



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST SECTION

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**To Friends attending Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering at the University of Warwick
29 July - 5 August 2017**

25th July 2017

Dear Friends,

Greetings from FWCC's Europe and Middle East Section as you gather for Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering at the University of Warwick. I hope that it will be a very rich experience for all taking part. I am very glad that our Executive Secretary, Marisa Johnson, our Treasurer, Martin Touwen, and Executive Committee member, Lee Taylor, will be present. We look forward to hearing from them about the Gathering at our Executive Committee meeting in September.

EMES held its Annual Meeting in Bonn in May with the theme *Vibrant Meetings, Vibrant Section*. I attach the Epistle, which I hope you will be able to share widely in your Yearly Meeting.

In late March-early April, Marisa and I attended the Africa Section Triennial in Kigali, Rwanda, followed by a meeting of FWCC's Central Executive Committee (CEC). The theme of the Triennial was taken from Exodus 14:15-16 and paraphrased *Stop crying – God has a solution*. Esther Mombo, one of last year's Swarthmore lecturers, gave the keynote address. For Esther, 'stop crying' was a metaphor for 'stop fearing, stop blaming, stop doubting, stop complaining - and do something about it'. We were in Rwanda at the beginning of the annual week of remembrance of the genocide that took place there in 1994, when almost a million people were killed in 100 days. This year the theme of the week was *remember–unite–renew*. We learned that now, many Friends in Rwanda (and elsewhere in Africa) are involved in work for healing and the rebuilding of communities (sustainable peace work). At the CEC meeting we considered how the FWCC Sections and World Office might work more fruitfully together and fundraise as one organisation. We also discerned a format for future inter-Section Quaker Youth Pilgrimages.

I would like to thank Britain Yearly Meeting for all the contributions it makes to the life of our Europe and Middle East Quaker community. We are particularly grateful for the presence and participation of your Representatives: Ann Floyd, Elaine Green, Alick Munro, Huw Still, Lee Taylor and Barbara Windle.

I look forward to hearing about the insights that emerge from your Yearly Meeting and to receiving your Epistle, together with any other news you may like to share.

In peace, hope and Friendship

Sue

Sue Glover Frykman, Clerk

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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