

2026 Quaker Truth & Integrity Award

The Quaker Truth & Integrity Group is honoured to present its 2026 Award to **Defend Our Juries**.

Defend Our Juries is recognised for its courageous and persistent defence of the constitutional importance of trial by jury, and in particular for bringing public attention to the right and responsibility of juries to exercise their own judgement and conscience.

At a time when the role of juries, the right to a fair trial and the freedom to scrutinise the exercise of public power have come under increasing pressure, Defend Our Juries has insisted that these principles must not be taken for granted. Through peaceful public action, campaigning and the dissemination of legal and constitutional information, it has sought to ensure that the public understands the vital role played by ordinary citizens in the administration of justice.

The campaign grew from Trudi Warner's action in 2023, when she displayed a placard outside Inner London Crown Court drawing attention to the principle of jury equity. Defend Our Juries helped turn that individual act of conscience into a wider public campaign, with people across England and Wales peacefully repeating the message outside Crown Courts. In April 2024, the High Court dismissed the Solicitor General's application to commit Ms Warner for contempt, finding that her conduct did not provide a reasonable basis for committal.

In doing so, Defend Our Juries has demonstrated qualities particularly relevant to the Quaker testimony to Truth and Integrity: willingness to speak plainly when important principles are at stake; readiness to challenge the misuse or abuse of authority; respect for conscience; and a determination to place fundamental principles above personal convenience or advantage.

Its work also recalls the historic connection between Quaker witness and the independence of juries. The celebrated case of William Penn and William Mead in 1670 established an enduring principle that jurors could not simply be compelled by judicial authority to reach a particular verdict. Defend Our Juries has brought this history back into public discussion at a time when the independence and constitutional significance of juries require renewed attention.

This is the fourth year of the Quaker Truth & Integrity Award, but the first time it is being made to an organisation rather than an individual. For its courage in challenging complacency, its dedication to transparency and public understanding, its persistent defence of conscience, justice and the integrity of the jury system, and for the bravery and commitment of its individual members, Defend Our Juries is an exceptionally worthy recipient of the 2026 Quaker Truth & Integrity Award.

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