

Friends World Committee *for* Consultation

2020
ANNUAL REPORT



fwcc.world

What is Friends World Committee for Consultation?

The purpose of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is to encourage fellowship and understanding among all branches of the Religious Society of Friends. FWCC brings Friends together in multiple ways to celebrate God in our lives, to gather the Quaker voice and build networks to address issues of our time, and to unite us within our diversity.

Mission statement: Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

**Connecting Friends
Crossing Cultures
Changing Lives
... through Faith**

A brief history

The Friends World Committee for Consultation was established at the Second World Conference of Friends held at Swarthmore, Pennsylvania in 1937. The concept of a world organisation to express the sense of world fellowship of Friends arose as an important part of the evolution of the Religious Society of Friends in the first two decades of the twentieth century. This tentative development gained impetus from the 1920 Friends World Conference in London and the Young Friends Gathering in Jordans, England, held in the same year. No other organisation exists which links together yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies around the world.

Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in at least 87 countries continue the work of coming together. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. FWCC's World Office is in London.

Since its beginnings, to the present day, FWCC has organized world meetings where representatives from yearly meetings and sections, along with other Friends, have come together. This brings a depth of experience when Friends share in the variety of worship and learning, and when Friends share that eternal love that draws us toward each other through the living Christ.

Since 1948, FWCC has had "consultative" status with the United Nations and is responsible for the two Quaker UN Offices in Geneva and New York. FWCC continues to address regional and world issues by connecting and illuminating the work Friends do at all levels.

Greetings from the General Secretary

FWCC
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It is my great privilege, as ever, to offer greetings from Friends around the world.

Since our last annual report, we, like the rest of the world, have experienced changes due to the Covid pandemic, changes in how we work, in how we engage with Friends, and in how we perceive our place in the world. We have been given new awareness of (to name a few):

- privilege and the inequities of historical injustice and racism
- the abundance of all creation and our urgent need to save the earth
- our reliance on each other and the need to re-organize systems around social coherence.

Our work at the world office has changed in some important ways, but our mission and core inspiration for our work remains the same. What we have saved on travel, we have invested in office infrastructure and technology to enable us to reach Friends more effectively. We have held our online webinar series called *Quaker Conversations* and provided so many new videos on our website. And by traveling and consuming less, we are living more sustainably!

The move to remote worship has resulted in Friends seeking out new worship experiences and meeting new Friends across the world. Much of Quaker worship is better suited to this than for many faith groups, and Friends were quick to adapt where possible. The unevenness of access to technology has illustrated inequities – yet we have seen amazing creativity in response to these barriers. I trust we may continue to worship in more blended ways in order to worship with new Friends. Personally, in the presence of so much suffering and grief, I have turned to the bible and have felt a deepening of my spiritual life. How has it been for you?

The move to remote working has enabled Quaker leaders to explore new collaborations. Supporting one another at this time when leadership has been harder, has truly been a God-send for many of us. We see new ways of bridging our work, and have come to know each other in new ways.



Gretchen Castle, General Secretary,
FWCC World Office, London UK

We are grateful for all these gifts, for the shifts we have been empowered to make, and the opportunities that have opened up. Still, nothing replaces a good long hug from a long-term Friend. We can ALL look forward to a return to physically expressing our love and friendship with one another. It will come. Meantime, stay close to those you love.

We are grateful for the continuous financial support of Friends during this time. I cannot begin to appreciate how much this generosity has meant to me and to the ongoing work of FWCC. Your support allows FWCC to continue to be responsive to our world and to God's guidance.

It is the celebration of Quaker diversity, the blessing of our imagination of a sustainable future, and a faith in God's transformative love that helps us to continue to share our Quaker message to the world.

I will soon be completing 9 years of service to FWCC and will be returning to the United States to be near family again. FWCC has come a long way in these years, and I feel exceedingly grateful to have travelled among you and to have served you. I am confident that as a strong organization, FWCC will continue to thrive and grow!

In God's care and with deepest gratitude

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Castle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Gretchen" on the left and "Castle" on the right, connected by a flourish.

Gretchen Castle

GENERAL SECRETARY, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and ways of worship.

Today there are at least 400,000 Quakers in 87 different countries. The majority of yearly meetings, across all Quaker traditions, are affiliated with FWCC.

Through its five offices, the World Office and four Section offices, FWCC builds networks for worship, witness, and fellowship among Friends.

Five overarching aims of World Office work

1. Support Section work and strengthen connections across sections
2. Bring Friends together in multiple ways using technology and meeting face-to-face
3. Generate profound diversity work
4. Represent Friends at the world level
5. Amplify the Quaker voice through strengthened networks

Five strategic areas of World Office work

1. Working for the sustainability of all of God's creation
2. Addressing spiritual issues of privilege and historical injustice
3. Funding Young Adult Friends in their travel and ministry
4. Building Bridges across Quaker traditions
5. Developing greater financial and organizational stability

The World Office fulfills these aims through many areas of work

- **Sustainability Programme:** launched in 2017 following *Kabaraka Call to Peace and Eco-justice* in 2012 and the *Pisac Sustainability Minute* in Peru in 2016
- **United Nations:** FWCC enables work to be done at the United Nations through
 - Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva
 - Crimes Commission
- **Ecumenical and Interfaith Work**

- **International Membership:** allows isolated Friends and worship groups, far from any organized Quaker group, to be included in the worldwide Quaker family
- **Support Young Adult Friends:**
 - Young Friends Climate Action Group
 - Young Adult Friends Development Fund
- **Resources and publications:** produce *Friends World News* with stories from across the sections; create video and printed resources for learning and sharing; publish e-newsletter; publish *Friends Around the World Directory* (print and online)
- **Events:** host annual World Quaker Day; organize the World Plenary Meeting every 6–10 years which gathers representatives from yearly meetings along with other Friends from around the world; host online events with videos on the World Office website



Find Friends around the world at fwcc.directory

Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) in New York and Geneva



The United Nations defines itself as an international organization of countries set up to promote international peace, security, and cooperation.

As the world body for the Religious Society of Friends, FWCC holds General Consultative Status at the United Nations (UN), giving Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) the highest level of accreditation at the UN. Through this, QUNO acts on Quaker concerns at the United Nations.

FWCC supports both Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO), in part, by appointing half of the members of the governing committees, and the FWCC General Secretary serves ex officio on both committees. The FWCC appointees are drawn from the four Sections in order to ensure broad Quaker representation and to promote QUNO's work among Friends. The committees set strategic direction, discern program priorities, and ensure organisational stability. The committees help root QUNO's work in Quaker testimonies as QUNO goes about the work of peacebuilding, human rights and refugees, just economic systems, and climate change.

For more information on QUNO, visit their joint web site at www.quno.org

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Crimes Commission

FWCC also engages at the United Nations through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

The commission meets annually in Vienna and every three years the commission holds an international congress. The FWCC Crimes Commission Committee, which functions fairly independently with some FWCC logistical support, participates in the meetings, offers presentations, and reviews the work that guides the activities of the United Nations in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice.

At the recent Congress in Kyoto, Japan, held online, Friends from Australia and the United Kingdom gave a presentation on restorative justice. The committee is self-appointed and is comprised of people with extensive interest and experience in criminal justice.



Sustainability Programme

FWCC launched a dedicated programme to promote sustainability action in the global Quaker community in 2017. It is designed to generate interest and engage a greater number of Friends more deeply on the issue of sustainability, and to articulate the spiritual imperative to sustain life on earth. It is staffed by Susanna Mattingly.

In February 2020, FWCC hosted the first online global sustainability conference with Friends worldwide to ask '*How does God call us to act towards a more sustainable world?*'. More than 300 Friends were brought into communication in three sessions over 11 hours, with time slots chosen to fit with time zones over the whole world. It was clear that the concern regarding sustainability and climate change is shared by Friends of all traditions, throughout the world.

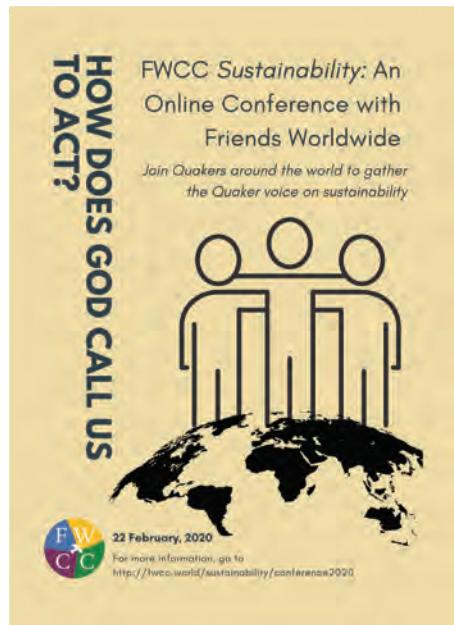
Building on the conference, FWCC has continued its dialogue and engagement with Friends on sustainability concerns. The Reflective Statement produced at the end of the conference offers a sense of where Friends are today, and is being used to help prepare Friends for the next gathering at the World Plenary Meeting in Durban, South Africa in 2024.

FWCC recognises that our work in every part of the world is affected by a history of colonialism and racial inequality and has committed to integrating the issues of

"We need to heed both the science that teaches us the truth of our situation, and our Christian faith, that gives us the guidance to respond in a life-affirming and loving way."

— Reflective Statement:

An Online Conference
with Friends Worldwide (2020)



sustainability with issues of privilege and historical injustice. Through the sustainability programme FWCC is engaging Quakers around these interconnected issues, leading up to and shaping the next World Plenary Meeting in 2024 which will bring Quakers together from all over the world.

FWCC also represents Quakers in a number of coordinated interfaith efforts and faith dialogue with governments on climate ambition. FWCC represents Quakers on the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC, a group that meets during the annual UN climate negotiations, and meets regularly online to collaborate on faith advocacy for climate ambition.

Members of the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC include



Ecumenical and Interfaith Work

FWCC engages in ecumenical and interfaith activity at all levels on behalf of Friends worldwide. FWCC participates in the Christian World Communions Conference of General Secretaries, which brings leaders of Christian communions with a global presence together to bring a collective faith perspective to challenging religious problems and to work toward Christian unity around the world. In October 2019 Gretchen Castle, FWCC General Secretary, was appointed chair of the CWC, a first Quaker and first female appointment.

FWCC, through its general secretary, continues to be present in interfaith spaces, and speak on behalf of Quaker worldwide. For example, the British and the Italian Embassies together with the Holy See, have been convening a series of meetings of religious leaders and scientists to set out their vision for tackling the climate crisis and build momentum for COP26. Gretchen Castle, has been taking part in this series of virtual meetings alongside faith leaders to prepare for the final event in Rome in October where the faith leaders will be asked to prepare an appeal to the political leaders attending COP26. Discussions include faith's theology on care for the environment; action taken so far in caring for the environment and tackling climate change; and thoughts on the way forward including any new commitments planned. Similarly, the FWCC sustainability programme has also opened up opportunities to further our work in interfaith and ecumenical networks. In 2020 the sustainability programme officer, as part of the faith group at the UNFCCC, helped plan and moderate a series of webinars to mark the original dates for the United Nations Climate talks in November 2020.



Annual Conference of the Secretaries of the Christian World Communions 2020

International Membership

FWCC's International Membership Programme provides a way into membership of the Religious Society of Friends (RSOF) for applicants who do not have a local Quaker meeting. It acts as a support for both isolated Friends and newly emerging worship groups. The Committee processes applications, nurtures individuals and supports groups by organising intervisitation, sends out correspondence, promotes section activities and conferences, and provides information about other Friends organisations. A listing with the International Membership Programme provides recognition and presence within the world family of Friends.

The International Membership Programme was started as the Overseas Membership Programme of Britain Yearly Meeting (then London Yearly Meeting). FWCC has managed the programme since the 1980s. The

International Membership and Applications Committee (IMAC) comprises members from all the FWCC Sections and includes former International Members and people who have travelled extensively amongst Friends. It meets in London with several members attending online. The programme is managed by the International Membership Secretary in the World Office, supported by all of FWCC's Section Secretaries.



Quaker Meeting in Prague

Supporting Young Friends

Young Friends Climate Action Group

Towards the end of 2020, and following the Online Sustainability Conference in February of that year, FWCC supported a network of Young Friends from around the world to build a community of Young Quakers passionate about climate action.

They initiated and designed a series of online workshops by young Quakers, for young Quakers across the world. The workshop series provided young Friends aged 16–35 with the space to meet one another and learn from one another, to build connections and understand different experiences better. For many young Quakers, this was the first time they had had such an opportunity.

"Over 160 participants joined the workshops from all four sections of FWCC with 43 percent joining from the Africa Section, 26 percent from the Europe and Middle East Section (EMES), 15 percent from Section of the Americas, and 12 percent from the Asia West Pacific Section (with 4 percent unknown). We had good representation at every workshop from each of the FWCC sections. This was one of the greatest strengths of the series – if we are to work together as a global community to create a more peaceful, environmentally friendly, and just world, we must have worldwide representation, including those on the frontlines of climate justice and action."

— Susanna Mattingly
FWCC Sustainability Programme Manager





Throughout the ten-week series, workshop speakers shared about how various Quaker testimonies spoke to them in relation to climate action and justice. Screengrabs courtesy of video excerpts recorded by the event organizers, available on YouTube.

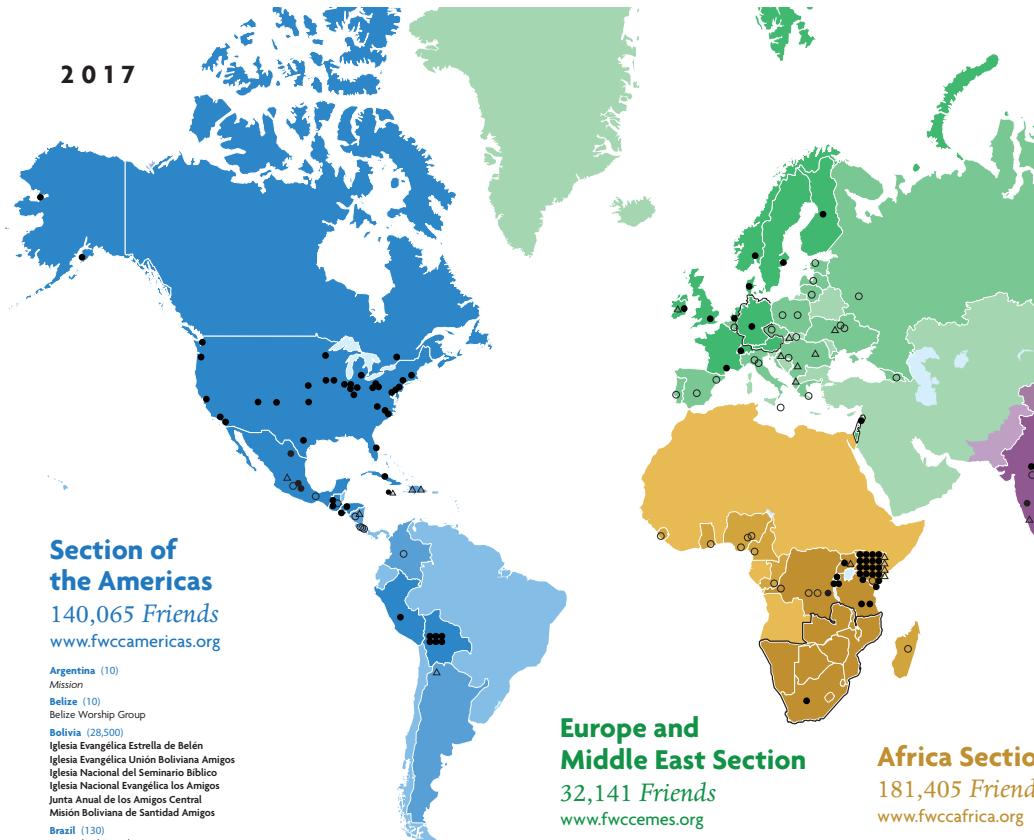
Left to right: Detmer Kremer (Netherlands, EMES); Anya Nanning Ramamurthy (UK, EMES); Young Izere (Burundi, Africa Section); Holly Spencer (France, EMES); Ndahimana Epa (Uganda, Africa Section); Zenaida Peterson (United States, Section of the Americas); Clara Summers (United States, Section of the Americas). Country listed is speaker's home country, then the affiliated FWCC Section.

Young Adult Friends Quaker Development Fund

The Young Adult Friends Development Fund was launched in September 2018, designed to strengthen the network of young adult Friends around the world. The fund has been created from Quaker Youth Pilgrimage monies, and aims to generate similarly powerful experiences of deep spiritual connection and encouragement for young Friends between 18 and 35 years of age, across all four FWCC sections.

In 2020 we had to pause the fund due to the covid-19 pandemic, but look forward to launching it again when we can welcome the opening of our meeting houses and churches which allows space to be together in person – a key aim of the fund.

2017



Section of the Americas

140,065 Friends
www.fwccamericas.org

Argentina (10)

Mision

Belize (10)

Belize Worship Group

Bolivia (28,500)

Iglesia Evangélica Estrella de Belén

Iglesia Evangélica Unión Boliviana Amigos

Iglesia Nacional del Seminario Bíblico

Iglesia Nacional Evangélica los Amigos

Junta Anual de los Amigos Central

Misión Boliviana de Santidad Amigos

Brazil (130)

Evangelical Friends

Canada (1,300)

Canadian YM

Colombia (10)

Junta Mensual de Bogotá

Costa Rica (90)

Monteverde MM

Grupo San José de la Sociedad Religiosa de los Amigos

Grupo de Adoración Conservador

Cuba (900)

Junta Anual de la Iglesia de los Amigos (Cuáqueros) en Cuba

Dominican Republic (148)

Evangelical Friends

El Salvador (550)

Iglesia de los Amigos en el Salvador

Guate mala (19,830)

Iglesia Evangélica Nacional Amigos de Guatemala

Junta Anual Amigos de Santidad

Junta Mensual de la Iglesia Evangélica Embajadores Amigos

Haiti (1,200)

Evangelical Friends

Honduras (2,500)

Junta Anual Amigos de Honduras

Jamaica (2,100)

Jamaica YM

Evangelical Friends

Méjico (1,250)

Evangelical Friends

Junta Anual de Méjico

Junta Anual Valle de Méjico

Oaxaca WG

Reunión General de los Amigos en Méjico

San Miguel WG

Nicaragua (200)

Evangelical Friends

Panama (45)

Evangelical Friends

Perú (1,200)

Iglesia Nacional Evangélica los Amigos de Perú

United States (80,092)

Alaska Friends Conference

Alaska YM

Baltimore YM

Central YM

Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region

Evangelical Friends Church Mid-America YM

Evangelical Friends Church Southwest

Great Plains YM

Illinois YM

Indiana YM

Intermountain YM

Iowa YM (Conservative)

Iowa YM (FUM)

Lake Erie YM

New Association of Friends

New England YM

New York YM

North Carolina YM (Conservative)

North Carolina YM (FUM)

North Pacific YM

Northern YM

Northwest YM of Friends Church

Ohio YM

Ohio Valley YM

Pacific YM

Philadelphia YM

Piedmont Friends YM and Fellowship

Rocky Mountain YM

South Central YM

Southeastern YM

Southern Appalachian YM and Association

Western Association of Friends

Western YM

Wilmington YM

Europe and Middle East Section

32,141 Friends
www.fwccemes.org

Albania (380)

Evangelical Friends

Belgium and Luxembourg (106)

Belgium and Luxembourg YM

Croatia (50)

Evangelical Friends

Czech Republic (12)

Prague Recognized Meeting

Písečí Worship Group

Denmark (30)

Denmark YM

Estonia (6)

Tallinn Worship Group

Finland (30)

Cascas/Lisbon

France (160)

France YM

Georgia (12)

Tbilisi Worship Group

Germany and Austria (453)

German YM

Greece (3)

Athens Christian Friends Meeting

Hungary (4,012)

Budapest Recognized Meeting

Evangelical Friends

Iceland (3)

Iceland Worship Group

Ireland (2,046)

Evangelical Friends

Ireland YM

Italy (16)

Bologna Recognized Meeting

Kiev Worship Group

Rome Worship Group

Latvia (4)

Liepaja Recognized Meeting

Lebanon and Palestine (70)

Middle East YM

Lithuania (4)

Friends in Vilnius

Malta (6)

Friends Group

Netherlands (115)

Netherlands YM

Norway (200)

Norway YM

Poland (20)

Bialystok Worship Group

Poznan Worship Group

Warsaw Worship Group

Portugal (6)

Cascais/Lisbon

Finland (30)

Barcelona MM

Gran Canaria

Madrid Worship Group

Spain (13)

Belgrade Worship Group

Evangelical Friends

Sweden (130)

Sweden YM

Switzerland (181)

Switzerland YM

Ukraine (10)

Evangelical Friends

Ukraine YM

United Kingdom (23,067)

Britain YM

Rwanda (6,000)

Rwanda YM

Sierra Leone (10)

Freetown Worship Group

Africa Section

181,405 Friends

www.fwccafrica.org

Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Central and Southern Africa YM

Burundi (47,600)

Kibimba YM

Kibwuka YM

Cameroon (10)

Douala Worship Group

Congo, Republic of the (10)

Brazzaville Friends Worship Group

Congo, Democratic Republic of the (Friends in Congo)

Kinshasa MM

Mbujimayi Worship Group

Quakers de Kamina

Ghana (10)

Hill House MM

Kenya (119,285)

Bware YM

Central YM

Chakalaki YM

Chebuvusi YM

Lugari YM

Malaya YM

East Africa YM (Kaimosi)

East Africa YM (North)

Elgon East YM

Elgon RSF YM

Evangelical – Kitale

Evangelical – Efkic

Evangelical – Thika

Madagascar (20)

Madagascar Worship Group

Nigeria (20)

Gboko Worship Group

Lagos Worship Group

Port Harcourt Quaker Group

Rwanda (Tanzania)

Tanzania

Uganda (Uganda)

Uganda



Asia-West Pacific Section

23,946 Friends

www.fwccawps.org

Aotearoa/New Zealand (1,000)	Myanmar (10)
Aotearoa/New Zealand YM	Myanmar Worship Group
Australia (1,850)	
Australia YM	Nepal (7,600)
Bangladesh (580)	Evangelical Friends
Evangelical Friends	Philippines (380)
Bhutan (2,000)	Philippine Evangelical Friends Church
Evangelical Friends	Berean MM
Cambodia (10)	Philippine Bohol Worship Group
Cambodia YM	Singapore (10)
Phnom Penh Worship Group	Singapore Worship Group
Hong Kong (27)	Taiwan (5,000)
Hong Kong MM	Taiwan YM
India (3,431)	Thailand (45)
Bhopal YM	Evangelical Friends
Bundelkhand YM	
Evangelical Friends – Delhi	
Evangelical Friends – Kolkata	
General Conference of Friends in India	
Mahoba YM	Marble Rocks MM
Marble Rocks MM	
Mid-India YM	
Christian Friends Trust	
Indonesia (1,800)	
Evangelical Friends	
Japan (120)	
Japan YM	
South Korea (83)	
Seoul MM	
Daejon MM	

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FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE
FOR CONSULTATION



Finding Quakers Around the World

Connecting Friends

Crossing Cultures

Changing Lives

... through Faith

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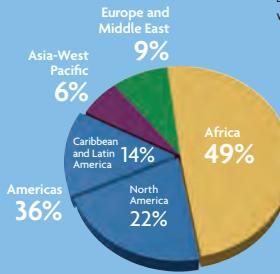
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PRODUCED BY FWCC WORLD OFFICE ■ LONDON

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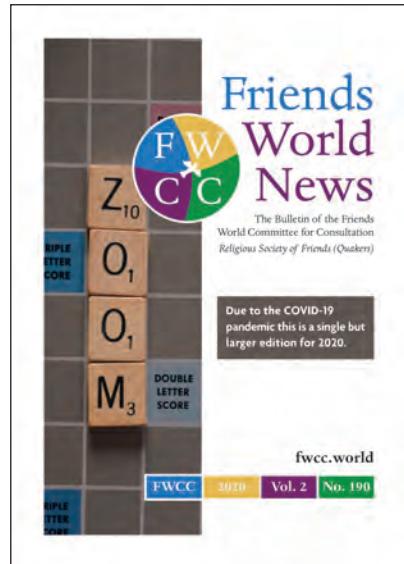
Resources and Publications

We continue to produce two publications of *Friends World News* a year to share the stories from Friends across FWCC sections. Due to the pandemic in 2020, we produced one large copy of *Friends World News*.

We have continued to use our website to be a point of learning for Friends. This is especially important in order to build understanding as part of our profound diversity work. In 2020 we:

- Hosted links to online meetings during the pandemic following the closure of our churches and meeting houses.
- Hosted monthly Quaker Conversations and posted speaker videos on the World Office web site.
- Created a video series sharing how friends' worship styles vary across the sections.
- Created a video series exploring how the pandemic had effected Friends differently across the four sections.
- Shared news from FWCC and other Quaker organizations through a monthly e-newsletter.
- Continued to promote the online website Friends Around the World (also in print): www.fwcc.directory
- Continued to share out the world map, *Finding Quaker Around the World*, revised every 5 years (see pp. 14–15).
- Created a Quaker Advent Series to support Friends through a relatively quiet Christmas season, which is on the World Office web site.
- Posted yearly meeting Epistles on the World Office web site so Friends around the world can read how the Spirit is moving among us around the world.

"An Epistle articulates a collective sense of experience and how God has moved among Friends during a gathering, be it a yearly meeting session or an FWCC Section meeting, or a Young Friends gathering. It is approved by that group during a meeting for business. Epistles have potential to facilitate understanding among Friends, and they help us appreciate that we are part of a world family of Friends."



"We can be aware of the situation in the world and at the same time retreat into reflection on what we can achieve now with small hands. And: our hands can reach all over the world via the internet. In these times when there is a lot of fear, we can connect in silence, hope can bubble up and dreams can arise."



– Extract from
Netherlands
Yearly Meeting
Epistle, 2020

"Each of our business meetings was preceded by a full hour of worship, which centered us in the Divine Light and allowed us to attend to our concerns with enough patience and quiet to stay in touch with each other in this new virtual space. We needed that time."



– Extract from
New York
Yearly Meeting
Epistle, 2020

Welcome to the
FWCC World Office

Connecting Friends

Crossing Cultures

Changing Lives

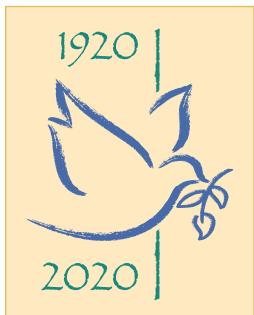
through faith

About FWCC About Friends

This year since our physical offices were closed and we were not able to travel, our staff have worked hard behind the scenes to create a more up-to-date website with a growing pool of resources to help Friends learn about one another. We look forward to launching this in 2021.

Events

Celebrating 100 years of Friends' Testimony Against War: 1920 All Friends' Conference



In August of 1920, Friends met in London in the United Kingdom for the first world conference of Friends. Friends met to gather a worldwide opposition to war. The conference brought Evangelical Friends, Conservative Friends, and mystical Friends together in a common approach to post-war social and political problems. In August 2020, Friends from around the world met online for 1½ hours of worship to mark 100 years on from the first world gathering. The semi-programmed worship offered welcomed relatives of those who were there at the first gathering, as well as Friends near and far. We asked ourselves two questions:

1. How has God called us for these 100 years? To what can we testify today?
2. What compelled Friends in a post-war environment and what inspires us now to continue in our work for a peaceful world?

We thank all Friends who were present for the online worship, and thank all those who continue to do the work of Friends who came before us to build a more peaceful world.

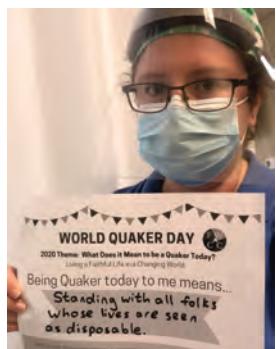
World Quaker Day

In October 2020, we hosted our 7th annual



Bainito Wamalwa, FWCC Africa Clerk world. We encouraged Friends to create signs to share online what it means to be a Quaker today. The next WQD will be held on Sunday 3 October 2021. The theme will be: *Growing in resilience and hope: How do we draw strength from our Quaker faith?*

World Quaker Day. This time our theme was *What does it mean to be a Quaker today?* Friends across the globe engaged in worship, fellowship and special activities that reinforced a sense of sharing, both between Friends and with the wider



Andy Foery, Fresh Pond MM,
Cambridge, MA, USA

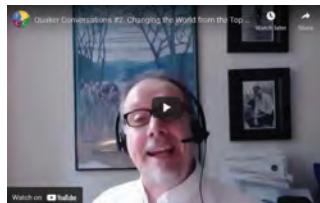
Quaker Conversations

At the start of the pandemic, as an organization who works to unite Friends around the world, we launched the monthly online webinar series called 'Quaker Conversations'. The aim of the series was for Friends to listen and learn and contribute to concerns important to Friends, particularly during the time of grief and reflection and transformation. fwcc.world/quaker-conversations

Each session was facilitated by the FWCC World Office, and done jointly with other Quaker partners to promote and uphold the Quaker work. We welcomed leaders of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in the US, Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) in Brussels, both directors of the Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva, as well as our FWCC Sustainability Officer, and FWCC Clerk.



Quaker Conversation, Session 1
with Simon Lamb (FWCC Clerk)
What does it mean to be a Quaker?



Quaker Conversation, Session 2
with Andrew Tomlinson (QUNO NY)
Changing the World from the Top Down



Quaker Conversation, Session 3
with Tim Gee (EMES Section)
Peace, Environment, Kingdom of Heaven



Quaker Conversation, Session 4
with Diane Randall (FCNL)
Quaker Advocacy: Peace, People, Planet



Quaker Conversation, Session 5
with Gray Handley
Speaking Truth to Power during a Pandemic



Quaker Conversation, Session 6
with Gerry Yokoto
What is mine to do? Quaker Journeys ...



Quaker Conversation, Session 7
with Nozizwe & Jeremy Madlala-Routledge
Parallels: Apartheid & Pandemic Mentality



Quaker Conversation, Session 8
with Susanna Mattingly (FWCC)
Protecting God's creation and life on earth



Quaker Conversation, Session 9 with
Joachim Monkelaan (QUNO Geneva)
Do we serve the economy or does the
economy serve us?

A Friendly Advent



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
WORLD OFFICE



WOODBROOKE
WWW.WOODBROOKE.ORG.UK

A four-part video series during the period of advent and
a space for reflection with Friends around the world.

Quaker Advent Series

Towards the end of 2020, we partnered with Woodbrooke Quaker study centre to offer a series of videos and an online forum for Friends around the world to receive spiritual inspiration during the season of Advent. Each of the four videos offered some scripture, a question for reflection, and a link to an online forum to reflect together with Friends online. For example in week one of the series, we asked: *How does being called to a just life bring new hope? What is your witness? How does your belief give you hope in the face of life's difficulties?*

Find out more at: fwcc.world/a-friendly-advent

World Plenary Meeting 2024 in Durban, South Africa

Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another

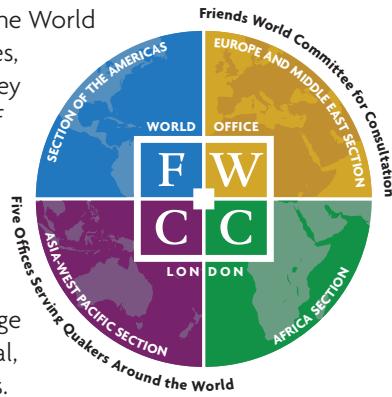
We continue in our preparations for the World Plenary Meeting in 2024 in South Africa. We look forward to gathering representatives from yearly meetings in addition to many other Friends from around the world. It will be 8 years since we met together in Pisac, Peru, so we hope Friends will plan to attend and/or to support another person to attend.

Even before Covid, we had planned to offer live-streaming of worship and speakers, asking Friends to create parallel local communities while the World Plenary is in full swing. We hope this will allow large numbers of Quakers to feel connected to the event.



Five Offices

All five offices, four section offices and the World Office in London, have their own websites, financial structures, and programs, yet they work collaboratively and share a sense of direction and service to Friends. Section secretaries and section clerks serve on the FWCC Central Executive Committee. Each of the four sections has within its geographic boundaries a variety of cultures, different languages, and the range of Quaker traditions, including evangelical, unprogrammed, and programmed Friends.



F | W C | C **Section of the Americas** www.fwccamericas.org

FWCC Section of the Americas strives to weave together the strands of Quakerism across the Americas. In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. The Americas Section held its first meeting in 1938. In the 1970s the Section of the Americas held a hemispheric conference which provided an opportunity for Latin American Friends to become better acquainted and discuss areas of shared interest and concern. Over the following decades, groups of Friends and Yearly Meetings from many countries have joined and transformed what was originally an organizing committee into what is now the Comité de los Amigos Latinoamericanos (Committee of Latin American Friends, or COAL).

F | W C | C **Europe and Middle East Section** www.fwccemes.org

FWCC EMES is the collective body for Quaker meetings in Europe and the Middle East. All individual members of yearly meetings and groups affiliated with EMES are members of FWCC. The European Section of FWCC was recognised in 1938, at the first FWCC Committee Meeting held in Vallekilde, Denmark. The name was changed to Europe and Middle East Section (EMES) in 1992. EMES maintains close relations with Europe and Middle East Young Friends, the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, and the Quaker Council for European Affairs in Brussels.



Africa Section

www.fwccafrica.org

The FWCC Africa Section, which was founded in 1971 is based at the Friends International Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. The Section is in touch with yearly meetings and groups of Friends in Africa within the context of FWCC's aims and purposes. The Section provides a useful point of consultation for other FWCC offices, for other Quaker organisations and for international matters such as FWCC representation at UN conferences. The Section has developed many useful partnerships with other Quaker organizations, including Friends United Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting's Quaker Peace and Social Witness.



Asia West Pacific Section

www/fwccawps.org

The Asia West Pacific Section brings Friends of varying Quaker traditions and cultures together to celebrate Quaker heritage and to work collectively on international concerns. Asia West Pacific Section is the newest of the sections and was formed in 1985 and the first business meeting was held in 1988 in Tokyo at the FWCC Triennial. The Asia West Pacific Section spans a myriad of countries and languages, and worship styles are varied in meetings and churches across the region, with programmed meetings, unprogrammed meetings, and evangelical churches in membership. The Section also has many small Quaker groups and individual Friends scattered across the region.

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

FWCC's decisions are made by Quakers, for Quakers. Representatives appointed by affiliated Yearly Meetings and groups gather in plenary sessions every seven to ten years. Between plenary sessions, the Central Executive Committee, which is broadly representative, carries out governance and oversight functions for the World Office. There are similar executive committees for each of the four Sections. FWCC committees report to the CEC.

The membership of the CEC consists of the FWCC Clerk and two Assistant Clerks, the Treasurer, the clerks and section secretaries from each of the four sections, the General Secretary, and three at-large members. Officers and at-large members are appointed by the International Nominations Committee. The CEC typically meets in person annually, and it meets virtually many other times during the year. the CEC varies where it meets and uses this as opportunity for intervisitation.

As a Quaker, you belong to your local spiritual community,

... and its yearly meeting

... and any Quaker organisation to which your yearly meeting is affiliated

... including FWCC!

Friends or worship groups may apply to FWCC's International Membership Programme.



Financial Highlights

The work of FWCC World Office is sustained by gifts from individual Friends, which come to FWCC either directly, or through Local and Yearly Meetings, or FWCC Sections. We remain very grateful for the support of Friends around the world in providing the funds which enable us to carry this work on your behalf. We also benefit from funds generated by the generosity of Friends' legacies and trust funds. They all represent concrete expressions of support from across the Quaker world for the work of FWCC.

As described in the 2020 Friends World News, FWCC has been challenged as a world network to operate in the midst of the pandemic of COVID-19. The changes to our way of working and delivering the networking and support to Friends worldwide are detailed in earlier paragraphs, but this section seeks to cover the financial implications.

Our aim as always is to achieve a balance between operating income and expenditure, while also setting aside reserves for future work including the proposed 2024 World Plenary and senior staff replacement that is underway in 2021.

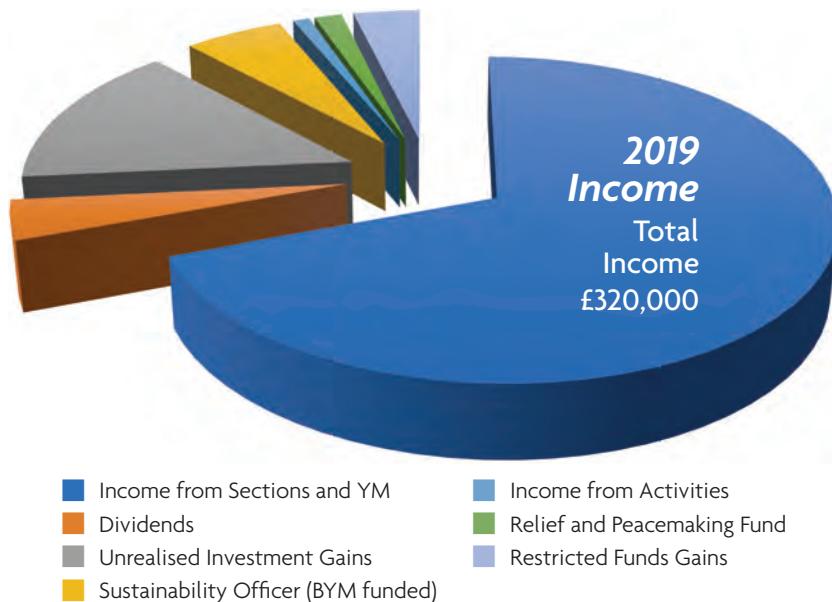
The FWCC World Office operates internationally and is inevitably subject to global economic movements in exchange rates and stock market values. The effects of the coronavirus epidemic and the uncertainty of the UK position in the Brexit process have made our investments volatile during 2020, but it seems that these markets have stabilised, and our portfolio returned to a satisfactory level by early 2021. The World Office holds investments and cash in both British pounds and US dollars, and we have reviewed the ethical dimension of our holdings to ensure we achieve our objectives in a sustainable and socially acceptable manner.

We now hold substantial funds for supporting Young Adult Friends in developing networks of friendship across the Quaker family. Work in this area has been curtailed this year, but we look forward to picking up this important work as soon as circumstances allow.

The 2020 travelling restrictions meant that expenditure was substantially below budget. The 2020 accounts are currently with our auditors, but the draft accounts show that unrestricted income exceeded expenditure, resulting in a surplus, on top of which there were unrealised gains on investments. We plan to use some of the budgetary savings to build a new website and to invest in a new database, which will allow for more integration between systems, to improve communications, and provide new internet based ways to support the Quaker network.

Finally, it is with this work that we continue to look to the future, trusting that our new global campaign goals will inspire Friends to contribute funds to support our work not just in the existing activities but in the wider range of work planned.

Peter Ullathorne
TREASURER, FWCC WORLD OFFICE



Central Executive Committee Members (2020)

Job Bikokwa <i>Evangelical Friends Church Kenya</i> Executive Secretary	Africa Section
Gretchen Castle <i>Philadelphia YM</i> General Secretary	FWCC World Office
Elizabeth Cazden <i>New England YM</i> Assistant Clerk	FWCC World Office
Ronis Chapman <i>Australia YM</i> Executive Secretary	Asia West Pacific Section
Michael Eccles <i>Britain YM</i> Executive Secretary	Europe and Middle East Section
Myron Guachalla Montano <i>Bolivia Central YM</i> Member at-large	
Simon C. Lamb <i>Ireland YM</i> Clerk	FWCC World Office
Ethel Livermore <i>Britain YM</i> Clerk	Europe and Middle East Section
Thule Mbete <i>Southern Africa YM</i> Member at-large	
Robin Mohr <i>Philadelphia YM</i> Executive Secretary	Section of the Americas



Esther Mombo FWCC World Office

Highlands YM - Africa
Assistant Clerk

David Shiner Section of the Americas
Illinois YM
Clerk

Ronald Titus Asia West Pacific Section
Bhopal YM - India
Clerk

Peter Ullathorne FWCC World Office
Britain YM
Treasurer

Bainito Wamalwa Africa Section
East Africa YM-North
Clerk

World Office Staff

(all part-time except the general secretary)

Gretchen Castle General Secretary

Susanna Mattingly Sustainability Officer

Faith Biddle Communications Manager

Kim Bond Office Administrator

Harry Albright International Membership Secretary

Elaine Bright Finance Officer

Tas Cooper Database Manager

FWCC Central Executive Committee





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