



Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of
Friends in Britain

Dear friend,

**Christian Aid Week
14-20 May 2017**

I'd like to ask your meeting to welcome the stranger by getting involved in Christian Aid Week this year.

Christian Aid was established at the end of the Second World War as the churches' response to the refugee crisis in Europe. Now we face another refugee crisis, which is part of a bigger global problem. Today, 65 million people are displaced, forced to leave their homes because of war, conflict or disaster. Churches across the world are often at the forefront of providing support, hospitality and welcome. In this country, as you know, local churches are showing practical love to refugees in their communities.

There is, however, much more to be done. **Christian Aid Week (14-20 May)**, this year celebrating its 60th anniversary, is a moment when we can put Jesus' command to love our neighbour into action. It is an opportunity for us to invite our churches and the wider community to join together in showing generosity to those in greatest need; to be good news for people like Nejebar, whose story is the focus of Christian Aid Week.

Nejebar and her husband Noor had to escape from Afghanistan because Noor's life was threatened by the Taliban. They made it to Greece, but now that Europe has closed its borders, they remain there in limbo in a refugee camp with their five children. The youngest, aged 5, is unwell and not growing properly. But the lack of medical facilities and the language barrier make it difficult to get the right help.

When we put our faith into action and act together we have the power to make lasting change in the lives of people like Nejebar and thousands like her. Raising money to provide essential humanitarian relief and medical and legal services is a crucial part of that story, and we also need to speak up for refugees and seek changes to make sure refugees are supported to have a permanent, safe place to call home.

I commend Christian Aid Week resources to you. They include ways to engage your wider communities, either through the traditional door-to-door-collection or the new Big Brekkie. They also include materials to use in your worship, and envelopes for a church collection. They put a human face on this global issue and offer ways to help us all to get involved. You can find the resources at **caweek.org** or phone **08080 005005** to order them.

Will you and your meeting join Christian Aid Week this year?

Yours faithfully,

Helen Drewery
Head of Worship and Witness, Quakers in Britain

PS If you have any questions about Christian Aid Week and how you can get involved, please contact **020 7523 2492**.

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