

What is QUNO?

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. Since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, Friends have shared that organisation's aims and supported its efforts to abolish war and promote human rights, economic justice and good governance. QUNO serves as a bridge between Friends' concerns and the UN.

FWCC, which links Friends around the world, has had consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council as an international non-governmental organisation since 1948. This status allows the QUNO staff to attend many UN meetings, to receive documents and to make written and oral statements. QUNO staff also work with other multilateral organisations, such as the World Trade Organisation, International Labour Organisation, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and others relevant to our areas of concern.

How to get involved

If you would like to know more about QUNO's work, or to subscribe to our newsletters, please visit our website www.quno.org or contact us at:

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How does QUNO fit into the Quaker family?

QUNO New York is administered mainly by the American Friends Service Committee, and QUNO Geneva by Britain Yearly Meeting through Quaker Peace and Social Witness. For funding, both rely on their administering body and on other Friends' bodies and Yearly Meetings. Individual donors, foundations, trusts and governments meet other core and programme costs. Each office has a dedicated committee to help guide its work and provide support. Friends World Committee for Consultation is represented on each of these. The QUNO staff collaborate on many areas of work and draw on the expertise of Friends and Quaker organisations worldwide.

What is QUNO doing on Friends' behalf?

Work priorities are based on the concerns of Friends worldwide and determined, in part, by the agendas of the organisations with which QUNO works. Current issues include:

- ▶ Child soldiers
- ▶ Prevention of violent conflict
- ▶ Protection of refugees
- ▶ Conscientious objection to military service
- ▶ Millennium Development Goals
- ▶ HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Rights of indigenous peoples
- ▶ Intellectual property rights
- ▶ International labour standards
- ▶ Landmines
- ▶ Small arms and light weapons

How does QUNO work?

As well as representing Friends at the UN, QUNO facilitates dialogue and works on specific issues.

Friends engaged in international affairs have a long tradition of providing opportunities for people to meet on an equal footing. Such informal and off-the-record meetings, away from the pressures of public life, provide a setting for dialogue where the voices of delegations from all countries may attain equal weight and importance.

These meetings encourage a greater understanding of why there are disagreements and provide an opportunity to challenge assumptions between groups, who would not otherwise have the chance to talk openly. Participants may try to find common ground or to explore difficult, controversial or sensitive issues. Staff both initiate and respond to requests for these meetings, which are held at the Quaker Houses maintained for this purpose in Geneva and New York.

Friends are also known for speaking out against injustice and war—issues that are incompatible with their vision of a world in which peace and justice prevail. QUNO staff work with people in the UN, multilateral organisations, government delegations and non-governmental organizations to achieve changes in international law and practice.

How can I support the work of QUNO Geneva?

QUNO Geneva welcomes donations to help cover the cost of its work.

Please send your contribution to:
Britain Yearly Meeting/ Quaker UN Office
UBS SA

Case Postale 2600,
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Swiss Franc Account no: 279-C0-142149.0
US Dollar Account no: 279-HU-149409.1

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