

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS SUMMER SCHOOL 5th to 17th July 2009

Thank you for agreeing to be a referee for the 2009 Quaker United Nations Summer School in Geneva. Below you will find information about this event, which is organised by the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva and Quaker Peace & Social Witness in London.

The annual Quaker UN Summer School in Geneva provides an opportunity for a group of young people to meet together to study the work of the United Nations at first hand. A group of 25 people will be selected to participate and all nationalities and faiths are welcome to apply.

Participation is not limited to Quakers, although they are usually in a majority. We welcome applications from anywhere in the world.

No formal qualifications are necessary, but an active interest in international affairs is needed, as well as the desire to share understanding with others. English is the working language used throughout the programme, therefore fluent English is essential for those taking part.

Programme

The Summer School aims to provide an introduction to the work of the UN and its role in contributing to a more peaceful world. Subjects such as disarmament, trade, human rights, refugees, and North-South issues will be explored. There will be talks and visits from UN workers, Non-Governmental Organisations and Diplomatic Missions as well as informal discussion sessions and visits to the UN itself.

The work of the United Nations specialised agencies will also be examined and, where possible, visits will be arranged to, for example, the International Red Cross, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The group will be given a general introduction to the organisations by people working within them and will be encouraged to further their understanding by asking questions and contributing to discussion.

Participants will be able to take an active part by chairing sessions which are particularly related to their interests. In the programme, emphasis will be given to formal and informal discussion sessions, to give opportunities for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the issues being studied.

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA

There are QUNOs - Quaker offices to the United Nations - in both Geneva and New York. Through Friends World Committee for Consultation each has Consultative Status at the UN. The QUNOs are part of worldwide Quaker work for peace and justice.

The Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva has been established for more than forty years.

Through the offices in Geneva and New York, Quakers are involved in a wide range of activities at the United Nations. Concerns are promoted, such as human rights, disarmament, and the search for global economic and social justice. United Nations issues are interpreted for groups of Quakers and others throughout the world. Opportunities are also provided for people to seek new light on international problems.

To find out more, visit the QUNO website - <http://www.quno.org/> - or write to the address overleaf for a free copy of the QUNO newsletter, *The Geneva Reporter*

Dear friend

January 2009

We would be grateful for your assessment below of the applicant's suitability as a participant at the Summer School. Please comment not only on intellect and interests, but also on his/her ability to be a co-operative member of a group. Any other relevant information you are able to provide would be appreciated.

Name of applicant:

Comments:

Your name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email address:

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Please return this form directly to:

Helen Bradford (QUNSS), QPSW, Friends House, **FREEPOST**, London, NW1 2YS, UK. Fax: +44 (0) 20 7663 1049

Please note: the closing date for applications is March 16th, 2009. We hope you will be able to return this form by then.