

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing St  
London SW1A 2AA



Britain Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious  
Society of Friends

25 October 2022

Dear Rishi Sunak

Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister. I'm writing this open letter on behalf of Quakers in Britain to ask you to set a new direction for our country in three interlinked areas.

Quakers are a faith group committed to equality, sustainability, peace, and truth. We seek to uphold our country's leaders and work with them to bring about positive change.

As you begin your period of office, we urge you to focus on three priorities.

1. **Climate justice and cost-of-living:** As you acknowledged during your leadership campaign earlier this year, the interlinked climate and cost-of-living crises are two of the most pressing issues of our time. You pledged to do more to insulate homes. We ask you to create incentives to retrofit buildings for energy efficiency, and provide local and regional government with the resources needed for local retrofitting programmes, which will save households money, cut carbon and create jobs. The government must also address the issue of excessive profits in the oil and gas sector through higher taxes on extraction and/or profit, and use the revenue to help ease high costs for UK households, invest in renewable energy, and support communities and countries experiencing severe climate impacts. At a global level, build on the success of COP26 by providing UK support for an international loss and damage finance facility to support communities affected by climate breakdown around the world.
2. **Peace:** Quakers have long been involved in building peace between opposing individuals and groups. We believe true peace and security can only be provided by creating a greener and fairer society, characterised by climate justice, a thriving democracy, fulfilment of human rights, racial justice, and good public services. We are distressed at the terrible toll that the war in Ukraine is taking on human life. While the current situation seems to leave few options open, we ask you to think of the longer-term. Consider what actions are most likely to create pathways to peace and grounds for reconciliation, and prevent a legacy of further decades of enmity and tension between nuclear powers. This situation demonstrates the need for nuclear disarmament by all nations, and the UK must play its part by taking part in negotiations in good faith to move towards a world without nuclear weapons.

3. **Truth and integrity:** When you resigned as Chancellor you rightly emphasised the importance of truth and the need for government to be conducted “properly, competently and seriously”. On becoming Prime Minister, you have promised to serve with integrity. We agree the trust that flows from governing with truth and integrity is essential to democracy. We ask you to affirm the fundamental importance of truth and integrity in public life and take steps to foster these values, thereby promoting trust in the people and institutions that lead our country. This includes reappointing an ethics adviser as you pledged to do during your leadership campaign earlier this year.

We hope to work with you on these issues in the coming months and will hold you in the Light as you embark on this challenging journey.

In Friendship

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Parker".

Paul Parker  
Recording Clerk  
Quakers in Britain