



How does QUNO work?

As well as representing Quakers at the UN, QUNO facilitates dialogue and works on specific issues. Work priorities are based on the concerns of Quakers worldwide. The QUNO staff draws on Friends' expertise where available. Current areas of work include: armed violence; child soldiers; conscientious objection to military service; emerging crises; intellectual property rights; peace building; refugees; rights of indigenous peoples; small arms and light weapons; trade and development; and women in prison and children of imprisoned mothers.

Quakers engaged in international affairs have a long tradition of providing opportunities for people to meet on an equal footing.

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 speak 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.

Quakers are also known for speaking out against injustice and war – issues that are incompatible with the Friends' vision of a world in which peace and justice prevail. **QUNO staff work with people in the UN, multilateral institutions, government delegations and non-governmental organizations to achieve justice and equality in international law and practice as well as facilitate policy change to reach these goals.**

How does QUNO fit into the Quaker family?

Although QUNO represents Quakers through FWCC, QUNO New York is administered by the American Friends Service Committee and QUNO Geneva by Britain Yearly Meeting through Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Committees representing Friends worldwide guide each office's policy decisions. Each office is funded partly by its administering body and partly by donations and grants from individuals, Friends meetings and churches, and grants from foundations and governments.

Quaker United Nations Offices

How to get involved

If you would like to know more about QUNO's work, to subscribe to our Newsletters, or receive email notification of our publications, please visit our website www.quno.org or contact us at:

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Quaker United Nations Office

Geneva
New York

What is QUNO?

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) represents Quakers through the 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 organization'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 been accredited with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as an international non-governmental organization since 1948. This status allows the QUNO staff to attend UN meetings, to receive official documents and to make written and oral statements at UN hearings. QUNO staff also work with other multilateral organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Labour Organization (ILO), the Conference on Disarmament and others relevant to QUNO's areas of work.

Who are the Quakers?

Quakers hold to a way of life rather than a dogma or creed. Formally the Religious Society of Friends or Friends Church, though generally known as Quakers or Friends, the Quaker movement began in England in the 1650s, when its founder, George Fox, gathered together those who sought to live and worship in accordance with the living spirit of Christ. Worldwide, Quakers number around 400,000. As part of their worldwide religious witness to multilateral bodies, Quakers maintain offices in Geneva and New York. QUNO works with the UN system on a wide range of issues, linking international policy goals with grassroots perspectives.

Quakers aim to live simply and truthfully, working for a more just, equitable and peaceful world. Friends' commitment to non-violence in thought, word and deed has its spiritual basis in living out the word of God, as known in the life and teaching of Jesus, and as informed by the Holy Spirit working within each person. It can be described, in the words of George Fox, as 'answering that of God in everyone', or as seeking the inward light in each person. From this belief come distinctive Quaker approaches to equality, peace, simplicity, truth and integrity.

How can I support the work of QUNO?

Both QUNO offices rely on donations to help them cover their costs. Many Quaker yearly meetings, churches and local meetings make an annual donation to QUNO. Individual contributions are essential as well.

QUNO welcomes donations to help cover the cost of its work. Please send your contributions to:

QUNO New York:

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in New York City welcomes and relies on individual gifts to support its witness and work at UN Headquarters. Since 1948, QUNO has offered a long-term presence of Friends at the UN.

The Fund for Quaker House

Located a few blocks from the UN, Quaker House is a vital part of QUNO's program work. This historic treasure, given to Friends in 1953, is the site for off-the-record meetings with diplomats, UN staff and NGOs on issues challenging the international community. An endowment initiated in 1990 supports the maintenance and operation of Quaker House.

Your contribution today will help QUNO carry out its vital programs and ensure the long term presence of Friends at UN.

Please make your check payable to QUNO.

If you'd like your gift to go towards Quaker House, please write Quaker House on the memo portion of the check.

For credit card gifts, call toll-free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 1

Send to: Quaker United Nations Office
777 United Nations Plaza, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Gifts made to QUNO within the US are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

QUNO Geneva:

QUNO Geneva welcomes donations to help cover the cost of its programme work. Support for the maintenance of Quaker House in Geneva is also greatly welcomed (please specify this in your donation). Given increasing banking restrictions and charges the most effective way to support our work is by sending your contribution to:

Bank Information:

Quaker United Nations Office
UBS SA
Case Postale 2600,
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Swiss franc account no: 279-C0-142149.0
IBAN: CH11 0027 9279 C014 2149 0
BIC or Swift Code: UBSWCHZH80A

Or

Post Finance, 3003 Bern
Swiss franc (CHF) account
PTT Account number: 12-11414-7

Alternatively British pound sterling payments and cheques can be sent directly to:

Britain Yearly Meeting
The Cooperative Bank
62-64 Southampton Row
London WC1B 4AR, United Kingdom
Sorting code number: 08-90-61
Pound sterling account number: 50234651

Please specify donations to go to QUNO Geneva

Alternatively Quaker donors from outside the US and UK could forward donations through their Yearly Meeting Treasurer.

For further details please visit the website

www.quno.org