



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST SECTION

Europe & Middle East Section

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Registered Charity No: SC036528

Executive Secretary: Michael Eccles

To everyone attending Britain Yearly Meeting 27-30 May 2022

17 May 2022

Dear Friends,

We send loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation Europe and Middle East Section (FWCC EMES) as you hold Britain Yearly Meeting. We hold you all in the Light as we witness you raised up in God's presence as you explore faith, community and action together. Michael Eccles, our Executive Secretary, and I will be with you during your Yearly Meeting. As a member of Britain Yearly Meeting I feel honoured to serve as Clerk of FWCC EMES and to have the opportunity to strengthen our bonds together beyond national, language and other borders.

Britain Yearly Meeting is a large part of our FWCC Section and with us and through us you are connected to thousands of Quakers across Europe and the Middle East consisting of 11 other Yearly Meetings, one Monthly Meeting, lots of worship groups, international members and other individuals, spread across over 30 countries and speaking many languages.

We are a thriving, vibrant, inclusive, all-age, spiritual community of Friends in Europe and the Middle East. Woven together in transformative faith and love, working and connecting with others, listening to the Spirit, we are actively living out our Quaker testimonies of truth and integrity, equality and community, simplicity, peace, and care for the earth and the environment. You can learn more about your wider Quaker community in our 2021 annual report here:
<https://fwccemes.org/news/fwcc-emes-annual-report-2021>.

We pray fervently for peace, a peace that upholds and respects every human, all life and our planet. At the time of writing, war is among us with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We uphold Friends and friends-of-Friends in Ukraine, in Kyiv and other towns and cities who are suffering. We uphold Friends in Russia who endure life under a difficult regime. We uphold all of those across our Section who have taken strangers into their homes and who have offered other kinds of support to refugees.

For our part, we have supported Quakers in Ukraine, Russia and across the whole region and we continue to hold regular extra meetings for worship for peace. We have also been highlighting the work of Quakers in Estonia, Georgia, Hungary and Poland who have responded themselves with

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

great faith to deliver humanitarian supplies in Ukraine and to support Ukrainian refugees in their countries. Their activities are grounded in their local Quaker communities, both meetings and worship groups and grounded in love and care from Friends across the Central European Gathering. You can read more about this work here:

<https://fwccemes.org/news/quaker-support-for-ukraine>.

Conflict is no stranger to Europe and the Middle East. Friends in many places around Europe and the Middle East continue to live in difficult circumstances. We uphold them all. Conflict is not the only crisis that we are living through. The pandemic continues throughout the world and there is the ongoing climate emergency.

Our own Annual Meeting, which is in Paris and online from 20 to 23 May 2022 feels apt alongside your own Yearly Meeting. Our theme will be "From Crisis to Connection: working creatively to heal our fractured world" and includes this quote:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." *Romans 12:2 (NRSV)*

Finally, we thank all of you for your continued support for Friends across Europe and the Middle East and we appreciate the many ways that so many of you continue to engage with us through FWCC EMES.

We wish you an inspired and hopeful Yearly Meeting.

In friendship,



Ethel Livermore

Clerk

FWCC-EMES

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PS we offer you two simple ways to stay in touch with Friends across Europe and the Middle East.

One is by subscribing to our e-newsletter here: <http://fwccemes.org/newsletter>

Another is by reading and sharing our journal, Among Friends, which most recently included contributions from Quakers in Ukraine, Poland, Estonia, Georgia, Finland and the Netherlands:

<https://fwccemes.org/news/among-friends-issue-153-spring-2022>