who have experienced street homelessness, addiction or have been trafficked, and younger people and older people as their housing needs change.

Learn more at qht.org.uk.

Grants

Money can be an important factor in turning faith into action. Through grants, Quakers in Britain funds international projects to relieve those affected by natural disasters, climate change, war or conflict. We also fund individuals in need of assistance and make financial support available to local groups engaging in activities or leadings that create the conditions in which peace can flourish.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/grant-making.



Peacebuilding projects – nonviolence and peacebuilding

Conciliation

Quakers are occasionally invited to provide quiet assistance in regions experiencing armed conflict. Historically, this work has taken place in Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland, Israel-Palestine and South Africa. We currently coordinate a group of appointed Quakers to support local conciliators in South Asia. Together they seek to develop nonviolent solutions to entrenched conflicts. Faith is at the heart of this work.

Learn more: bit.ly/QuakerConciliation.

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)

EAPPI gives ordinary people the opportunity to live for three months in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Participants stand in solidarity with local communities, monitor human rights abuses and advocate for change. EAPPI is nonviolent, non-partisan and guided by international law. We work for a future in which the military occupation of Palestine has ended, and Israelis and Palestinians enjoy equal rights, peace and security. EAPPI is an international programme run by the World Council of Churches. In the UK and Ireland it is managed by Quakers in Britain on behalf of 16 partners.

Learn more: quaker.org.uk/eappi.

Nonviolence and peacebuilding

– to Quakers they mean something more profound than mere non-violence and peace-building. Here are two definitions that attempt to capture the sense of them:

“Nonviolence is both without violence and against violence.”

Dr Stellan Vinthagen,
Professor of Sociology,
University of Massachusetts

“Peacebuilding seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict, helping people to resolve their differences peacefully and lay the foundations to prevent future violence.”

Conciliation Resources
c-r.org



An Ecumenical Accompanier monitoring the detention of a Palestinian child at a military checkpoint near Hebron, in the occupied West Bank. Photo: EAPPI



A member of the East African Turning the Tide programme during a peace and reconciliation workshop in Rwanda. Photo: Tobias Wellner for QiB