Our hopes for the reparation journey

Quaker Reparation Working Group · Quakers in Britain

A tree of hope. Each branch is a theme. What can I do? What can my meeting do? What can we discern Quakers in Britain should do?

Repair

What can we discern Quakers in Britain should do?

- **Acknowledge the history brought into the light, hoped for November 2026**
- **Offer a corporate apology in 2027**
- **Identify reparation actions, and relinquish funds for them**
- **Decide whether the Reparation Working Group continues, and in what form**

Reading and learning

Me

- **Read Quakers, enslavement and reparation: Report (summary) in your Local Meeting Library**
- **Join a book club or reading group on reparation**
- **Use the reparation learning resources provided by Woodbrooke**

  Courses: 1 2 3 4 5

My meeting

- **Set up a book club or reading group for Quakers, enslavement and reparation: Report (summary)**
- **Set up a book club or reading group on reparation**

  Reading lists: Light reading list

  Intense reading list
- **Use the reparation learning resources provided by Woodbrooke**

  Courses: 1 2 3 4 5

History

Me

- **Investigate the history of members of my area meeting and their relationship with enslavement**

My meeting

- **Research the history of our area**
- **Host a regional conference about the history**
- **Work with area children using the history cards (how to use them) available through your Local Development Worker**

Care and language

Me

- **Use the language lexicon and the language paper (summary) when speaking and corresponding**
- **Join a peer support group for people exploring this history**

My meeting

- **Adopt the care plan, and make use of the language lexicon and the language paper (summary)**
- **Set up peer support groups for local people researching this history**

Neighbours and Black-led organisations

Me

- **Smile at your neighbour**
- **Support someone living with the legacy in whatever way you are able**
- **Ask for my meeting house to be available for use by Black-led organisations (Quaker Meeting House Enquiry form)**

My meeting

- **Reach out to local Black-led organisations to support and engage**
- **Ask for meeting houses to be available for use by Black-led organisations (Quaker Meeting House Enquiry form)**
- **Twin with an Area Meeting on the continent of Africa or with a church in the Caribbean**

Truth and Repair a tapestry

Reparation Working Group conference, Friends House, London and online, 23 October 2026

“We were shaken, we were deeply disturbed, rightly, but we were not depressed.”
Beth Allen

“I wish this was all ancient history. It is not, sadly.”
Ivan Hutnik

“It was not about repairing the reputation of Quakers but, rather, providing direct help to those affected.”
Susan Seymour

“Who is my neighbour?”
Professor Hakim Adi

“The next person I meet.”
Beth Allen

“Looking in the white pages for black hope.” “Common knowledge is not all ways clear knowledge.”
s.y. Bowland

“Prioritizing white comfort over Indigenous and Black voices.”
BBIPOC

“How much further evidence, if any, is required to make a case and to convince those who doubt the cause? How much more time is required…”
Wal Warmington

“Nothing about us without us.”
BBIPOC

“Racism is at the heart of this.”
Beth Allen

“If you do follow the money you could make an assessment of how much Europeans owe each of us…”
BBIPOC

“Give me what is mine…”
Burning Spear

“We are not a religion of pure goodness, like with all religions (and people) there are darker sides.”
Lindsey Frugal Quaker

“We Quakers are not the prophet but the ravens.”
Ivan Hutnik, on Ben Wood’s dream

“I am so tired of wonderful people saying they want to listen. How often, how many times?”
s.y. Bowland

“I am still that little girl inside trying to find out why the beautiful people I love are so mistreated and need help and resources.”
s.y. Bowland

“Can an organisation claim to be ‘radical’ if it ultimately fails to deal with… its own, current day institutional racism?”
Wal Warmington

“Our Quaker saints had feet of clay.”
Beth Allen

“An undeniable moral obligation to try anyway.”
Phil Chandler

“It’s about how we change this broken narrative and create something that actively works to repair our future.”
Lindsey Frugal Quaker

“I left the conference hopeful, with a sense of the possibility of impending renewal and restoration.”
Ivan Hutnik

Truth and Repair: a tapestry

Reparation Working Group conference, Friends House, London and online, 23 October 2026

Warp: what we heard

“We were shaken, we were deeply disturbed, rightly, but we were not depressed.” **— Beth Allen**
“We are not a religion of pure goodness…” **— Lindsey Frugal Quaker**
“I wish this was all ancient history. It is not, sadly.” **— Ivan Hutnik**
“Racism is at the heart of this.” **— Beth Allen**
“Our Quaker saints had feet of clay.” **— Beth Allen**

Weft: the question of comfort

“Looking in the white pages for black hope.” **— s.y. Bowland**
“Common knowledge is not all ways clear knowledge.” **— s.y. Bowland**
“Prioritizing white comfort over Indigenous and Black voices.” **— BBIPOC**
“I am so tired of wonderful people saying they want to listen. How often, how many times?” **— s.y. Bowland**
“I am still that little girl inside trying to find out why the beautiful people I love are so mistreated and need help and resources.” **— s.y. Bowland**

Colour: what repair is

“It was not about repairing the reputation of Quakers but, rather, providing direct help to those affected.” **— Susan Seymour**
“If you do follow the money you could make an assessment of how much Europeans owe each of us…” **— BBIPOC**
“Local and national repair are both needed.” **— Beth Allen**

Border: who leads

“Nothing about us without us.” **— BBIPOC**
“We Quakers are not the prophet but the ravens.” **— Ivan Hutnik, on Ben Wood’s dream**
“Who is my neighbour?” **— Professor Hakim Adi**
“Who is my neighbour? The next person I meet.” **— Beth Allen**

Closing stitch: the unfinished edge

“How much further evidence, if any, is required to make a case and to convince those who doubt the cause? How much more time is required…” **— Wal Warmington**
“Can an organisation claim to be ‘radical’ if it ultimately fails to deal with, not only the economic, but also the ideological legacies from this period by not adequately addressing its own, current day institutional racism?” **— Wal Warmington**
“The steps towards ‘giving back’ may have been taken but the lament from Burning Spear still remains…” **— Wal Warmington**
“An undeniable moral obligation to try anyway.” **— Phil Chandler**
“It’s not just about owning what Quakers have done in the past, it’s how we all treat each other going forwards.” **— Lindsey Frugal Quaker**
“It’s about how we change this broken narrative and create something that actively works to repair our future.” **— Lindsey Frugal Quaker**
“I left the conference hopeful, with a sense of the possibility of impending renewal and restoration.” **— Ivan Hutnik**
“Give me what is mine…” **— Burning Spear**

Contributors

Truth and Repair, Friends House, London and online, 23 October 2026. Each colour is one voice on the tapestry.

Beth Allen
Reflection titled “Conference”. Spoke online on the day. Her record of the ministry in worship is credited to her.

Lindsey Frugal Quaker
Reflection by a Friend who attended the six-hour online conference.

s.y. Bowland
Piece titled “Comfort levels”, dated 23 October 2026, written after listening to the discussion on reparations.

Susan Seymour
Member of the Reparation Working Group. Wrote the note for the group on how the day was organised and received.

Ivan Hutnik
Conference report titled “Ravens or prophets?”, including Ben Wood’s dream of the ravens.

Black Brown Indigenous People of Colours Decolonizing For Action Quaker Meetings
Reflections and recommendations dated 26 October 2026, for the Reparations Working Group and the Quaker Meetings in their circle, which includes Abya Yala, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

Professor Hakim Adi
Speaker at the session “Who is my neighbour?” on the Quaker chocolate companies.

Wal Warmington
Reflection on the day, opening with words from Burning Spear.

Phil Chandler
Reflection recommending the presentation on the Woodbrooke report, “Quakers, enslavement and reparation”.

Burning Spear
Quoted by Wal Warmington: “Give me what is mine…”

Quotations from ministry in the room are credited to the Friend who recorded them.