



Earth and Economy



News on economics and sustainability from Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Issue 5

November 2014

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Quakers take action on climate change

Sunniva Taylor and Maya Williams share some of the ways Quakers around the world took action against climate change in September.

On 21 September, International Day of Peace, Quakers around the world took a stand for climate justice and peace, joining with hundreds of thousands of people taking action ahead of the UN Climate Summit in New York.

In London more than 50 Quakers joined a 40,000-person-strong march. They were also part of a multi-faith gathering of over 200 people who read a prayer by Desmond Tutu that had been written for the day, and which was also read at marches and actions around the world. There was time for quiet reflection, and for people to write their hopes and wishes for the world. Friends in Newcastle, Bath and Cambridge joined marches in their area. Over 70 people joined a meeting for worship held in the centre of Birmingham.



Quakers march together at the People's Climate March, London. Photo: Andrew Dey

Norwich and Ashburton meetings also held vigils. Members of Cardiff Meeting marked the day with a photo stunt using resources from the Climate Coalition's *For the Love of...* campaign. In the morning a group of Quakers joined with the Dharma Action Network for Climate Engagement (DANCE) and the

creative protest group BP or not BP as part of a performance meditation at the British Museum in protest at BP's sponsorship of the institution (see page 3).

Friends' activities were just one aspect of an amazing array of climate actions across the globe, with almost 3,000 events taking place in 166 countries that weekend. The biggest action was in New York, where 400,000 people, including many Quakers, marched through the city. Emily Wirza, who works at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in New York, reported to us that "The diversity of... people of faith, doctors, students, frontline community members, activists, union members and grandparents all calling for climate action... was inspiring and unforgettable".

This outpouring of climate action was inspired by the UN Climate Summit, called by Ban Ki-moon. World leaders gathered to galvanise and catalyse climate action ahead of the continuation of the UN climate negotiation process, which is intended to result in a new international climate change agreement being made in Paris in autumn 2015. FCNL, as well as the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), were present in New York and organised some side events, including a lunch with the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and regional faith community representatives.

The aim was to enable grassroots faith representatives to engage with international efforts on the most recent science of climate change, and to encourage communication and understanding. The group included representatives from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Baha'i and Brahma Kumaris communities. QUNO's Lindsay Cook told us that Dr Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC, came to the meeting and "spoke from the heart, on the latest scientific findings, on the current and expected human impacts (different impacts if we fail to act or if we act with urgency), and how remarkable is the win-win economically and environmentally if we act urgently now". Ahead of the summit, Britain Yearly Meeting signed up to a shared Quaker statement on climate change, also endorsed by 11 other Quaker bodies from around the world.

The statement was used by QUNO and FCNL at their meetings there.

Whilst there were few new announcements made by global leaders at the summit, the day of action certainly demonstrated the commitment of people around the world to take a stand for climate change and is likely to have been an important moment in the development of the climate movement.

Find out more

See more photos on the Sustainable Quakers Facebook page.

Read 'Facing the challenge of climate change: a shared statement by Quaker groups': www.quaker.org.uk/facing-challenge-climate-change

UN Climate Summit: www.un.org/climatechange/summit

QUNO's work on the human impacts of climate change: www.quno.org/areas-of-work/human-impacts-climate-change

Get the next issue – free

Welcome to *Earth and Economy*, where you can explore issues of faith, money, justice and sustainability.

Every issue is free, so please visit www.quaker.org.uk/earth-economy-signup or call 020 7663 1056 to sign up for a paper copy or email version. The newsletter is published by Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW), but it's not just about what QPSW is doing centrally. It's also a chance for you to share news about how you've been taking action, helping Friends to learn from each other.

You can also add your own thoughts to the Quakernomics blog at www.quaker.org.uk/quakernomics, or follow us on Twitter @EandEquaker.

Contact

Maya Williams (Economics, Sustainability & Peace Network Coordinator): mayaw@quaker.org.uk or 020 7663 1056.

BP “grossly negligent”

Young Quaker Andrew Dey writes about why he has been involved in meetings for worship at the British Museum.

The morning of the 40,000 strong London Climate March, a group of Quakers joined Buddhists and actors in an act of witness about the sponsorship of the British Museum by oil-giant BP. After members of ‘BP or not BP’ performed a piece highlighting the impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on people and wildlife, the rest of the group joined in silent witness and meditation before quietly processing out of the front door. The action drew particular attention to the recent ruling by a judge in the US that BP was “grossly negligent” in the time leading up to the explosion and spill, which killed 11 workers, and aimed to remind the British Museum of the type of devastation it is tacitly supporting by accepting BP’s sponsorship.

Over several months, Quakers have been taking similar acts of witness inside the museum – short periods of Quaker worship near the entrances of the large exhibitions that carry BP’s branding. Though an act of protest, there is very little that is confrontational

about these events – members of the public are as welcome to ignore us as they are to join us! However, these acts of witness seem to do an excellent job of drawing people’s attention to the fact that those who profit from fossil fuel extraction (especially ‘extreme’ fossil fuel extraction, like tar sands, fracking, or accessing reserves in very hostile environments, which poses a greater risk of accidents and spills) shouldn’t be able to use public institutions to promote their brand. It seems clear to me that, in creating a more ecologically-minded economy, we will also have to make it harder for fossil fuel companies like BP to promote themselves.



Quakers with members of DANCE and BP or not BP at the British Museum. Photo: Louisa Wright

For the Love of...

Maya Williams outlines how Friends have been engaging with the campaign.

As a member of the Climate Coalition, QPSW has been engaging with their latest campaign *For the Love of...* The campaign encourages people to share with their MP the things they love that could be changed forever by climate change, thereby creating a dialogue with them and trying to encourage climate change to become a priority issue for MPs.

Quakers have been using the postcards and posters over the past couple of months. At Yearly Meeting

Gathering 2014 Friends sent postcards to over 58 MPs. Friends at Quaker Camp also had the opportunity to write to their MP, and a number of local meetings from Stockwell to Cardiff have participated in the campaign. Cardiff meeting took the photo (see left) when they used the resources as a way of taking action on the Global Day of Action on Climate Change.

You can still upload your photos online at www.fortheloveof.org.uk.



Cardiff Quakers sharing what they love as part of the day of action on climate change. Photo: Lloyd Pritchard

Green Light campaign

How can we be more in control of where our pensions are being invested?

Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) joined the Green Light campaign in August to encourage interested Friends to take action. Katherine Baird from Green Light (and Campaigns Coordinator for Share Action) explains the campaign and how to get involved. Dates for training for Friends who want to take their engagement further will be announced soon.



Green Light is part of a new movement of campaigners, unions, charities and environmental organisations who are working to fight a root cause of climate change: the financial institutions who are gambling on fossil fuels at the expense of our planet.

Millions of us pay into a pension every month but most of us don't think about where that money is going. The money from our pensions flows into the stock market and into companies operating dangerous fossil fuel projects. The UK's pensions industry is the third largest in the world. With over £3 trillion invested in it, the decisions it makes shape the nature of our economy and the health of our planet.

Our pension funds are betting on 'business as usual' continuing, even though that would mean devastating climate change. They're gambling our money on fossil fuel companies and carbon-intensive industries. They're failing to put funds into green investments or to use their shareholder power to call for climate-friendly government policies.

We've got a chance to demand better – it's your money they're investing, and you've got a say where it goes. Will you take a moment to email your pension fund and demand a safer future for your savings? See <http://greenlightcampaign.org.uk>.

Hilary Whitehead, member of Crawshawbooth Meeting (back left), is one of the 'nanas' (local mothers and grandmothers) who in August 2014 occupied a field outside Blackpool in protest at Cuadrilla's plans to frack in the area. Hilary says "it was a fabulous feeling that we secured the field before Cuadrilla security or police had spotted us". The nanas' camp was later joined for a week by Reclaim the Power, a 500-person strong anti-fracking camp.



What's your vision for a better economy?

QPSW's Economics, Sustainability & Peace Sub-committee (ESP) wants to know.

Less advertising, more equal pay, cooperatives, interest-free loans, carbon rationing, economic progress measured in terms of well-being not GDP. These are just some ideas about what the economy would look like if it were based on Quaker values. They emerged from a series of workshops that ESP members facilitated at Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014. Inspired by this and in order to inform a new project, the sub-committee is now inviting all Friends to share their visions for a better economy.

At Yearly Meetings in 2011 and 2012 Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) recognised that the current economic system presented a fundamental challenge to Quaker testimony. We noted how an unbridled pursuit of economic growth has resulted in overexploitation of natural resources and how the benefits of that growth had been unevenly distributed.

Since then many Friends and meetings have been educating themselves and taking action to promote a more just and environmentally sustainable economic system. QPSW staff and ESP members have been delighted to hear about and support much of this. And we've been privileged to be part of conversations with Friends from up and down the country.

One thing that came through from those discussions is a sense that whilst there is much unity within BYM about what's wrong with the current system, as a corporate body we are far less clear about the type of system we want to see in its place.

Lots of good ideas and initiatives already exist that could help to build a better economic system. ESP welcomes many of these, but also feels that there needs to be a wider process of Quaker exploration of this issue. To facilitate this, the committee is developing a short document outlining the principles and features that might underpin an economic system that was compatible with Quaker values. We hope this will prompt discussion and reflection and, perhaps, become a 'barometer' to test ideas for economic change. In time we intend to add to it with more resources and events.



Friends at YMG exploring what a better economic system would look like. Photo: Suzanne Ismail

But we don't think that we can or should do this work in isolation. We want to draw on other thinking within the yearly meeting and are keen to hear views from as many Friends as possible. Some of the questions we are thinking about include:

- What principles would underpin an economic system in which Quaker testimony flourished?
- What would look different to the system we have now?
- How will we know if we are heading in the right direction?

If you have thoughts about them, or if there's anything else you want ESP to think about, please let us know by contributing to the discussions on Quakernomics at <http://bit.ly/1Ezobtr> or sending your thoughts to Suzanne Ismail at suzannei@quaker.org.uk.

What is ESP?

The QPSW Economics, Sustainability & Peace Sub-committee is a group of ten Friends nominated from across BYM. It oversees and sets the strategic direction for the department's work on economic justice and sustainability. An important part of the sub-committee's role is to ensure that its work is rooted in and responds to the life and concerns within BYM.

Speaking out for energy justice

Sunniva Taylor explains why QPSW has decided to support the Energy Bill of Rights.

“We all have the right to affordable energy to meet our basic needs.”

“We all have the right to energy that does not harm us, the environment or the climate.”

These are the first two demands in a list of eight making up the Energy Bill of Rights to which QPSW has recently signed up. The bill has been produced by Fuel Poverty Action (FPA) who campaign for clean and affordable energy for all.

The Energy Bill of Rights is a response to some key facts. The first is that over 4.5 million households in the UK were living in fuel poverty in 2012, meaning these people were unable to afford to adequately heat their homes.¹ The second is the reality of climate change – if we continue on our current emissions trajectory we are destined for a 4 to 6 degree temperature rise.

The bill goes on to call for specific things such as “the right not to be forced to have a prepayment meter” and “the right to properly insulated housing”. People on prepayment meters pay more for their fuel because prepayment tariffs are more expensive than other payment methods, but it is extremely difficult for people (especially those in debt) to transfer to other methods of payment.² This is a big reason why people remain in fuel poverty. A lack of properly insulated housing not only results in cold houses and higher energy bills, but more carbon emissions.

However, the bill is bigger and broader than these specifics, being a manifestation of FPA’s desire for a systemic change in the way in which energy is both produced and controlled.

FPA states that “we want alternatives to expensive and polluting forms of energy like oil and gas that will bring down the bills for good: warm, insulated homes and cleaner and cheaper energy... under the control of people and communities not private companies”. The bill is also a manifestation of Fuel Poverty Action’s belief in ‘people power’. They call for “an energy system run for and by the people and we think that together we can win this”. The bill is intended to support people to demand this change.³



Ellen Lebeth holds up the Fuel Poverty Action Energy Bill of Rights. Photo: Fuel Poverty Action

Footnotes

1. The Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) *Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics* (DECC, 2013). Figures for 2013 have fallen as the government has recently changed the definition of fuel poverty. The new definition of fuel poverty states that a household is in fuel poverty if “they have required fuel costs above the median level, and were they to spend this amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line”. Many fuel-poor households spend less on fuel because they cannot afford to adequately warm their home: they are not spending the average amount because they cannot afford to, yet under the new definition they will not be classed as fuel-poor.
2. *Let us switch!: how prepayment meters trap people in fuel poverty*, Sarah Purcell, February 2014, a report by Church Action on Poverty. Download at www.church-poverty.org.uk.
3. www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk.

In many respects the bill chimes with QPSW's own analysis. Our endorsement of the bill demonstrates QPSW's understanding of the interconnection between our concerns as Quakers about climate change and economic inequality. It is a result of a recognition that any transition towards a decarbonised energy system and economy needs to be made in ways that are equitable and do not lay the costs upon the poorest; and that in the need to meet these twin challenges we have an opportunity to reconfigure the entire energy system.

To this end, in July QPSW hosted an event organised by the Fuel Poverty Action and World Development Movement at Friends House, on the theme of energy justice. It was a space to explore what a transition to an energy system that is both low-carbon and just would look like. We explored issues such as corporate control (just six companies now provide energy to 99 per cent of homes in the UK) and energy prices (increased prices may incentivise consumers to use less energy, but many people are already forced to use less energy than they need because of high prices). It considered the benefits of cooperative and publicly-owned energy and the possibilities of charging less rather than more per unit for households who use smaller quantities of energy. Inspired partly by this event, QPSW is now working on a new briefing on what a transformed energy system could be like and how we might get there. We hope to publish it in the new year.

Fuel Poverty Action Energy Bill of Rights

1. We all have the right to affordable energy to meet our basic needs.
2. We all have the right to energy that does not harm us, the environment or the climate.
3. We all have the right to energy that does not threaten health, safety, water, air or the local environment of a community.
4. We all have the right to a fair pricing system that does not penalise those who use less.
5. We all have the right not to be cut off from our energy supply.
6. We all have the right not to be forced to have a prepayment meter.
7. We all have the right to energy that is owned by us and run in our interests.
8. We all have the right to properly insulated, well repaired housing that does not waste energy.

It's already clear that energy justice is about more than the mere generation of electricity or heat. It's also about the way in which energy systems are organised and the degree to which people are able to participate in both the production and running of the system(s). Energy is therefore a microcosm of the questions Quakers are asking about our wider economic and political systems.

What can you do?

Find out more and sign the Energy Bill of Rights, either as an individual or organisation, at www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk.

Share your story: If you consider yourself to be living in fuel poverty, you may want to share your story with FPA at www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/speak-out-on-your-situation.

Know your rights and share with others: read the FPA mini-guide to your rights at www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/home-alternative/info-advice.

FPA are able to provide workshops on these rights – get in touch with them for more information.

Learn more

Fuel Poverty Action: www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk

Church Action on Poverty (especially their 'Let us switch!' report): www.church-poverty.org.uk.

Read QPSW's 'Ending fossil fuel dependency' briefing and watch out for a follow-up briefing on energy justice in 2015 at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability.

Strengthening the Modern Slavery Bill

Suzanne Ismail reports on the Bill's progress

Following calls by Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) and others, the government has announced new legislation aimed at preventing slavery within company supply chains. This is welcome news. But that commitment must now be translated into effective legislation.

Over 200 years after the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, slavery is still big business. Globally, around 21 million people are forced to work against their will, generating illicit profits of around \$150 billion per year. Much of this goes on at the margins of the economic system. But, as various recent media revelations have shown, all too frequently the products of slave labour can end up being sold on our high streets.

When the Modern Slavery Bill was originally published in the summer of 2014, QPSW, along with organisations such as CAFOD, Traidcraft and Anti-Slavery International, was concerned that the bill seemed to ignore this. We called on the government to amend the bill by requiring large companies doing business in the UK to develop an anti-slavery policy and to report on how they are working to prevent slavery occurring within their supply chain. The measures would be similar to and build on legislation introduced by the US state of California in 2010.

Having initially claimed that our recommendations could be bad for business, the government's announcement represents a welcome rethink that has the potential to tackle some of the root causes of slavery in the UK and abroad. It was brought about, in part, by the many people, Friends included, who wrote to their MPs asking for action.

However, as is so often the case, the devil will be in the detail. Whilst the government has now conceded that some companies should report on what they are doing to address slavery within their supply chain, there are very few details about what this will mean in practice. There will now be a consultation to work out some of the detail. Unfortunately, we don't yet

know the form of that consultation, who it will include, nor the timescale for it or the rules that will emerge from it.

QPSW is monitoring developments and will continue to work with others to try to influence the new rules as the Modern Slavery Bill progresses through parliament.

What we need from the new rules

In order to be effective, the new rules need to be based on robust principles and evidence-based criteria so that they result in meaningful reporting and not empty aspirational statements. They should encourage companies to properly investigate the risks and root causes of slavery occurring throughout their supply chain. This should include reviewing whether company buying practices and supplier relationships could be unwittingly contributing to an environment in which slavery can prosper.

It's also important that all large companies operating in the UK – however they are owned and wherever they are based – should be subject to the same requirements. This would broaden the reach of the legislation. It would also help to create a level playing field so that responsible companies are less likely to be disadvantaged compared to less scrupulous competitors.

Further information:

For the latest information on this issue see www.quaker.org.uk/modern-slavery-bill.

If you are interested in taking action on this issue, please contact Maya Williams at mayaw@quaker.org.uk and we'll let you know when opportunities for action emerge.

The Bakewell Green Festival

Jenny Edwards from Bakewell Meeting, and festival project team leader, tells us more about the day. This article is adapted from one previously written for the Association of Bakewell Christian Online Project.

After 18 months of dedicated hard work by a team from Bakewell Quaker Meeting (and a few invited others) the festival finally happened. The sun shone, the participants brought their demonstrations, talks, poetry, music, dance, goods for sale, activities, animals and good humour. Around 4 to 5,000 visitors came through the day to enjoy all that was on offer. We had a dedicated team of 40 volunteer festival-makers who donned their yellow sashes and made sure that all those visitors found their way around and felt welcome.

The strapline to the day was 'Celebrating Sustainable Living in the Peak District' and that sense of celebration shone through.



In 2011 Britain Yearly Meeting made a commitment to become "a low-carbon, sustainable community", because a more sustainable world would also be a more peaceful world, a more equal world, a fairer and more honest world, and a simpler world.

We could beat ourselves up because we're not green enough: we drive our cars too much, fly off on holiday too much, exploit the 'two-thirds world' too much, eat junk food too much. The list is endless.

The guilt trip can make us aware of our shortcomings and try to amend our ways. On the other hand, we thought, there are all sorts of people doing all sorts of things to make the world a greener, fairer place. Let's accentuate the positive!

The festival was grant-funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, by Quakers nationally and locally, by the Peak District National Park and the County Council. It was organised by volunteers, so it was free to both



A debate with local MPs was held as part of the Bakewell Green Festival.

participants and visitors and gave the event a flavour of freedom and gift.

The energy and ideas from the festival are continuing through the year with a series of winter evenings on the big topics: Zero Carbon Britain; encouraging community action; tackling the rich-world/poor-world divide; growing greener businesses; and building positive attitudes to change.

To find out more go to our website at www.bakewellgreenfestival.org where you will find two short videos of the day and a copy of the programme.

Living more sustainably – being greener – is an adventure into a better world. It is not necessarily an easy adventure – maybe it wouldn't be worth doing if it was – but on 12 June 2014 a whole lot of people from the Peak District showed the way.

Has your meeting been part of an exciting project that you would like to share with other Quakers in the next edition of *Earth and Economy*? Contact Maya at mayaw@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1056.

News in brief

Peace Hub, by Peter Doubtfire

As Central England Quakers we are launching Peace Hub, a new project that supports people taking action for peace and justice.



We are using a shop space owned by Central England Area Meeting and opening it as a centre for everyone who is in sympathy with our call to making a peaceful, sustainable world together: Quakers, the wider peace movement and the general public alike.

Peace Hub uses a rolling programme of themes linked to the Quaker testimonies to: inform and stimulate dialogue; encourage people to affirm the humanity of others; and provide opportunities to take action. We also seek to support community and interfaith cohesion, and to uphold those working for peace and justice.

Our opening programme of themes includes UK arms exports, fair trade and conscientious objection. Activities to get the public engaged and making a difference range from 'embargoing' a giant arms export licence to collecting signatures in support of present-day conscientious objectors.

So if you're in Birmingham why not pop in, have a chat and take part – all are welcome! We're at 41 Bull Street, B4 6AF, and are open from Monday to Friday between 11.00 and 14.30. You can also join in online: visit www.peacehub.org.uk to find out about our latest activities.

Food Banks are not enough

Central England Area Meeting invites Friends to take part in a day conference on inequality and austerity on 29 November 2014. The speaker will be Suzanne Ismail from Quaker Peace & Social Witness. Workshops will be on topics including income inequality, banks and big business, privatisation and benefits.

The event will focus on practical ideas to help

us overcome our feelings of frustration in the current situation. It will not include a lot of analysis or background information.

For further information see <http://bit.ly/1rmU9U9>.

To book contact forbesbarbarae@yahoo.co.uk or write to 141 Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19 1HL.

'Ethical Money Churches'

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility is seeking to recruit 20 worshipping congregations across the UK to participate in the pilot phase of their Ethical Money Churches Project. The project explores questions relating to Christian stewardship of financial resources and assets and provides congregations with opportunities for sharing and learning about the ethical use of money. If your meeting is interested in taking part in the project or you would like to find out more about it, please contact Sabrina Gröschel, Project Development Officer, at sabrina.groschel@eccr.org.uk or visit the project website at www.ethicalmoneychurches.org.

Call to conscience

QUNO, alongside Laurie Michaelis from Living Witness, has published *Call to Conscience: Quaker experiences facing the challenge of climate change* which features interviews with Quakers worldwide on why they care about climate change and what they are doing to address the challenge locally, nationally and internationally.

The publication has been created as a form of witness in facing climate change through love and action, rather than fear. The people portrayed span our worldwide Quaker community, from Africa to Europe, Asia Pacific to the Americas.

Read the stories of Friends on the QUNO website at <http://quno.org/resource/2014/9/call-conscience-quaker-experiences-facing-challenge-climate-change>.

Bilateral Investment Treaties

Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) are supposed to increase international investment,

thereby creating jobs and growth. The Trade Justice Movement is working on this and they argue that BITs give companies gold-plated protections, including the right to sue governments, with no equivalent protections for communities. In a recent case, Ecuador was ordered to pay Occidental Petroleum nearly \$2 billion after the government cancelled a contract. Even the World Bank says signing these treaties is no guarantee of economic gains.

The UK will soon ratify a further 11 BITs, and the EU may sign up to an investment chapter in the EU-US trade deal (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – TTIP). The Trade Justice Movement believes that these deals threaten legitimate government policy decisions, many of which need to direct funds to achieving development goals, not to compensating big corporations. They are calling for an end to this unjust system. Find out more at www.tjm.org.uk/trade-issues/related-campaign-issues/bilateral-investment-treaties/318-worried-about-your-bits-.html.

2015 general election

Britain Yearly Meeting will be creating resources to support Friends to engage with political processes and politicians in the run-up to the 2015 general election.

In January 2015 all local and area meetings will be sent an election booklet that will include information on topics such as climate change, energy justice and economic inequality, which we know Friends are concerned about. It will also point Friends to further information about the topics.



The booklet will include guidance on organising hustings, contacting elected representatives and suggestions for questions to discuss with parliamentary candidates.

For more information see www.quaker.org.uk/election or contact Jessica Metheringham on jessicam@quaker.org.uk or 020 7663 1107.



turning the tide

NONVIOLENT POWER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Turning the Tide offers campaigning support

Keen to get more active but not sure where to start?

Could your group benefit from exploring new ways to work effectively together?

Could a bespoke series of workshops help?

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We are now offering sustained support for groups who want to make a difference.

Just getting started? Re-thinking your vision? Facing a block? Or planning an action? TTT offers help at each step along the way.

What kind of support depends on your needs. Typically it's things like working effectively together, planning for action, power and change.

We'd love to hear from you:

www.turning-the-tide.org

stevew@quaker.org.uk or denised@quaker.org.uk

020 7663 1061 and 1064

Turning the Tide is a programme of Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Everybody is our neighbour: we are all in it together

Mark Kibblewhite from Bridport Quaker Meeting explains why he supports Traidcraft's 'Justice' campaign

How would you react if the family next door suffered hardship because their breadwinner was killed in an industrial accident, for which there is no compensation? Most likely, you would recognise an injustice and support your neighbours' struggle for compensation. In today's connected world, however, it is not just the family next door who are our neighbours. Now as never before all of humanity are our near neighbours. And we should be extending our concern, compassion and moral responsibility as widely as possible. Global corporations are attempting to set an agenda for transnational deregulation that will dilute citizens' protection, including in the European Union via the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The threat of a new era of universally low standards promises continuing vulnerability for our neighbours in developing countries and less protection for those in richer territories. Yet the same technological change that facilitates the efficient operation and extension of global companies' power also creates new opportunities for global citizenship. Social networking is joining geographically-dispersed and culturally-diverse communities and creating new avenues for developing mutual trust and solidarity, transnationally, as an effective counter to excessive corporate power.

When we recognise all of our global neighbours, we are brought face to face with the fact that many of them are at risk from human rights abuses, including having no proper access to compensation for accidents at work. And economic relationships link us to these abuses via investment in UK companies operating overseas and the imports we purchase. That is why the 'Justice' campaign being run by Traidcraft is important and needs our full support. It focuses on the absence of legislation enforcing a duty of care on UK companies

for their overseas employees. Supporting the 'Justice' campaign is an example of how Quakers can take practical steps to create a caring global neighbourhood. We need to say clearly to those companies whose standards are low, and to our elected representatives, that we expect the same high standards to be applied to our global neighbours as have to be for UK employees. This insistence is an expression of the Quaker testimony to equality. It is an important demonstration of global solidarity in a fragmented world. To find out more about what you can do to support the Traidcraft campaign go to www.justicecampaign.org.uk.

The idea of international citizenry is not new but the opportunities to exercise it using new technology are unprecedented. The well-being of all can be enhanced by realising a vision of individuals from diverse nations and faiths who are connected to further the common good. Together we can witness that economic outcomes can be driven by altruistic social behaviour rather than just by markets without moral coordinates.



If your meeting would like a visit from someone in the Economics, Sustainability & Peace team, get in touch. We could help you learn more about the work of Quaker Peace & Social Witness. Alternatively, we would be happy to work with your meeting to help plan or develop new or different forms of witness on economics or sustainability.

To share a story or plan a visit, get in touch with Maya at mayaw@quaker.org.uk.

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