

Quaker faith in action

News and actions from Quaker Peace & Social Witness



April 2019

Quakerism in the rising climate justice movement

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Quaker Faith in Action April round-up!

Climate justice has been on people's minds this month thanks to the rising climate justice movement. Schoolchildren across the UK took part in the third #YouthStrike4Climate, Extinction Rebellion shut down central London for a week to draw attention to the climate crisis, and Greta Thunberg visited Britain.

It will not be a surprise that Quakers have been involved in these important events, with young Quakers taking part in the school strike, two meetings for worship held at Extinction Rebellion's London shutdown, and Quakers in Britain hosting Greta for a sold-out talk at Friends House.



At least seven Quakers have arrested at Extinction Rebellion nonviolent direct actions, with hundreds supporting them online and through prayer. Those arrested include: Peter Griffin; Ian Bray of Brighouse West Yorkshire AM; Leslie Tate of Luton and Leighton AM; Ruth Leonard- Williams of Ashburton Quaker Meeting; Sue Hampton of Berkhamsted Meeting; Jo Robins of Nailsworth meeting; and Jan Scott of Kingsbridge Quaker Meeting.

We encourage any other Quakers who were arrested to inform Meeting for Sufferings by emailing the dedicated address, sufferings@quaker.org.uk, with as much accurate information as possible – for example, names, Area Meetings, dates, charges, and sentence.



Meeting for worship at Marble Arch Extinction Rebellion on Good Friday.

Across the climate movement, from Greta to the climate strikers to Extinction Rebellion and beyond, one key ask reappears again and again: that the UK meets its existing UN climate commitments. As Greta pointed out to politicians during her visit, this is not a very radical demand.

Here in the office, we feel hopeful: the combination of direct action, top-level advocacy, and grassroots pressure from constituents makes the issue of climate justice harder and harder for MPs to ignore. Whatever you're doing, keep going!

One thing that Quakers can do to keep the pressure up: take part [The Time Is Now](#), a mass lobby of parliament. Organised by our partners at the Climate Coalition, on Wednesday 26 June thousands of people will converge on Parliament Square in London

to call on our MPs for urgent action to avert catastrophic climate change.

There will be Faith for the Climate Network workshops, talks, and a public action. If you can't come on the day, perhaps you could meet your MP in the weeks leading up to the event. Tell us about your climate action plans by emailing Chris Walker at chrisw@quaker.org.uk. We hope to see lots of you on 26 June!

In Friendship,

Suki

P.S: Lots of you are new to this email, so welcome on board! All subscribers can [adjust their email settings at any time](#), opting in and out of specific updates as you prefer.

Suki Ferguson

Communications Officer

Quaker Peace & Social Witness

sukif@quaker.org.uk | 020 7663 1191

www.quaker.org.uk/our-work

Upcoming events

Featured event: Westminster Abbey peace demonstration

11.30am-1pm Friday 3 May, Westminster Abbey, London

On Friday 3 May, Westminster Abbey is hosting a service to recognise 50 years of continuous at-sea deterrent. The event is seen by many to be at odds with last year's Church of England General Synod motion calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Paul Parker the Recording Clerk of Quakers in Britain, has written to the Dean of Westminster Abbey saying that "Quakers regard nuclear weapons as faithless. To threaten humanity and the planet with nuclear annihilation is in our view contrary to what

God would have us do”.

QPSW is supporting the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's (CCND) [protest](#) outside Westminster Abbey on the day of the event, which will include many Christian denominations.

If you are planning to go, be sure to send your pictures and reports to disarm@quaker.org.uk or tag [@DisarmQuaker](#) on Twitter.

Saturday 18 May: Roots of Resistance nonviolent direct action training

Central Manchester Meeting House. Organised by Turning the Tide and Roots of Resistance. Email hello@rootsofresistance.org.uk to learn more.

24–27 May: Yearly Meeting 2019

Friends House Euston. Examining privilege as a yearly meeting. Learn more and book: www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Saturday 1 June: Towards Equality – a gathering

10am–4pm Mount Street, Manchester. Organised by the Quaker Land Value Tax group. Register for a place: www.eventbrite.com/o/quaker-lvt-group-19904495931

Saturday 22 June: Growing Sanctuary Everywhere Skillshare

Friends House, Euston. Effective campaigns, privilege, & collective action. Open to Friends from all Sanctuary Meetings. Book here: bit.ly/GrowingSanctuary

Tuesday 25 June: Building a world without war

Friends House Euston. Free talk by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Scilla Elworthy. [Learn more and book.](#)

Wednesday 26 June: Mass climate lobby of Parliament

Parliament Square, London. Organised by Faith for the Climate Network.

Saturday 20 July: Sanctuary Meetings in Yorkshire

Skipton, Yorks. A regional day of learning and sharing for those working to create Sanctuary Everywhere. Email arthurpritchard@gmail.com to attend.

Monday 2 September: Hearts and Minds Prepared – Stop DSEI briefing

1:30 pm–8:30 pm The Light, Friends House Euston.

Organised by Roots of Resistance.

2–13 September: Stop DSEI arms fair

ExCel Centre, London. Organised by Roots of Resistance. Register for updates:

rootsofresistance.org.uk/get-involved/sign-up/

27-29 September: Envisioning a world that is open to all

Woodbrooke, Birmingham; £95-165. A Quaker conference for learning about asylum and migration, hearing from those who feel its impact. Information and

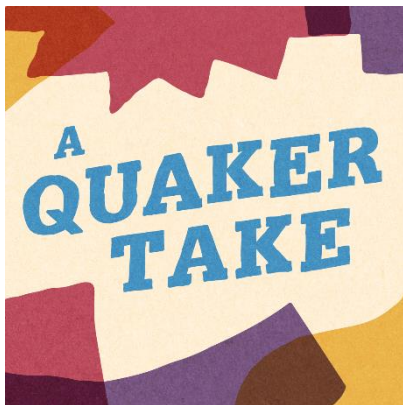
booking: bit.ly/2WPzA5Y

Event coming up?

email the information to sukif@quaker.org.uk.

News, views & resources

Podcast: A Quaker Take on immigration in the UK



What's the Quaker position on immigration and why?

What are Quakers doing to tackle some of the injustices in the current system?

Asking some of the most common questions, A Quaker Take podcast considers the Quaker position on immigration with Tatiana Garavito, Jessica Metheringham and Bridget Walker.

We talk about why it's about working with migrants as well as refugees and asylum seekers, and how we can all help tackle the injustices in the UK's current immigration system. Listen to the podcast here: soundcloud.com/qwitness/on-immigration.

Blog: INF treaty in collapse – a call to disarm

Peace & Disarmament Programme Manager Daniel Jakopovich reflects on worrying global developments around nuclear weapons and what Quakers can do to create a culture of peace.

"The Quaker peace testimony calls us to work against militarism and to build a culture of peace. In the context of a new nuclear arms race, and the increased threat of nuclear war, we must strengthen our support for the movement to rid the world of all weapons of mass death and destruction, and be part of the broader movement for a peaceful future." Read on for Daniel's 5 ideas for action:

www.quaker.org.uk/blog/inf-treaty-collapse-a-call-to-disarm

A Turning the Tide YouTube guide to peacebuilding

YouTube doesn't have to be about violence, hate speech or funny videos of cats. East Africa Programme Manager Tobias Wellner shares how he's using YouTube videos to help build skills in peace and nonviolence. He notes that "the best way to [train facilitators] is through face-to-face workshops, but workshops are expensive and take a lot of time and energy to organise. An obvious solution is to use online platforms for further education in peace and nonviolence where we can." [Browse the 70 videos which make up the new playlist for peacebuilders here.](#)

Blog: responding creatively to divisions in our communities

If the EU referendum was perhaps a symptom of unresolved social divisions in the UK, it's clear that those pre-existing divisions have deepened over the last few years. Lisa Cumming looks at how grassroots groups are responding adventurously to division. Read on to find out more about Brexit Break-up Cafes, and more:

www.quaker.org.uk/blog/responding-creatively-in-divided-times

New Race and Privilege in Europe briefing from QCEA

The Quaker Council for European Affairs has relaunched its popular Race and Privilege briefing. The new version includes a wealth of spiritually-informed and in-depth information about colonialism, whiteness and the social construction of race. It is free to read or print off at home, and makes an excellent companion to QPSW's own introduction to these topics, the Owing Power & Privilege booklet (PDF).

Read the Race and Privilege in Europe PDF here: bit.ly/QCEAraceandprivilege.

Work with us! Roles available at Quakers in Britain

Jobs going at [Quakers in Britain](https://www.quaker.org.uk) at the moment include Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager, Peaceworker, and Secretary to the Quaker Housing Trust. We are seeking people whose skills can help make the world a more just, peaceful, sustainable place. All roles are open to people of all backgrounds. Take a look and spread the word: www.quaker.org.uk/jobs.

How Cardiff Quakers are making Sanctuary Everywhere

Cardiff Quaker Meeting recently celebrated its first year as a Sanctuary Meeting. From vegetarian lunches to campaigning on indefinite detention, the meeting aims to provide a warm welcome to people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Cardiff Quaker Jane Tooby explained to Chloe Scaling how the work has developed over time:

"We already held a shared lunch once a month, so inviting asylum seekers and refugees to join us seemed like a logical decision. We had to make it a little more organised, with a hot vegetarian dish every time, to make sure there was enough food for everyone. We knew this was something we could sustain.

"Once the shared lunch was off the ground, we hosted a public meeting focusing on current issues, which featured an asylum seeker, a county councillor with remit for asylum and representatives from the Welsh Refugee Council and Citizens Wales.

"We've also done some campaigning, mainly on indefinite detention because it's a priority for the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network and for the Sanctuary Everywhere project. After a workshop, where we were able to hear directly from someone who had been detained, we started leafleting in the city centre. We also wrote to MPs and assembly members."

Read the full interview here: www.quaker.org.uk/blog/being-a-sanctuary-meeting.

Thanks for reading!

If you happened to be a new reader and made it this far...

Sign up to receive the next edition here: bit.ly/FaithInActionNewsletter

We'll send you the Quaker Faith in Action round-up once a month. The next one will be sent in late May. News and comment can be found on the Quakers in Britain

blog: www.quaker.org.uk/blog.

If you would like to send comments or update your contact details, please email sukif@quaker.org.uk.

Send us post: Britain Yearly Meeting,
Friends House, 173–177 Euston Road,
London, NW1 2BJ, United Kingdom