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**Quaker United Nations Office
Geneva**



Annual Report 2004

**Friends World Committee for Consultation
and
Britain Yearly Meeting**



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The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) represents Quakers through Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions in Geneva and New York.

The work of QUNO Geneva is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC), which is made up of members appointed by FWCC and Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). In 2004, QUNC members were:

Nancy Irving FWCC, Joseph Andugu FWCC, Stephen Guloba FWCC, Eleanor Evans FWCC, Tom Head FWCC, Martin Kunz FWCC, Martin MacPherson BYM, Sarah Woodhouse BYM, Penny Williams BYM, Jenny Amery BYM and Emma Rigby BYM

In 2004 the work of QUNO was undertaken by:

Martin Watson
Global Economic Issues

David Atwood (Director)
Disarmament and Peace

Rachel Brett
Human Rights and Refugees

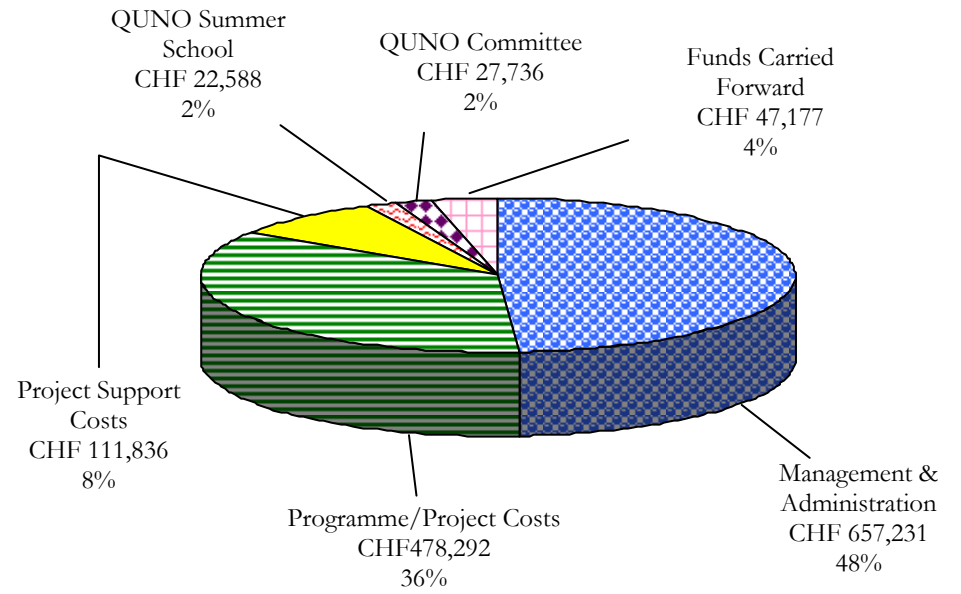
Helen McEvoy
Office Administrator

Eva Tanner
Financial Officer

Megan Bastick
Programme Assistant
(Human Rights and Refugees)

Rachel Barker
Programme Assistant
(Disarmament and Peace)

How Our Funds Were Used CHF 1,344,860



Thank You

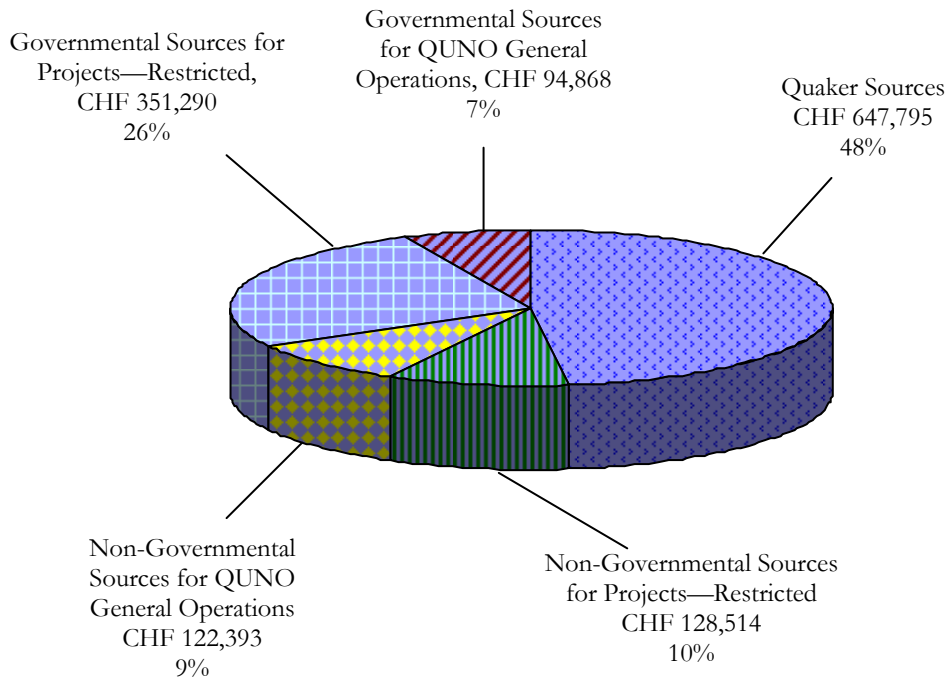
This healthy financial picture for 2004 has been possible only because of the generous support which QUNO receives from a broad range of donors. As noted, a substantial proportion of QUNO's fixed cost requirements are covered by Britain Yearly Meeting. Our remaining fixed costs were met by other contributions and through grants by both non-governmental and governmental sources. These sources also financed our programme activities. To all of our donors in 2004, may we extend our sincerest thanks. We are truly grateful.

(For those wishing more detailed financial information than provided here, please be in touch with us).

Financing QUNO

The Quaker United Nations Office requires two sorts of funds to finance its work: funds to meet its fixed costs and funds to support its projects. Fixed costs needs shift very little from year to year. Salaries must be paid, Quaker House must be run, phones and equipment paid for, required travel costs covered. QUNO is fortunate that a large percentage of its fixed cost requirements are met annually by Britain Yearly Meeting and contributions from other Quaker bodies. Project costs will vary from year to year, depending on the nature of activities undertaken and our ability to raise funds. In 2004, QUNO was successful in being able to cover its fixed costs as well as raise funds adequate to cover an extensive programme of activities.

Where Our Money Came From CHF 1,344,860



A Message From Our Committee

We are pleased to introduce the Annual Report for 2004 for the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva. This was a busy year of change for the Geneva office. In this report you will find highlights of the activities of our staff across the three programme areas of QUNO—Global Economic Issues; Human Rights and Refugees; and Disarmament and Peace. You will also find summary information on the financial situation in QUNO.

The Geneva office seeks to represent the concerns and interest of the world-wide membership of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker United Nations Committee, of which we are currently co-clerks, has the responsibility to help shape and guide the work of our staff in Geneva. With them, we seek to have a programme that is not only representative of key issues of concern to Friends around the world but which also allows Friends to make a contribution to the valuable work of the UN.

There is a demand for new thinking and creative ways of overcoming the threats which individuals, communities and societies around the world are facing. Our work at the United Nations is aimed at supporting appropriate and effective international mechanisms to face these challenges, and to build justice, peace and dignity for all people.

We would like to thank all those who have supported QUNO in 2004 through financial contributions and in many other ways and urge them to continue to support our work.

Eleanor Evans
Co-clerk

Jenny Amery
Co-clerk

2004 A Year of Change

Quaker work at the United Nations must constantly adapt, as we seek both to provide leadership for the building of new agendas on issues of concern and to engage appropriately with the shifting fortunes of ongoing UN processes.

2004 also saw a great deal of change in QUNO itself. After 11 years as Director and as programme manager for the Trade and Development programme, Brewster Grace officially retired at the end of 2003. He continued at QUNO in a consultancy capacity, however, until the end of October 2004, allowing for an excellent handover with his successor Martin Watson. Martin joined our staff in early 2004 as manager for the Trade and Development programme, now renamed Global Economic Issues. Martin comes to us with a strong background in development and humanitarian work, his previous position being European Director for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The long overlap with Brewster Grace made continuity in the intellectual property work possible, while Martin learned the ropes and moved quickly to begin the development of a new focus of work on issues related to labour migration.

As QUNO's new Director, there was much for me to learn in balancing an expanded management role in QUNO with an ongoing programme of work. One of the major developments for QUNO as an institution in 2004 was the completion of a two-year process establishing QUNO as a legally recognized association in Geneva. We have worked with Britain Yearly Meeting in moving towards this status and the increased responsibility it means for a range of areas, but especially for financial accountability. 2004 also saw the beginnings of planning for a major refurbishment of our home in Geneva, Quaker House, which continues to serve us well but is in need of updating after more than 30 years of continuous use.

We were fortunate in the latter part of 2004 and into 2005 to have for the first time two programme assistants, Rachel Barker and Megan Bastick. It remains a goal for QUNO to move to having a programme assistant for each of QUNO's three programmes, thus expanding the opportunities we can offer to young professionals to gain valuable experience while also adding valuable assistance to programmes which have become increasingly complex and demanding over recent years. Megan Bastick has enabled the

Disarmament and Peace

Conflict Resolution and Lessening the Demand for Small Arms: Summary Report of a Research Seminar Organised by the Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva) and Africa Peace Forum (Nairobi) D. Jackman

Résolution de Conflits et Diminution de la Demande en Armes Légères - Sommaire D. Jackman, traduction par Hélène Atwood

The Role of Regional Organisations in Stemming the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons: Sharing Experience and Drawing Lessons Geneva Forum, available at <http://www.geneva-forum.org/>

Global Economic Issues

The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and the Contradictory Trend in Bilateral and Regional Free Trade Agreements Occasional Paper 14. F. M. Abbott

Patents, Trade and Development: How legal protection affects developing and developed countries Briefing Paper. J. Hepburn & G. Tansey

Patents, Trade and Food: How strong patent and plant variety protection affect food security Briefing Paper. J. Hepburn

Patents, Trade and Health: How strong patent protection affects access to medicines Briefing Paper. J. Hepburn

Bilateral agreements and a TRIPS-plus world: the Chile-USA Free Trade Agreement Pedro Roffe



Quaker House
Photo by Martin Watson

QUNO Statements & Publications 2004

Available at www.quno.org

Human Rights and Refugees

Publications

For Whom the Bell Tolls - Report of the 60th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (15 March - 23 April 2004). R. Brett

Women in Prison and Children of Imprisoned Mothers Preliminary Research Paper. R. Taylor

Young Soldiers: Why They Choose to Fight. Rachel Brett and Irma Specht

Jugendliche. Warum sie Soldat werden. Terre des Hommes/Quaker-Hilfe Stiftung

Former Child Soldiers as Refugees in Germany. M. Ludwig

Statements

“Children of Imprisoned Mothers” Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of Discussion on Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood. R. Brett and Z. Afshar

“The rights of non-citizens” Joint written statement to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. R. Brett

“Conscientious Objection to Military Service” Oral Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett

“Child Soldiers: Why Adolescents Volunteer” Oral Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett

“Rights of Non-Citizens” Oral Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett

“Women in Prison” Oral Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett

“Standing Invitations to Thematic Human Rights Mechanisms” Joint Written Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett & R. Taylor

“Indigenous Issues” Written Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett & R. Taylor

“Child Soldiers: Why Adolescents Volunteer” Written Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett

“Women in Prison” Written Statement to the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. R. Brett & R. Taylor.

Human Rights and Refugees programme to make a major start on its new “Women in Prison” programme emphasis. Rachel Barker has been of enormous support to me in both the Disarmament and Peace Programme and in the general administration of QUNO. We were sorry to have to say good-bye in 2004 to Rebecca Kmentt and to Rachel Taylor after some 18 months of splendid service to QUNO.

A major feature of QUNO’s life is sustaining and building links with the wider family of Quakers and Quaker programmes. Of special importance in 2004 was Rachel Brett’s participation in the Friends World Committee for Consultation’s Triennial in New Zealand and other visits to Friends, which she was able to make in New Zealand and Australia. At the end of the year, programme staff participated in the International Affairs Retreat, held in Birmingham, UK, where we met with staff from many other Quaker service agencies and also had an opportunity to do important joint planning with our colleagues from the Quaker UN Office in New York. QUNO also held its annual summer school in July for the usual highly energetic and creative group of young people whom we are so fortunate each year to have with us.

A report such as this can give only glimpses of the rich life of QUNO. This work requires the initiative and team work of all the staff, and in this we must also include the vital work of Helen McEvoy, our office manager, and Eva Tanner, our finance officer, without whom we simply could not function. But I wish also to thank Linda Craig, the Secretary General of Quaker Peace and Social Witness in London, who has given tirelessly to helping QUNO in what has been a major transition period, and the members of the Quaker United Nations Committee who guide and support our work. We are also grateful to all those who have helped us as consultants in 2004 and to the many people with whom we partner in our programme work and of course to all who support this work financially.



David C. Atwood, Director
20 May 2004

Global Economic Issues.

Programme Update.

After 11 years of working at QUNO, Brewster Grace retired in January as Representative for Trade and Development. Under his leadership, work on trade issues had expanded in recent years to cover negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on intellectual property (IP). The focus of the IP programme was on whether patents and other IP rights are helpful development tools in industrialising countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America? In particular, Brewster was able to focus on the issues of public health and food security in the WTO agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

The underlying theme of Brewster's work was to ensure that developing country delegates had access to resources and capacities that enabled their full participation in negotiations. This work was subject to an independent evaluation by the Policy & Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) of the Dutch Government. The evaluators Nora Plaisier and Paul Wijmenga wrote:

“One of the elements of QUNO's activities that is appreciated by the beneficiaries is the specific focus of work, which allows the discussions to go into detail. Brining the countries together in an informal setting, and providing them with technical input from the experts of the consultative panel helped countries to analyse the developments in the negotiations and to come up with new proposals. Also the objectivity of QUNO was appreciated; the organisation does not try to push for anything. Many of the beneficiaries could not think of any recommendations for improving QUNO's work”

Brewster's warm and engaging style, his good humour and diplomatic skills combined to create a dynamic programme around the IP negotiations. He is sorely missed by all who worked with him in the WTO and elsewhere.

Martin Watson joined QUNO in February and worked closely with Brewster on identifying new challenges and directions for the programme. The Quaker Committee overseeing this work changed the title of the programme to Global Economic Issues, broadening the scope of topics to be covered. After some deliberation the two main themes addressed by the programme are continuing work on intellectual property and issues around labour mobility.

Women in Prison: In 2003, QUNO urged the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to undertake a study of the problems faced by women in prison and by their children. As a result the Sub-Commission appointed one of its members to prepare a working paper to be presented to its next session. Unfortunately, the result was not entirely satisfactory and the member was asked to produce an expanded working paper for the 2005 session. QUNO, the Quaker Council for European Affairs, Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Friends World Committee for Consultation Vienna Representatives are working jointly on this issue. In July 2004 QUNO published the findings of its secondary research: *Women In Prison and Children of Imprisoned Mothers: a preliminary research paper*. The research paper was widely distributed to members of the Sub-Commission, to government representatives, to members of the UN human rights treaty bodies and others, including the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (who undertook the investigation into the situation of imprisoned women in Canada). This distribution is “cascading” and in November QUNO received an email from a woman ex-prisoner in the USA saying, “As a former inmate I can not tell you how glad I was to read something that was not filled with misleading information about us. I can not tell you how long we have waited for this information.” She, and others (Governments, NGOs, Prison Ministers and all others likely to be interested), have now received the questionnaires which QUNO and QCEA have developed to seek more information about the issues, problems, and how they could be addressed better.



A prisoner looks out from their cell. © HMP Chaplaincy Service

Human Rights and Refugees

Child Soldiers: The book *Young Soldiers: Why They Choose to Fight* (reflecting the results of our research on why adolescents volunteer for armed forces/groups) was published jointly by the ILO and Lynne Rienner in May. Copies have been distributed to key UN experts, Government representatives and others, and a series of follow-up discussions organised.



Artwork created by a former young soldier portrays a scene of war. From *Young Soldiers: Why They Choose to Fight* by Rachel Brett and Irma Specht

Conscientious Objection: Rachel Brett undertook an expert mission to assess the legal and practical situation on conscientious objection in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the Council of Europe. She also spoke on international standards at the Regional Conference “To Europe through Conscientious Objection and Civilian Service” (Sarajevo, September 2004), organised by the NGO network but with representatives of all the Governmental authorities in “South East Europe”. The conference not only brought together the governments across the region to discuss conscientious objection but also split into groups with the government and its own NGOs to discuss each country’s specific problems.

Intellectual Property (IP).

QUNO convened a series of informal meetings and seminars relating to public health and genetic resources. A priority issue was how to implement paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the granting of a compulsory licence to manufacture generic drugs. This mechanism created considerable legal challenges and required changes to national legislation in many developing countries. In addition, commitments on IP being made in regional and bilateral free trade agreements with the USA threatened to undermine this important policy instrument. On genetic resources, QUNO has been following debates in the TRIPS Council on paragraph 19 of the Doha Declaration and its relationship to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). Issues include a mandatory disclosure of origin for the source of genetic materials, options for the protection of “traditional knowledge” and compatibility with the CBD’s provisions on access and benefit-sharing. The programme has also followed debates on genetic resources taking place in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the submission of a “Development Agenda for WIPO” put forward by fourteen developing countries to promote development and access to knowledge for all, in the IP system.

Labour Mobility.

This is a new programme area for QUNO, focused on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations in the WTO. GATS attempts to liberalise trade in services. Developing country interests in GATS include increased liberalisation under Mode 4 which covers the temporary movement of service providers across borders. Barriers to Mode 4 trade partially arise from national visa, immigration and domestic regulation systems. This creates a link to debates on managing international labour migration taking place in the International Labour Office, the Global Convention on International Migration and the UN Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers & Members of Their Families.

Disarmament and Peace

“In Liberia we worked to disarm Charles Taylor’s militia. Their weapons were handed in but there was no UN demobilization package in return. The former fighters had nowhere to sleep, so the next day they took over the city and many people were killed. People have arms for a reason. They don’t give them up until they know why they should.” Stella Sabiiti, participant in QUNO seminar in Kenya, April 2004.

This quote comes from one of the major events in the Disarmament and Peace programme in 2004, a workshop for conflict resolution workers in the Great Lakes Region in Africa in April. We were exploring the relationship between conflict management capacities and the reduction in the demand for small arms, as part of our continuing work in this area. (See QUNO report “Conflict Resolution and Lessening the Demand for Small Arms”). It is indicative of the kind of understanding of factors driving the acquisition of small arms which we feel essential if methods of reducing armed violence are to be developed.

QUNO’s work on “demand” in 2004 included a range of other activities, such as a research methodology workshop in March co-organized with the Geneva-based small arms research organization, the Small Arms Survey, and a series of sessions in Geneva and New York with diplomats, international agency personnel, and NGO representatives. QUNO was fortunate to have David Jackman, formerly of the Quaker UN Office in New York, working alongside David Atwood in the furthering of this work.

As the important 2006 Review Conference for the UN Programme of Action on small arms approaches, QUNO worked in 2004 in other ways perceived as important to a positive outcome of that meeting. Primarily this was done through the “Geneva Process”, an ongoing multi-actor encounter which met 6 times in 2004 in support of the full implementation of the Programme of Action. In January 2004, QUNO and its partners in the *Geneva Forum* (the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies of the Graduate Institute of International Studies) organized a first-of-its-kind meeting of representatives of regional and sub-regional bodies around the world to discuss approaches to work on small arms.

The *Geneva Forum* has also organized seminars and encounters on a

range of other subjects in 2004, including biological weapons, anti-personnel landmines, explosive remnants of war, and so-called “non-lethal” weapons. This forum continues to be seen in Geneva and beyond as an important actor on security-related issues, providing vital “grease” to a multi-lateral system on arms control and disarmament which is dangerously stuck in many ways, the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament being an important example.

QUNO has done less in recent years on the issue of anti-personnel landmines than in the past. In 2004 some assistance was given to the preparation of the Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention, held in Nairobi in November. This Conference was dubbed the “Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World” to indicate what has been accomplished in the short life of the Convention and the commitment to finishing the job. David Atwood had the honour to participate in the “Summit” and to chair one of the meeting’s major side events, a panel of recent Nobel peace prize laureates on the theme “Linking Humanitarian, Development, and Disarmament Responses to War”.



Participants at QUNO’s seminar in Nairobi, April 2004
Photo by David Jackman