

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe that this is my third and final journal letter to you all. As always when I sit down to write these, so much seems to have happened since the last one that I am somewhat lost as to where to begin. This time it is even harder as I cast my mind back over the whole year, trying to work out how such an abundance of events and learning experiences have been squeezed into eleven months and how this eleven months has been squeezed into what felt like the blink of an eye! However, I will do my best to surmount these time quandaries in order to try and give you an outline of my last three months here at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva.

A large part of this time has been spent focusing specifically on a research project that I began around Christmas. QUNO's Human Rights and Refugees Programme has produced an extensive body of research on the issues surrounding women in prison and the children of imprisoned mothers. I have been looking at the particular situation concerning the children of imprisoned fathers, in order to produce a complementary study that will help to inform people about the specific concerns of this group whilst raising awareness of the impact of parental imprisonment on children in general. This publication should be available shortly.

During my work on this I was able to partake in a 'virtual' meeting with the other members of the Quaker 'Women in Prison Project Group'. I also attended a three day conference organised by Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) on international prison reform which was a fascinating experience and attended by a wide range of international professionals. It provided me with many new ideas on prison reform possibilities as well as hope for future work on protecting the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

Despite this particular focus of our work, we have also been able to organise a variety of informal lunches to facilitate dialogue on other important areas. Highlights have included a discussion on ways in which to use the Universal Periodic Review Process to protect the rights of internally displaced persons and also an event held in collaboration with QUNO's Global Economic Issues Programme on the World Trade Organisation and the right to food.

An added element this summer has been the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council which ran in June. I was lucky enough to be able to attend several interesting meetings and side events at this session. A particularly moving and important side event was organised by Amnesty International on the situation in Sri Lanka, in which Sri Lankan citizens were able to ask questions directly to government representatives.

The most vivid event in my mind at the moment, however, is of course the Quaker United Nations Summer School. This ran from the fifth to the sixteenth of July in an intense whirlwind of inspiring talks, interesting visits, evening swims, icecreams and friendships. Helen Bradford, Adam Drury and I began to organise this event in March and seemed to get caught up in an increasingly voracious summer school monster of organisation until yesterday when the last of the summer schoolers left for home! It has been a varied and huge task and one that was worth every last bit of effort.

Every speaker brought valuable new information to the group in a different and interactive way, and similarly, each summer school participant added a unique element to the group dynamic and shared their varied experiences with refreshing honesty and acceptance. I believe that everybody learnt a lot from the two weeks, both about the UN and the international organisations here in Geneva, and also about themselves and the values that they want to live and work by. I certainly include myself in this group and hope that the international friendships that were formed will continue to flourish over whichever seas and landmasses divide them!

During the final worship sharing session, one participant shared a beautiful and relevant Wordsworth quote with us. It seemed to sum up many of the discussions that had taken place over the course of the two weeks on hope and the power of the individual to change things. I would now like to share this message with you here:

*Enough, if something from our hands have power
To live, and act, and serve the future hour;
And if, as toward the silent tomb we go,
Through love, through hope, and faith's transcendent dower,
We feel that we are greater than we know.*

The Summer School and my year spent with QUNO more generally has enriched my life in so many ways. It has certainly increased my will to fight for the changes that I want to see happen, as well as providing me with information and experience to go about this in what I hope will be a meaningful way. I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Quakers for making this life changing experience possible. I believe that with every PA and Summer School Participant, the Quakers are creating something '*greater than they know*' and I hope that these opportunities will continue to exist and empower for many years to come.

In gratitude and friendship,

Jenny Rosenberg