

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
**EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST
YOUNG FRIENDS (EMEYF)**



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<http://emeyf.org/donations>

**Appeal for Financial Aid
European All-Age Gathering, 30 July – 6 August 2016, organised by EMEYF**

Dear Friends,

Greetings from European and Middle Eastern Young Friends (EMEYF). We are writing to ask for your help in supporting Friends to attend our European All-Age Gathering next summer.

EMEYF seeks to build closer links between Quakers aged 18-35 who live in the region. EMEYF crosses geographical boundaries, discovering both unity and diversity in our Quaker community. For young Friends from countries with a small or no Yearly Meeting, EMEYF provides unique opportunities to bring their faith into practice with people of their own age group. We usually organise two gatherings a year that allow us to accompany each other on our spiritual journeys: Spring Gathering and Annual Meeting. As many of our participants are students without income or come from areas without established Quaker structures that could fund their travel, we are dependent on the financial support of Friends. We are extremely grateful for this support that has enabled Young Adult Friends to come together for 30 years now. If you would like to know more about the activities of EMEYF, please visit our website www.emeyf.org.

In 2016, we are celebrating EMEYF's 30th birthday, and we invite you to celebrate with us at the All-Age gathering. We also ask your Area Meeting to make a donation to EMEYF, in order to help us make this possible. Smaller regular donations to fund other EMEYF costs would, of course, be very much appreciated as well.

The event will take place from 30 July - 6 August 2016 in Bonn, Germany. We are pleased to send you the preliminary programme and an explanation of the event. The theme for the week will be "The Adventures of Life" and we will seek to explore our hopes, fears, joys and sorrows together, as we grow and transform from childhood through adolescence to maturity and old age. We hope that this EMEYF All-Age Gathering will forge, renew and strengthen friendships among Quakers of all ages across Europe and the Middle East.

The cost of the eight-day Gathering will be around €500 / £350 for an adult (with scaled reductions for children) plus travel costs. For a family of two adults and two children, the cost for the event (excluding travel cost) would be around €1700 / £1200. Some Friends will need help to pay the participants fee or their travel costs, especially Friends from Eastern Europe or the Middle East. Our hope is that no one will be prevented from taking part in this gathering due to financial reasons – and we need your help to make this a reality.

Friends may seek financial help from their local Quaker Meetings, Area Meetings or their Yearly Meetings, in order to participate in the event. We hope you will consider supporting these Friends.

For those who cannot rely on funding from their local Quaker structures, EMEYF hopes to raise enough funds to (partially) sponsor their attendance. We are glad to have already been awarded a grant from the EMES Small Grants Fund, and a donation from German Yearly Meeting. However, because of the high cost of the event and the number of Friends who might be in need of help, we would be very grateful for any grant of financial aid that your meeting may feel able to make. €500 / £350 would cover the participants' fee for one adult. The required support for a whole family travelling from Eastern Europe might be substantially higher.

If the funds are not used for the European All-Age Gathering they will be used to help young Friends, especially from Eastern Europe or the Middle East, to attend EMEYF Gatherings in the following years. From our experience, €500 / £350 will fully cover travel, accommodation and food for a Young Friend attending one of our regular EMEYF events.

Please consider making a donation towards our bursary fund and enable Friends of all ages and from all over Europe to spend a week together, sharing their spiritual journeys and their adventures in life.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In Friendship,

Silja Pfeiffer
on behalf of the All-Age-Gathering Planning Committee
and
Emmie Touwen
on behalf of EMEYF Communications Committee

emeyf.org/all-age-gathering-2016
Contact via all-age-gathering-2016@emeyf.org