



QUNO Review

Quaker United Nations Office



May 2014



Quaker House
Garden
New York

Who we are

The Quaker United Nations Office, located in Geneva and New York, works to promote peace and justice at the United Nations and other global institutions. Our work is rooted in the practices, insights and concerns of the worldwide community of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

QUNO is supported by the American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, the worldwide community of Friends and other groups and individuals. It represents Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), an international nongovernmental organization with General Consultative Status at the UN.

We work steadily to bring Quaker peace and justice concerns to international processes, focusing on the areas of peacebuilding and armed conflict, human rights and refugees, food and sustainability and climate change.

We strive towards international standards and practices that enable and empower peaceful social, political and economic relationships. We are committed to supporting international processes that can build a safer, sustainable and more just world. This QUNO Review will show you some of the highlights and challenges of our work. It is updated annually. The content of this edition focuses mainly on work conducted during 2013. We invite you to contact us for further information.

Our work is rooted in the Quaker testimonies of peace, truth, justice, equality and simplicity. We understand peace as more than the absence of war and violence, but the need to look for what seeds of war there may be in all our social, political and economic relationships. Quakers recognise the equal worth of every person, and Quaker work strives to be an outward expression of these values, living faith through actions rather than through words.

Geneva colleagues, clockwise from left: Emily Graham, Rene Lejeune, Claire Rodgers, Jonathan Woolley, Rachel Brett, Stephen Schenck, Susan Sprague Parachini, Susan Bragdon, Lindsey Fielder Cook, Rhiannon Redpath, Diane Hendrick

New York colleagues, clockwise from left: Andrew Tomlinson, Camilla Campisi, Elisabeth Halliday, Sarah Clarke, Rachel Singleton-Polster, Della Anderson



Contents

Who we are	1
A message from our Directors	3
How we work	5
Peace and disarmament	7
Peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict	9
Food and sustainability	13
Human impacts of climate change	15
Human rights and refugees	17
Developing Middle East issues	19
Peace, development, and the sustainable development goals	20
Natural resources, conflict and cooperation	21
Other Quaker work at the UN	22
Looking forward	24
QUNO staff	25
Quaker United Nations Committee	27
Donating	28
Thank you	29
Publications	30



A message from our Directors

Nurture the details – but ask the big questions

In previous Directors' messages we have commented on the interlinked nature, and hence the complexity, of the challenges facing humanity. We have also written of concerns about the increasing tensions within large, complex multilateral negotiations. Since the birth of the United Nations, the Quaker UN Offices have sought to provide a space away from the public eye for delegates, UN staff and civil society to meet together for informal, off-the-record discussions, to find common ground and an acceptable way forward.

Our work in this area has evolved in two apparently contrasting but mutually supportive ways. On the one hand, we aim to contribute to the detail of international agreements, based on a long term and deep knowledge of specific areas of the negotiations. We ask “how might this wording improve people’s lives? How will it help those affected by poverty, inequality, climate change, and violence?”

But at the same time, we sometimes find it possible and helpful to step back from the detail of UN debate and ask questions such as “Does it have to be this way?” We may even ask “How would we design this agreement afresh if we were to prioritise a peaceful and just outcome for everyone who is affected by it?” We ask this, not to bypass the process, but to keep it focussed on the goal of improving people’s lives.

For this approach to work, we depend on highlighting good research and grass roots experience, especially that of others, and on listening carefully and creating the space for new ideas to take shape. But most of all we depend on your trust in us and in our work with “small groups and quiet processes.” Once again we therefore thank you, our partners and benefactors, for all your practical, moral and financial support.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'AT'.

Andrew Tomlinson
Director, QUNO New York

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J.W. Woolley'.

Jonathan Woolley
Director, QUNO Geneva



Top: Joint QUNO/IPI Workshop for New Members of the UN Peacebuilding Commission; Middle: Programme Assistants and staff participate in our annual Gardening Day at Quaker House New York; Ethiopian Ambassador and QUNO staff at a Human Rights Council side event; Bottom: Rachel Brett speaks about conscientious objection to military service at Friends House Toronto; QUNO and EU delegation to the UN co-host meeting on the “People’s Peacemaking Perspectives” project

Quaker House Geneva

QUNO Summer School 2013



How we work

Bringing people together:

Providing space for informal dialogue

QUNO often works behind the scenes, building trust by bringing together people from a range of backgrounds including diplomats, UN officials, staff of non-governmental organizations, academics, experts and practitioners. By creating space for quiet dialogue, we help shape UN and other international priorities, and we bring attention to issues that are not yet on the international agenda. The reputation and atmosphere of our Quaker Houses allows for the emergence of more reflective and inclusive responses to difficult issues; ideas which might not be heard in more formal settings. The scale of international negotiations can feel challenging, but the trusting environment we provide, informed by Quaker methods, remains key to our work.

Engaging UN institutions:

Building awareness and advancing key peace and justice agendas

The strength of QUNO's work also lies in our long-term persistence. Through perseverance, we have helped to change attitudes, create new understandings, and develop new standards. For example, our work on child soldiers led to the topic being put on the UN agenda for the first time. Our focus on intellectual property helped achieve the adoption of the Development Agenda within the World Intellectual Property Organization, which aims to ensure that development considerations form an integral part of that organization's work. Through our attention to disarmament, landmines and small arms issues, we have helped shape UN priorities for peacebuilding on the ground and we have upheld the value of reconciliation and dialogue across all levels of post-conflict societies.



Research and publications:

Developing an evidence base and identifying good practices

QUNO produces an extensive range of specialist publications. We are recognized as a catalyst, partnering with others to harness their expertise and knowledge and bringing existing work to the attention of policymakers. We have leading expertise on many areas including peacebuilding, conscientious objection to military service and the situation of women prisoners and children of prisoners. In our economic work, we emphasise the importance of equity and sustainability in the global food system, calling for greater dialogue between small scale farmers and international decision makers. For a list of our recent publications, see page 30.

Engaging young people:

Involving Quakers and young people from around the world

Both New York and Geneva offices host one-year Programme Assistant positions, providing a unique capacity-building experience for young professionals interested in international processes. Many go on to work in the areas of human rights, disarmament, peacebuilding, development and diplomacy. In addition, every July, QUNO Geneva hosts a Summer School, giving around twenty-five people an opportunity to learn more about QUNO and its activities at the UN. We have run our two-week summer school since 1955 and many participants have gone on to pursue careers in the UN and international affairs.



Peace and disarmament

QUNO's work on peace and disarmament grows out of a long Quaker history of working for peace, understanding that this means more than the absence of overt violence and has fundamentally to do with social and economic justice and political participation. Where these are denied, the roots of violence can be found. QUNO works with diplomats, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations staff and others in Geneva and beyond to support the creation of legal instruments, new policy and effective practice.

In 2013-2014 we are involved with two major projects within organizations in which QUNO is a founding partner. The first is the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Network, launched in September 2013 with our partner the Geneva Forum, and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). The Network aims to coordinate activities related to the promotion of the treaty and its implementation, in particular facilitating

the work of the actors involved in applying the treaty provisions.

The ATT Network will provide a space for discussion and help parties identify and fulfil the specific requirements of treaty commitments. Another important element will be acting as a bridge between the various sites and communities whose work is relevant to the ATT, including disarmament in Geneva and New York, but also in human rights and international humanitarian law, development, armed violence and international trade regulation.

QUNO is also involved in guiding the production of a "White Paper on Peacebuilding" with our partners in the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP), colleagues at the Centre for International Cooperation (CIC) in New York and support from the Swiss government. The goal of the white paper is to help governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations

Diane Hendrick and Rhiannon Redpath
meet at Quaker House Geneva

QUNO's peace and disarmament work in Geneva recognises the relationship between peace, development and the environment.

broaden the conversation around how countries can most effectively move towards sustainable peace, with the assistance of the UN and the international community. This is timely, as the UN peacebuilding architecture is undergoing its ten year review. The year-long review process aims to reflect many perspectives, including, crucially, those involved in peacebuilding at the local level.

In 2013, QUNO, together with eight other NGOs from around the world, worked to facilitate the setting-up of the Global Alliance on Armed Violence (GAAV), which seeks to ensure experience from the ground is available to policymakers, helping to channel resources to those who need it most.

The Alliance will also play a role in supporting the Regional Review Conferences on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, which will take place in Guatemala, Kenya, the Philippines and Geneva throughout 2014. In this way the experience of NGO's in armed violence reduction and prevention, from the local to the national level, can be fed into international processes such as the formulation of the Post 2015 Development Framework.

CONTACT

Diane Hendrick
dhendrick@quno.ch



Diane Hendrick



Rhiannon Redpath



Peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict

Civil society inclusion

QUNO facilitated the inclusion of a diverse group of perspectives at the UN in New York in order to influence the UN's policies and activities in support of peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict.

One of QUNO's key partners in facilitating civil society inclusion at the UN is the international programs division of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). QUNO hosted two separate visits from Burundi AFSC staff as well as a visit from a Somalia program officer. The AFSC staff brought important and often unheard voices to member states and UN experts on critical issues in these countries such as trauma healing and youth.

QUNO's work on Burundi and in making sure that local perspectives are

considered in the UN's work there continues to progress. Several informal, off the record meetings were hosted at Quaker House for member states. Important new linkages were also made between QUNO's work on the UN Peacebuilding Commission in Burundi, the work of local Burundian Friends who are gearing up to prevent violence in the upcoming 2015 elections, and Quaker organizations active in lobbying the U.S. government in Washington, DC.

Quaker House has become a key meeting place for NGOs and UN experts to discuss ongoing developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), of which there were many in 2013. Several informal meetings were also held with high-level UN officials including the outgoing and incoming heads of the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC and the Secretary General's

Beijing seminar on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peacemaking, co-organized by QUNO, AFSC, BFSU and CPPF

QUNO's work on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict supports the UN's use of holistic approaches that take local perspectives into account and strengthen relationships between individuals, communities and their governments.

special envoy for the African Great Lakes region, former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson.

QUNO also facilitated access and provided a platform at the UN to NGO partners who do not have a presence in New York. Most notably, we assisted the UK-based NGOs Conciliation Resources and Saferworld to launch their People's Peacemaking Perspectives project at the UN, a conflict analysis tool that empowers local organizations to influence key policy makers.

Dialogue and reconciliation

QUNO's ongoing focus on dialogue and reconciliation is in recognition of the need for the UN to put greater priority on approaches that prevent violent conflict from blossoming and that help communities to heal.

As a way to continue this conversation at the UN, QUNO hosted an informal meeting at Quaker House with a leading scholar on restorative justice

and peacebuilding, or "restorative peacebuilding", which was a thought-provoking discussion with member states active in the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), on ways in which they can encourage more restorative, healing approaches to the UN's work in conflict-affected countries.

QUNO also held meetings on other PBC countries with a particular focus on the national and local reconciliation processes in those countries, including Guinea, Liberia, and Burundi.

QUNO has been active in a new stream of thinking around how to better coordinate and share approaches and policies relating to reconciliation at the UN. Our perspectives on restorative approaches to peacebuilding as well as our connections with grassroots groups active on healing and reconciliation at the community level has made us a valued partner for UN experts exploring these issues.



Emerging powers

Within this program area, QUNO's ongoing engagement with Chinese academics and policy advisors led to a two day seminar held in Beijing during May 2013. This meeting, titled Towards Coordinated Response to Conflict: Perspectives on United Nations Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, brought together Chinese academics, UN staff, and civil society from Africa and Asia.

Hosted in collaboration with the American Friends Service Committee, the Beijing Foreign Studies University, and the Social Science Research Council, the format of the meeting allowed participants to share views and perspectives on current issues related to UN peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding, and peacemaking efforts. QUNO also hosted a visit of Chinese scholars to the UN in New York in November.

Broader UN policy level activities

In addition to our specific program areas, QUNO frequently engages in broader policy level debates at the UN related to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict, and also helps to create the space for these issues to be explored by UN experts, NGOs, and member states.

At Quaker House New York, QUNO hosted another one of its annual meetings entitled "Where next in Peacebuilding?" which bring together leading policy experts from other policy centers including London, Brussels, Geneva, and Washington DC, in order to share their perspectives and insights with a UN audience. This continues to be a successful informal forum for peacebuilding experts in New York and elsewhere, and we look forward to growing and further developing the meeting format in the coming years.

AFSC Somalia staff
speak to UN experts
at Quaker House
New York

Participants exchange ideas
following the “What’s Next
in Peacebuilding” discussion
at Quaker House New York



In July, QUNO was asked to provide expert input to a meeting of the UN Security Council Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, on the theme: *“Institution Building and Good Governance as Conflict Prevention Tools.”*

In response to new membership of countries to the UN Peacebuilding Commission, QUNO co-organized a half-day workshop for new members along with the International Peace Institute with support from the UN Peacebuilding Support Office. This workshop, the third that QUNO has hosted, provided member states with the opportunity to hear from a diversity of peacebuilding experts including civil society and other diplomats on a range of topics relevant to the work of the PBC.

In 2013, Action on Armed Violence, one of the leading organizations in the area of non-violence listed QUNO among the 100 most influential global actors in armed violence reduction. QUNO Directors Andrew Tomlinson and Jonathan Woolley were specifically named on the list, in recognition of the decades of work on the issue by QUNO staff.

CONTACT

Sarah Clarke
sclarke@afsc.org



Sarah Clarke



Camilla Campisi



Andrew Tomlinson



Della Anderson



Rachel Singleton-Polster



Olivia Ensign



Amelia Breeze



Food and sustainability

Two main themes comprise our work in this area—one explores how a new policy framework for trade and investment in agriculture (NFTIA) should develop to ensure food trade is fair for people and good for the planet, while the other considers the impact of intellectual property (IP) rules on agriculture and food security.

In 2013, we carried out a survey of the current policy framework governing international agricultural trade, which revealed broad dissatisfaction with existing rules. We surveyed the institutions that regulate trade and investment in agriculture, as well as alternative approaches that have been put forward, and held several meetings with civil society actors, academics, governmental delegates and others, to consider where opportunities for creating a new, more satisfactory framework might lie.

QUNO had the opportunity to showcase our findings and activities during events

such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum in October, and a UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) forum in November, and informally during the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome in October.

This phase of our NFTIA work culminated in a 30-person expert consultation in January 2014, which inspired participants to work towards proposing a much-needed alternative. Participants agreed on the need for a new narrative about what “development” is, how it should be achieved, how it should be measured, and how trade and investment can play a part. We are now developing trade and investment rules to reflect this new narrative and to ensure this perspective is present at key intergovernmental discussions, such as the WTO's Committee on Agriculture and the CFS.

A shop in China
displays a variety of
seeds for sale

QUNO seeks to broaden discussions in policy areas that affect food and sustainability, so that they take into account human, social and environmental aspects of food production, trade and consumption.

In our IP work, QUNO seeks to increase the number and range of stakeholders in discussions on IP in agriculture and to encourage countries to only apply IP in ways that promote food security and democracy.

The Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is a particular focus of our work. To help understand its effects, QUNO co-led a human rights impact assessment of UPOV and carried out field studies in Kenya, Peru and the Philippines. The assessment aims to help governments, civil society and others appreciate the range of impacts of these laws, as well as to empower local groups to intervene in IP policy discussions. To facilitate these efforts, we published resource guides to the UPOV-related legal standards

applicable in many countries and country briefings on agriculture-related IP in India and Thailand.

QUNO has begun work to ensure that the World Intellectual Property Organization negotiations on traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore acknowledge the relationship of these to agriculture and food security, publishing two pieces and organizing a panel on the topic.

We are also just beginning work with other groups to ensure that emerging intellectual property regimes are consistent with current treaties and do not undermine the activities of small-scale farmers.

CONTACT

Susan Bragdon
shbragdon@quno.ch



Susan Bragdon



Caroline Dommen



Claire Rodgers



Lynn Finnegan



Human impacts of climate change

QUNO views climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and recognizes that efforts to sufficiently mitigate global greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities pose political, economic, social and environmental challenges worldwide.

Our work on climate change aims to support progress toward a fair and sufficient agreement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We also connect with other Quaker organizations and QUNO colleagues to explore how the causes and consequences of climate change are integral to our work in peacebuilding, natural resource conflict and cooperation, food and sustainability, and human rights issues.

In 2012, QUNO began substantive engagement with the climate change talks held through the UNFCCC. We identified “quiet diplomacy” as a way to help build trust and understanding

among delegates who continue to face serious political differences. This entails QUNO acting as an even-handed presence to offer “safe,” informal and off the record spaces in which delegates from a diverse range of countries can meet, speak frankly and explore forward thinking ideas.

QUNO held its first off-the-record dinner at the UNFCCC inter-sessional in Bonn in June 2013, which was well-received by delegates. We were also present during the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 19) in Warsaw in November, hosting two dinners, and reaching out to an increasing number of delegations and deepening our understanding of the current challenges facing the process.

In 2014, QUNO is holding events at the UNFCCC inter-sessional in March and June, the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in New York in September, and the COP 20

Secretary-General of the UN Ban Ki-moon
Addresses the High-level Segment of the
UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw,
Poland

QUNO approaches climate change as a peace and justice issue. In January 2014, it appointed its first Climate Change Representative to guide its evolving programme.

in Peru. Our efforts will focus on what is common to countries in facing the challenge of climate change, encouraging a narrative that is shared and global, rather than purely national. Recent briefing papers on this topic include an analysis of four past multilateral negotiation processes which overcame serious political differences. We plan a series of short studies exploring how varied narratives – economic, environmental and faith based – can better engage different groups with the often overwhelming challenge of climate change.

QUNO also continues to participate in the Nansen Initiative, an international effort which examines displacement in the context of climate change and natural disasters.

CONTACT

Lindsey Cook
lfcook@quno.ch



Lindsey Cook



Ellie Roberts



Oliver Robertson



Jonathan Woolley



Human rights and refugees

In 2013, QUNO continued to promote recognition of conscientious objection to military service as a human right, including the protection of conscientious objectors as refugees, and focused intensively on children of prisoners, especially children of parents sentenced to death or executed.

Two important publications in whose development QUNO was involved were the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) publication on conscientious objection to military service and the Guidelines on claims to refugee status related to military service issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In order to help conscientious objectors to use the international human rights system, QUNO, War Resisters International, Conscience and Peace Tax International and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights jointly developed

an on-line Conscientious Objector's Guide to the International Human Rights System. This was launched at a side event organised by QUNO during the June session of the Human Rights Council. In September, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, its first substantive resolution on conscientious objection providing a consolidated baseline for reference and future development.

QUNO's work in drawing attention to the particular plight of children whose parents are sentenced to death or executed was taken up in a big way in 2013. In March, the UN Human Rights Council adopted without a vote, the first ever resolution on "Children of Parents Sentenced to Death Penalty or Executed" and mandated a Panel to be held in September. At this Human Rights Council Panel, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children specifically cited QUNO's work, and a number of valuable

Two Colombian conscientious objectors
from ACOOC and Derek Brett from IFOR
visit QUNO Geneva

QUNO works to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights with particular emphasis on prisoners and their children, conscientious objection to military service, the protection of refugees and the largely unrecognised problem of statelessness.

contributions and recommendations were made. QUNO followed up with a side event the next day enabling more in-depth exploration of the issues.

These events built on the exposure and momentum created by QUNO's participation at the World Congress against the Death Penalty in Madrid in June 2013, at which several hundred copies of our publication "Lightening the Load of Parental Death Penalty on Children" were shared.

For the September Panel, QUNO prepared a short, accessible publication, "Children of parents sentenced to death

or executed: How are they affected? How can they be supported?", on behalf of the Working Group on Children of Incarcerated Parents, of which QUNO is co-convenor. Since then, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has been addressing this issue when it reviews governments' progress in protecting and respecting child rights under the Convention. The Committee urged States "to assess and fully take into account the best interests of the child in judicial proceedings where parents are involved and when sentencing parents to death." This is new territory for the Committee and QUNO hopes to build on it in the future.

CONTACT Rachel Brett rbrett@quno.ch



Rachel Brett



Emily Graham



Patrizia Scannella



Oliver Robertson



Haifa Rashed



Developing Middle East issues

QUNO continues to track UN developments on Palestine, host discussions at Quaker House in New York, and provide background for our constituents. In November 2012 a resolution was adopted in the General Assembly granting the Palestinian Authority an upgrade in their official status, from a “nonmember observer entity” to a “nonmember observer state.” However, further progress on statehood, and membership of UN and other international bodies has been largely put on hold for the duration of the current peace talks.

In December, staff from both QUNO offices participated in a UK gathering of

Quaker Service Agencies with work in the region. QUNO New York continues to work with the NGO Working Group on Israel & Palestine and with AFSC programs in the region.

During the past year, QUNO has also followed ongoing developments related to the situation in Syria. This has included working collaboratively with other partners to raise a Quaker voice in support for non-violent solutions, especially those that emerge from the rich array of Syrian-led peace initiatives. Quaker House in New York has also been used as a venue for informal briefings and conversations between UN partners working on Syria.

CONTACT

Andrew Tomlinson
atomlinson@afsc.org



Andrew Tomlinson



Sarah Clarke



Della Anderson



Olivia Ensign

A Palestinian man
searches through
the rubble

Andrew Tomlinson
presents to the
Co-Chairs of the
Open Working Group
on the Sustainable
Development Goals



Peace, development, and the sustainable development goals

Discussions continue at the UN about the framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015, and how it will be combined with the Sustainable Development Goals also under discussion.

QUNO is working with delegates, UN officials and other NGOs towards trying to ensure that, whatever form it takes, the framework directly addresses the needs of the most vulnerable and those affected by violence. No low income, fragile or conflict-affected country has achieved a single MDG, according to the World Bank. Eliminating extreme poverty requires addressing the role of violence.

In New York, QUNO facilitated a high level side event at Scandinavia House during the opening of the 68th

session of the UN General Assembly, which brought together member states, UN officials and NGOs from around the world to consider the importance of peace & stability to development. QUNO also contributed as a speaker or facilitator to a number of discussions on this topic during the year, in New York, Washington DC, London, Paris and Geneva. In early 2014, QUNO was asked to deliver a formal statement to the Eighth Session of the Open Working Group on behalf of civil society.

We have found that a quiet and facilitative approach is welcome in this polarized and sometimes contentious discussion. Going forward, we continue to explore ways to both inform the substantive debate and to accompany the intergovernmental discussion.

CONTACT

Andrew Tomlinson
atomlinson@afsc.org



Andrew Tomlinson



Diane Hendrick



Rachel Singleton-Polster



Olivia Ensign

Natural resources, conflict and cooperation



Staff from across QUNO's Geneva programmes have linked to explore ways of building peace around natural resources.

Water and land are two of the key natural resources that shape billions of peoples' livelihoods, food security, well-being and identity. In light of climate change, developing equitable and peaceful management of water, land and food is increasingly urgent.

QUNO engages with international forums and processes in Geneva to support participatory and equitable natural resource management with a view to preventing destructive conflict. In 2013-2014 this included working with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, the UN Environment Programme, the Independent Expert on Environment and Human Rights and the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

CONTACT

Diane Hendrick dhendrick@quno.ch



Diane Hendrick



Ellie Roberts



Lynn Finnegan



Oliver Robertson



Jonathan Woolley



Rhianon Redpath

In September 2013, we published "Building Peace around water, land and food: Policy and practice for preventing conflict", a report highlighting ways local communities can benefit by using peacebuilding approaches to empower vulnerable groups and foster the inclusion of local perspectives into decision-making.

We presented ideas from the report at Stockholm World Water Week, the Caux Dialogue for Land, Lives and Peace and the 2013 UN Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights. QUNO continues to identify good practices for policy makers and practitioners, highlighting the inter-connectedness of natural resources, participatory decision making and conflict prevention.

QUNO at the 2013 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights



Other Quaker work at the UN

Canadian Friends Service Committee

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) carries out Quaker work at the UN on the rights of Indigenous peoples. Canadian Yearly Meeting has made a formal commitment to the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In partnership with Indigenous peoples' organizations, CFSC actively participated at the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, as well as liaison with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Submissions were made on the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery, implementation of the UN Declaration, access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples, and violence against Indigenous women and girls.

CFSC also monitors other international forums dealing with the rights of Indigenous peoples. When working in New York and Geneva, CFSC is supported by the QUNO offices. Indigenous and Member State representatives appreciate the space Friends provide for substantive discussion.

More information is available at www.quakerservice.ca

FWCC Representatives to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) works for the reform of justice systems throughout the world, seeking a system of justice which promotes personal responsibility, mutual understanding and healing. FWCC representatives and QUNO staff regularly attend the UN Crime Congresses and sessions of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, meeting with and advising criminal justice professionals, government officials and delegates on issues such as restorative justice, the children of imprisoned parents and women prisoners.

In 2013, FWCC maintained its support for a process of revising the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs) to ensure they reflect the needs of children of prisoners and that prisoners are protected from threats, theft, exploitation and abuse. FWCC proposes that alternatives to custody be considered when the accused is the primary caregiver of dependent children, and calls upon prisons to investigate serious incidents of violence, train staff in preventing violence and consider greater use of conflict resolution.

This work helps strengthen links between human rights and criminal justice policy by alerting human rights specialists to conditions and treatment in prisons, and reminding criminal justice experts about obligations to honor human rights.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), based in North America, is accredited to attend meetings of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), climate negotiations (UNFCCC) and the environment (UNEP) based on concern for how we live on and care for the Earth.

QEW's mission at the UN is to learn and report back to its constituencies on what is happening internationally in these areas of concern. This broadens Friends' knowledge and helps Quakers discern what actions they may be led to take in a global context. QEW works with other Quaker groups, ecumenical and interfaith groups, and other civil society organizations.

QEW has enabled Friends to attend UN meetings all over the world, including facilitating the attendance of QUNO staff at climate negotiations in Doha (2012) and Bonn (2013).

In 2014, QEW is following the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with other members of civil society, and working to define how QEW can best engage at the UN. QEW publishes reports on UN negotiations bimonthly in its newsletter, BeFriending Creation, and on its website.

More information is available at www.quakerearthcare.org

Flowers bloom
at Quaker House
New York



*“I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles, in
which vital and transforming events take place.”*

– Rufus Jones, 1937

Looking forward

Focus and flexibility – and the power of small groups

In this review we have described progress in a range of specific areas of programme work, bringing the lived experience of individuals and communities affected by injustice, poverty and violence, and the work of practitioners and academics, to inform and move forward United Nations policy discussions.

Looking ahead, the challenge that faces us is to ensure that our limited resources, and our proven methods of inclusive dialogue, are applied where they can be of most use in assisting the international community at the United Nations to more effectively address issues of peace and justice.

This takes a continual reassessment of the contribution we can make to specific situations, and the courage to work on under-attended issues and use longer time frames, while remaining responsive to rapidly changing conditions. QUNO Geneva recently expanded its staff capacity by dividing its work on Global Economic Issues to be led by Representatives in Climate Change (based in Bonn) and in Food and Sustainability and by adding part-time support of a Communications Coordinator.

The Quaker offices in New York and Geneva have accompanied the work of the United Nations since its inception. One key lesson from 65 years of engagement in this unique environment is the power of our core approach of using small groups as catalysts for transformative change.

We look back with gratitude for the pioneering work of our predecessors, and we look forward with trust that ways will open for us to continue to make a contribution to the United Nations’ work for peace and justice for all.



Staff meeting in Geneva

The QUNO Geneva
Committee with
staff and visitors

QUNO staff

NEW YORK OFFICE

Della Anderson, Programme Assistant
(from August 2013)

Amelia Breeze, Programme Assistant
(until August 2013)

Camilla Campisi, Quaker UN
Representative

Sarah Clarke, Quaker UN
Representative

Olivia Ensign, Programme Assistant
(until August 2013)

Elisabeth Halliday, Office Coordinator

Rachel Singleton-Polster, Programme
Assistant (from August 2013)

Cathy Thomas, Web Weaver (until
November 2013)

Andrew Tomlinson, Director and
Quaker UN Representative

GENEVA OFFICE

Susan Bragdon, Representative, Food
and Sustainability (from February
2014)

Rachel Brett, Representative, Human
Rights and Refugees

Lindsey Fielder Cook, Representative,
Climate Change (from January 2014)

Caroline Dommen, Representative,
Global Economic Issues (until
February 2014)

Lynn Finnegan, Project Officer Food
and Sustainability/Natural Resources

Emily Graham, Programme Assistant,
Human Rights and Refugees (from
September 2013)

Diane Hendrick, Representative, Peace
and Disarmament

René Lejeune, Finance Officer

Sophia Murphy, Consultant, New
Framework for Trade and Investment
in Agriculture

Haifa Rashed, Programme Assistant,
Human Rights and Refugees (until
August 2013)

Rhiannon Redpath, Programme
Assistant, Peace and Disarmament
(from February 2014)

*We also thank Karen Glisson, Ron Ockwell
and Chiara Nyfeler for their support to our
work in 2013.*



QUNO administrators

Ellie Roberts, Programme Assistant,
Human Impacts of Climate Change
(until August 2013), Project Officer,
Natural Resources/Climate Change
(September to December 2013)

Oliver Robertson, Associate
Representative, Human Rights and
Refugees/Human Impacts of Climate
Change (until August 2013)

Claire Rodgers, Programme Assistant,
Food and Sustainability (from
September 2013)

Patrizia Scannella, Visiting Scholar,
Human Rights and Refugees
(February 2013 to March 2014)

Stephen Schenck, Communications and
Fundraising Coordinator, (Interim,
from February 2014)

Sarita Seecharan, Research Assistant,
Intellectual Property of Plants (April to
September 2013)

Susan Sprague Parachini, Office
Manager (from March 2014)

Sylviane Trousseau, Office Manager
(until March 2014)

Jonathan Woolley, Director



Elisabeth Halliday



René Lejeune



Susan Sprague



Stephen Schenck



Cathy Thomas



Sylviane Trousseau



Quaker United Nations Committee

Quaker United Nations Committee Geneva

The work of QUNO Geneva is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee, which is made up of members appointed by the Friends World Committee for Consultation and Britain Yearly Meeting.

In 2013, members were as follows:

For FWCC: Gretchen Castle, Bridget Moix, Justus Mudavadi, Neithard Petry, Boni Quirog.

For BYM: Helen Drewery, Elaine Green, Jackie Leach Scully, Stan Lee, Charlotte Seymour-Smith.

Quaker United Nations Committee New York

The work of QUNO New York is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee, which is made up of members appointed by the Friends World Committee for Consultation and the American Friends Service Committee.

In 2013, members were as follows:

For FWCC: Gretchen Castle, Welling Hall, Penny Heymans, Oliver Kisaka, Sienneke Martin.

For AFSC: Doug Bennett, Anna Crumley-Effinger, Eduardo Diaz, Enid Okun, Susan Waltz, Hal Weaver.

The Quaker United Nations Committee
gathers in New York

As a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of individuals and organizations to finance its work, we are grateful for donations of any size. If you would like to support our work, direct donations can be made by cheque, bank transfer or online using a credit card. Contact our offices with questions about leaving a legacy.

Donating

Donations to QUNO Geneva

Donations in Switzerland using Swiss Francs or other currencies

Please make a bank transfer to “Quaker UN Office” account at Banque Migros (IBAN CH96 0840 1000 0536 5879 5. BIC/SWIFT code MIGRCHZZ80A) including your name in the reference. Cheques are also welcome.

Donations via the UK using Pounds Sterling.

Please send cheques payable to “Britain Yearly Meeting” and with “QUNO” on the back to:

Finance Department, Religious
Society of Friends, Friends House,
173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Alternatively, make a bank transfer to The Cooperative Bank (sort code 08-90-61) account number 50234651 (“Britain Yearly Meeting”). Please include “QUNO” and your name in reference so we may thank you.

Donations to QUNO New York

Operating and Program Expenses:
contributions can be made toward the cost of our annual budget

The Quaker House Endowment:
contributions support the maintenance and operation of Quaker House

Donations can be made through our website, www.quno.org, by clicking the “donate” button.

We also accept US dollar cheques mailed to:
Quaker United Nations Office
777 United Nations Plaza, 5th floor
New York, NY 10017 USA

If you wish to donate to the Quaker House Endowment please indicate that in the memo line of your check or in the online form.

For donations in non-US currencies we do accept wire transfers. Please contact qunony@afsc.org.



Participants in the 2013
UN Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues

Thank you

QUNO sincerely thanks all those who have made financial contributions to our work in 2013, including: the Helios Fund, the Nexus Foundation, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ptarmigan Trust, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the following Quaker bodies: American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting (YM), Australia YM, Canadian Friends Service Committee, C B and H H Taylor 1984 Trust, Friends World Committee for Consultation, German YM, The Hillcote Trust, Home Rule Globally, HT & LB Cadbury Trust, Illinois YM, Japan YM, the G & H Roberts Community Trust, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Netherlands YM, New England YM, Ohio Valley YM, Pacific YM, Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, Quäker-Hilfe, Quaker Peace & Service Aotearoa/New Zealand, Southeastern YM, Switzerland YM, and Yew Tree, as well as numerous individuals and local Quaker meetings.

PHOTO CREDITS

Unless noted below, all photo credits to QUNO.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Cover: Shutterstock | Page 17: Claire Rodgerson |
| Page 2: Doug Hostetter | Page 19: Jessy Hampton |
| Page 4: International Peace Institute/
Joe Peoples (top photo), Sylvia Grady
(Rachel Brett photo) | Page 20: UN Webcast Still |
| Page 6: Ellie Roberts | Page 21: Claire Rodgerson |
| Page 13: Martin Kunz | Page 22: Norway UN |
| Page 15: UN Photo/Evan Schneider | Page 23: Trish Carn and Australia Yearly
Meeting |
| | Page 29: Norway UN |

Recent publications

A Conscientious Objector's Guide to the International Human Rights System, War Resisters' International, QUNO, Conscience and Peace Tax International and the CCPR Centre (May 2013)

A New Framework in Trade and Investment in Agriculture – QUNO's vision, QUNO (November 2013)

Building peace around water, land and food: Policy and practice for preventing conflict, Ellie Roberts and Lynn Finnegan (September 2013)

Children of Parents Sentenced to Death or Executed: How are they affected? How can they be supported?, prepared by QUNO on behalf of the Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children of Incarcerated Parents (September 2013) Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian & Chinese

Conflict, Violence, and Instability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, QUNO and the International Peace Institute (October 2013)

Definition of Breeder under UPOV, QUNO (October 2013)

Genetic resources and traditional knowledge, Getting the rules right for agriculture: A key Challenge for WIPO's IGC, Susan Bragdon and Lynn Finnegan (in IP-Watch, February 2013)

India's sui generis system of plant variety protection, Sujith Koonan (January 2014)

Learning from International Negotiating Processes: QUNO Briefing Paper for the UNFCCC, Ellie Roberts (March 2014)

Lessons Learned: Conflict Prevention, Institutions and Governance, Andrew Tomlinson (July 2013)

Lightening the Load of the Parental Death Sentence on Children, Oliver Robertson and Rachel Brett (June 2013) Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi & Japanese

Mapping of alternatives, New Framework for Trade and Investment in Agriculture, QUNO (August 2013)

Remarks given at the Fifth INCAF Director Level Meeting, OECD, Paris, on the Global Development Framework Post-2015, Andrew Tomlinson (June 2013)

Small-scale farmers: The missing element in the WIPO-IGC draft articles on genetic resources, Susan Bragdon (July 2013)

Strengthening the UN Peacebuilding Commission, QUNO and the International Peace Institute (April 2013)

Thailand's sui generis system of plant variety protection, Pawarit Lertdhamtewe (January 2014)

QUNO Review (May 2013)



QUNO

Quaker United Nations Office

Geneva office

13 Avenue du Mervelet, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 748 4800 | Fax: +41 22 748 4819

quno@quno.ch

New York office

777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States

Tel: +1-212-682-2745 | Fax: +1-212-938-0034

qunony@afsc.org

www.quno.org | follow us on twitter: @QuakerUNOffice

*Suggested citation: QUNO Review, Quaker United Nations Office,
New York and Geneva, May 2014*