

The Quaker Living Wage Campaign

In June 2015 Lancaster Meeting was invited to lead a Quaker Living Wage Campaign as part of Friends' approach to following up Quaker Equality Week held in March 2015. Since then a pack of materials to support Local Meetings campaign has been developed it is available to download from our website

www.lancsquakers.org.uk/livingwagecampaign.php

80 plus Local Meetings have taken packs and some have started campaigning. Throughout the past 21 months we have been supported by the Economic, Sustainability and Peace Team of Quaker Peace and Social Witness.



The Lancaster Group leading the campaign is focusing on encouraging all parts of the Britain Yearly Meeting Quaker community to not only pay the Living Wage but also to gain accreditation as Living Wage Employers. Our own Area Meeting, Central & North Lancashire has gained accreditation as have Manchester & Warrington; York; Pendle Hill; Mid Thames and South East Scotland Area Meetings. Others are moving towards accreditation.

Whilst we welcome the rise in the statutory *national living wage* to £7.50 an hour for those over 25 it falls short of the voluntary **Living Wage** currently calculated at **£8.45** and the **London Living Wage** at **£9.75** an hour. These **Living Wages** are real living wages reflecting the basic cost of living and the availability of working tax credits. The rates are independently recalculated each year for November by The Living Wage Foundation: www.livingwage.org.uk

Our message is simple: **A LIVING WAGE MUST PAY ENOUGH TO LIVE ON.**

The **Swarthmore Lecture** to be delivered by Catherine West MP at **Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG)** this year will address inequality, tackling poverty and promoting social justice. If we are to live out our faith we must get our own house in order. The Quaker Living Wage Campaign Group will run a Special Interest Meeting at YMG to support Area Meetings and others who wish to seek accreditation as Living Wage Employers thus enabling them to witness that they a fair and just wage to their employees.

We write to ask if you would be willing to answer a few questions that will inform our planning for that event and our national Quaker campaign. Whether or not you pay the Living Wage we welcome your views. Any information used will not be attributed to a particular Area Meeting but knowing your meeting will enable us to stop contacting you if you have no employees.

Name of you Area Meeting

1. How many people are employed by your Area Meeting? (If your answer is non please go to question 6)

2. Is The Living Wage, or more, as outlined above paid to the lowest paid employee? YES/NO



3. If you answered NO to question 2 please share with us any reasons you are aware of for nonpayment of the Living Wage.

4. If you answered Yes to question 2 would your Area Meeting be interested in seeking accreditation as a Living Wage Employer

YES/NO

5. If you answered YES to question 4 we would love to hear from you via our email address livingwage@lancsquakers.org.uk. We are able to provide information, answer questions and offer support if required. *Please go onto questions 7 – 10 unless you also have Volunteers or Friends in Residence in which case please answer question 6.*

6. If your Area Meeting uses Volunteers or Friends in Residence as wardens please outline how many and how if at all they are remunerated. *Then please complete the survey.*

7. Does your Area Meeting outsource work eg. Catering; cleaning; gardening on a regular basis? YES/NO

8. Name of contact person at your Area Meeting



9. Would you be willing to be contacted if we have any follow up questions?

YES/NO

10. If YES please let us have your preferred contact details.

Please return the completed questions to the address below by mid – June.

Thank you for your time.

In Friendship

The Quaker Living Wage Campaign Group

Lancaster Quaker Meeting

(Ann Morgan, Mo Kelly, Caro Kelly, Elizabeth Roberts, Phil Chandler and Phil Coughlan)

Email: livingwage@lancsquakers.org.uk

Website: www.lancsquakers.org.uk/livingwagecampaign.php

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