



QUNO Review

Quaker United Nations Office

May 2013



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 non-governmental organization with General Consultative Status at the UN.



Contents

2	Who we are
4	A message from our Directors
6	How we work
8	Peace and disarmament
10	Peacebuilding and prevention of violent conflict
14	Food and sustainability
16	Human impacts of climate change
17	Natural resources, conflict and cooperation
18	Human rights and refugees
20	Palestine and Statehood at the UN
21	Peace, development and the Millennium Development Goals
22	Other Quaker work at the UN
24	Personal Reflections on QUNO's Work
25	Looking forward
26	QUNO staff
28	Quaker United Nations Committee
29	Donating
31	Recent publications

Geneva colleagues, from left to right: (credit: David Atwood) Lynn Finnegan, Sylviane Trousseau, Rene Lejeune, Ellie Roberts, Oliver Robertson, Rachel Brett, Caroline Dommen, Jonathan Woolley, Diane Hendrick, Haifa Rashed

New York colleagues, from left to right: (credit: Doug Hostetter) Andrew Tomlinson, Camilla Campisi, Elisabeth Halliday, Olivia Ensign, Amelia Breeze, Sarah Clarke

Front cover photo credit: Lynn Finnegan

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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, and global economic justice.

We strive towards international law and practice that enables and empowers 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 2012. 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.



A message from our Directors

More than ever, a need for dialogue

As we survey the key challenges facing the international community today, in peace and security, in climate change, in development and in human rights, we are struck by the increasing polarization of the debates, and see a continuing need for QUNO's approach of providing a confidential and supportive space for transformative discussions among UN policymakers.

The world's big conversations are converging. Crucial issues of development, humanitarian relief, human rights, food security, armed violence and peace-building are coming together in the discussions around the replacement for the Millennium Development Goals, which themselves are due to be combined with the sustainability agenda emerging from last year's Rio+20 meetings.

These discussions link to the negotiations on humanity's response to climate change, which even on a standalone

basis have been described as the largest and most complex international negotiations ever, cutting across areas of finance, trade, technology, environment and equity between and within nations. And all of this takes place within the system of inter-governmental relationships that is showing growing signs of stress, as evidenced by broad disagreements on peace and security issues in the wake of the intervention in Libya and informed by the unfolding tragedy in Syria, and on topics as far apart as internet governance and climate change response.

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 NGOs to meet in small, off-the-record discussions, to find common ground and an acceptable way forward. We thank you, our partners and benefactors, for all your practical, moral and financial support in making this possible.

Andrew Tomlinson Director, QUNO New York

Jonathan Woolley Director, QUNO Geneva



Clockwise from top: QUNO Geneva staff on retreat (credit: QUNO); The table being set for a Quaker House lunch (credit: QUNO); Participants at a workshop for new and current members of the UN Peacebuilding Commission co-organized by QUNO New York and the International Peace Institute in coordination with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (credit: IPI/Joe Peoples), Flowers outside Quaker House Geneva (credit: Jez Smith); Triphonie Habonimana, program officer with American Friends Service Committee in Burundi, visits with QUNO in New York (credit: QUNO)

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, 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 31.



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.

Photos (left to right): Place des Nations, Geneva (credit: Jez Smith), Literature Review is an important part of QUNO's work (credit: bigstockphoto), QUNO Summer School 2012 (credit: QUNO)



Peace and disarmament

QUNO's peace and disarmament work in Geneva is taking increasing account of the relationship between peace, development and the environment.

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 instru-

ments, new policy and effective practice. Throughout 2012 QUNO has been considering the future shape and direction of its work within and outside the partnerships it has established.

Growing out of our work with the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, QUNO joined with eight other NGOs from around the world to form an Interim Committee that will set up a Global Alliance on Armed Violence in 2013.

The Alliance will seek to act as a bridge between the local and international level with the aim of ensuring that experience from the ground is available to policymakers and helping to channel resources to those who need it most.

Work on arms control and disarmament continued with our partners in the Geneva Forum. The new programme developed for 2013-2014 reflects a decision to focus on providing safe spaces for off-the-record discussion informed by expert input as a means of stimulating new thinking that can feed into formal negotiating processes and implementation.

QUNO has been emphasising the need for cross-sectoral themes and linking processes and instruments across Geneva, New York and Vienna. It played a key role in organizing a side event at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime to link the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Firearms Protocol to the Convention.

The side event was welcomed by States who find themselves operating in parallel processes or related fields, and missing possibilities for these to reinforce each other.

We will be following this up with a more in-depth reflection with UN Member States, especially now that a breakthrough has been achieved with the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the ATT.

QUNO is a partner in the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP), which has developed into a forum for linking the United Nations, academic expertise and practitioners and seeks to influence the peacebuilding agenda and create new knowledge to make peacebuilding more effective, especially by connecting Geneva, New York and the field.

The GPP has carried out exploratory work on prevention of destructive conflict in the context of large-scale business investments. QUNO and the other GPP partners have identified this topic as a focus for work in 2013 that has clear synergies with QUNO work on natural resources, conflict and cooperation.

Photo (previous page): Canadian Ambassador Elissa Golberg chairing a session of the GPP Annual Meeting November 2012 (credit: F. Muller for GPP)

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Diane Hendrick



David Atwood

Peacebuilding and prevention of violent conflict

QUNO's work on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict seeks to help the UN be more effective by increasing its use of holistic approaches that take into account local perspectives and include an emphasis on strengthening relationships between individuals, communities and their governments.

In recent years, QUNO's activities have focused on civil society inclusion, dialogue and reconciliation, and the engagement of a broader group of Member States. QUNO is also involved with higher-level policy activities to advance the United Nations' ability to prevent violent conflict and build sustainable peace.



Participants from QUNO New York, Guinea, Libya, South Sudan, and Croatia share lessons learned at a reconciliation workshop in Accra, Ghana (credit: UN Peacebuilding Support Office)

Civil society inclusion

The UN is a forum of governments, and local perspectives, particularly those of civil society, are often not well represented. QUNO seeks to accompany and support civil society voices in UN policy deliberations.

By facilitating informal, off-the-record meetings at Quaker House for Member States and UN staff, QUNO brought local perspectives to bear on a number of specific issues including peacebuilding in Guinea, post-elections consolidation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and peace and security in Burundi.

A series of small meetings at Quaker House in New York also explored the question of how international actors can best support local peace initiatives in Myanmar.

QUNO hosted a public event held at the delegation of the European Union to the UN, in collaboration with the organization Conciliation Resources, focused on consolidating peace in Liberia and Sierra Leone, which brought a regional civil society perspective to UN peacebuilding activities in West Africa.

Taken together, these activities

served to bring local voices and grassroots efforts to the UN in order to influence UN policy discussions on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict.

Dialogue and reconciliation

QUNO's focus on dialogue and reconciliation stems from the experience of local people in conflict-affected countries, who have themselves identified these processes as key steps towards healing in their communities and building sustainable peace. QUNO hosted informal, off-the-record meetings focused on Somalia and the need for engagement with non-state armed groups.

On the issue of reconciliation, staff worked closely with the American Friends Service Committee and Burundian Friends to accompany the development of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Burundi, in order to encourage the UN Peacebuilding Commission to assist in creating space for local civil society input.

QUNO also supported the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in the planning and facilitation of a workshop in Ghana on reconciliation, bringing together practitioners from conflict situations around the world to share best practices and lessons learned.

Peacebuilding and prevention of violent conflict continued

These activities helped bring Quaker perspectives to policymakers in order to improve the ways in which the UN supports healing and reconciliation in countries recovering from conflict.



Participants in the American Friends Service Committee and Friends Women's Association's programme on trauma healing and economic empowerment in Gitega, Burundi (credit: Dedo Ndayishimiye)

Emerging powers

QUNO continued its efforts to work with a broad range of UN Member States, and particularly with emerging powers such as China.

This area remains a priority because we believe that global cooperation in the areas of peacebuilding and prevention requires engagement by all, and a shifting world stage demands that we reach out to new actors.

To this end, QUNO further developed collaborative work with AFSC building linkages with academics and policy advisors from China. We have focused on connecting with many of China's leading experts on the UN and have found great openness to engaging around questions of China's role within UN-led peace efforts.

Broader UN policy level activities

Complementing its work on specific themes and countries, QUNO also engaged in broader policy debates on the shape and future of peacebuilding and prevention of violent conflict at the UN.

QUNO staff are often asked to contribute at UN events – for example, in June 2012, QUNO New York's Director was invited to speak at a special event on the 20th anniversary of Boutros Boutros-Ghali's groundbreaking report *An Agenda for Peace*.

QUNO provided detailed input into specific UN policy processes, such as the 2012 Secretary General's update report on peacebuilding, for which we facilitated NGO contributions, and which empha-

sized the kind of inclusive approaches that QUNO supports.

As part of our efforts to bring expertise from outside to inform UN deliberations, we invited peacebuilding policy groups from around the world to join UN policymakers to discuss "What Next in peacebuilding?" in an informal dialogue event at Quaker House.

These activities helped to bring perspectives from outside the UN, local voices from conflict-affected communities, academic experts and peacebuilding practitioners from around the world to inform UN policymaking.

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Food and sustainability

QUNO's work on food and sustainability is concerned with supporting and promoting a sustainable and equitable global food system. Our work has two main themes at its centre. One looks at the impact of intellectual property rules on agriculture and food security. The other explores what a new policy framework for agriculture trade and investment should look like, to make food trade fair for people and good for the planet.



credit: QUNO

Our work on intellectual property (IP) in the agricultural sector aims to encourage a broader range of stakeholders to participate in IP policymaking. Currently smallholder farmers, not to mention developing country representatives or civil society groups, are strikingly absent from discussions about IP that affect agriculture. To this end we published a guide for developing country decision-makers on how to implement IP rules that serve the interests of their agriculture sector.

QUNO also jointly hosted a panel on “Matching the Intellectual Property Framework with Farmers’ Needs” at the World Trade Organization’s 2012 Public Forum in September.

As part of a coalition of NGOs, we developed a method for assessing the impacts of IP policy on vulnerable groups such as small-scale farmers, women and Indigenous groups. This novel form of assessment takes a human rights approach, looking at IP policy’s impacts on the right to food among local communities. Assessments will be carried out in Kenya, Peru and the Philippines in 2013 using this new methodology.

QUNO initiated conversations in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) about including farmers’ voices in WIPO’s work on IP, genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Indigenous peoples have

a strong and vocal presence in these processes whilst smallholder farming communities do not.

To broaden our work on food and sustainability, we have embarked with others on the exciting and ambitious exercise of exploring what changes could be made to the multi-lateral agriculture trade and investment system to recognize that food – whether its production, consumption or trade – is closely linked to our health, our environment and to long-term sustainability for all of us. It is not just another “commodity.”

Related to this, we have been participating in processes such as the United Nations Committee on World Food Security at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, the New York-based NGO Working Group on Food & Hunger, and the European civil society “Alternative Trade Mandate” initiative.

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Human impacts of climate change

In 2012 QUNO began substantive engagement with the international climate talks and the new Green Climate Fund. We participated in a major new initiative examining displacement in the context of climate change and natural disasters.

QUNO staff attended the main climate change talks in Doha at the end of 2012, as well as preparatory meetings. Rather than pushing for a specific outcome at the negotiations, our concern is primarily with the process of the talks and the need to build trust among delegates as a way to deliver a global deal.

In preparation, we produced a short paper looking at successful elements of monitoring processes among United Nations System agencies, to help delegate thinking about possible alternative ways of building trust through clarity over monitoring.

We also engaged with the Green

Climate Fund, the new body that will channel much of the world's climate finance by 2020.

Following on from our 2011 involvement with the 'Nansen Principles' on disaster displacement, QUNO spoke at the inaugural meeting of the Nansen Initiative, which is conducting research to assess the number and needs of people who have to move across international borders due to natural disasters.

In Doha, we were able to share with the diplomatic community details of the Nansen Initiative research and highlight the importance of environmentally related displacement.

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Jonathan Woolley



Steven Heywood

Natural resources, conflict and cooperation

Staff from across QUNO's Geneva programmes have linked to explore ways of building peace around natural resources, especially in the light of climate change.

QUNO has been investigating the links between natural resource management, peacebuilding and prevention of destructive conflict, in particular challenging the idea that diminishing resources automatically lead to violence.

We produced a paper detailing examples of international cooperation over shared water resources, presented the findings at the UN Human Rights Council and raised this as an issue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water.

QUNO is now drawing on expertise from across our programmes to explore these issues further. We are investigating ways of managing water and food that positively benefit local

communities, bringing in peacebuilding approaches to empower the most vulnerable groups. We intend to gather together good practice from around the world to share with policymakers.

Local groups are often inadequately consulted regarding large-scale land and water investments and natural resource policy often fails to draw on local knowledge, with the result that its effectiveness is reduced.

QUNO has begun to identify good practices for integrating different levels of governance and bringing local perspectives to the decision-making process, aiming to raise awareness of these issues at the international level.

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Participants of the Expert Workshop on Children of Parents Sentenced to Death (credit: Ed Guzman)

Human rights and refugees

2012 saw further major developments on conscientious objection to military service and children of prisoners.

For many years QUNO has been active in getting the issue of conscientious objection to military service on to the international human rights agenda. In June 2012 the Human Rights Council adopted without a vote a resolution requiring reports on the issue every four years by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – a significant achievement.

The report will cover new developments, best practices and

remaining challenges in relation to conscientious objection to military service with the first report due in 2013.

QUNO also participated in the first European Conference on Countering the Militarisation of Youth and delivered a presentation on the rights of the child.

QUNO has been a part of a three-year European Union-funded research project on Children

of Prisoners, Interventions and Mitigations to Strengthen Mental Health (COPING), which concluded at the end of 2012.

The COPING Project made new discoveries, including that children are as affected by the imprisonment of a father as they are of a mother. Previously it was presumed that maternal imprisonment was worse for them.

In 2012 we expanded our longstanding work on children of prisoners to give a specific focus to the issue of children of parents sentenced to death or executed. After writing a publication on the topic, in February 2013 QUNO organised the first international expert workshop on the subject, with a view to building connections and momentum at the international level to this highly marginalized and stigmatized group of children.

Drawing on our involvement in drafting the 2010 United Nations

Rules on the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the “Bangkok Rules”), QUNO is now involved in the proposed revision and updating of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs).

In 2012 we participated in a series of expert meetings on the subject, where there was considerable agreement on the need for some targeted revisions of the SMRs. There are plans to hold a further meeting to work on the actual text of revisions.

QUNO has maintained its work on refugee issues in 2012, forming part of the expert group advising the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on how to strengthen the protection of persons fleeing armed conflict and violence, as well as being an external commentator on their guidelines on asylum for conscientious objectors which are near completion.

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Palestine and Statehood at the UN



PA delegation celebrates successful bid for upgraded status (Credit: UN Photo/Rick Bajorn)

Over the past two years, QUNO New York has closely monitored efforts by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to upgrade its status at the United Nations. In 2011, the PA's application for full member status was stalled in the Security Council.

However, on 29 November 2012 a resolution was adopted in the General Assembly granting the Palestinian Authority an upgrade in their official status, from a "non-member observer entity" to a "non-member observer state."

This change, while apparently minor, has several potentially significant ramifications. This status has historically been a stepping-stone to full membership - Switzerland, for example, was a non-member observer state until 2002.

It is also possible that Palestine's status upgrade will alter its standing with respect to certain international bodies and organizations. For example, Palestine may now be able to apply for membership of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

QUNO continues to track UN developments on Palestine, host discussions at Quaker House in New York, and provide background for our constituents and for people on the ground through the Palestinian Statehood Resource, available on our website.

Peace, development and the Millennium Development Goals



Participants gather at Quaker House New York for a discussion on the post-2015 MDGs (Credit: QUNO)

Discussions are under way at the UN about the framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015.

QUNO in New York and Geneva 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.

In New York, QUNO hosted a side event at Quaker House during the opening of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, which brought NGOs from around the world together with representatives of fragile and conflict-affected countries with UN staff and delegates to consider the contribution of lessons learned in peacebuilding to the post-2015 development agenda.

In Geneva, QUNO brought together experts, in collaboration with the Bellagio Initiative, to address the topic of targets and indicators on peace and security.

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

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Other Quaker work at the UN

QUNO is the principal Quaker organization active at the United Nations. Several other Quaker agencies also work with various UN institutions.

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 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

CFSC works with Indigenous partners at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to advance the recognition, protection and fulfillment of Indigenous peoples' human rights.

This includes dialogue and relationship building with other non-govern-

mental organizations, UN representatives and UN Member States. They participate in joint submissions to UN bodies, facilitate meetings with Indigenous peoples' and Member State representatives, and work with partners to produce educational materials on human rights.

CFSC also works to ensure the UN Declaration is respected in other international forums dealing with the rights of Indigenous peoples.

When working in New York and Geneva, CFSC is supported and enriched 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*

Photos (left-right) CFSC representative Jennifer Preston in Geneva with Indigenous partners from Canada (credit: Steve Barber), CFSC and QUNO New York staff (credit: QUNO)

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), based in North America, is accredited to attend UN meetings on sustainable development, environment and climate change, all relating to 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 relevant areas of concern. This broadens Friends' knowledge and helps Quakers discern what action they can take in the global context. QEW works with other Quaker groups, ecumenical and interfaith groups, and non-governmental and civil society organizations.

QEW has enabled Friends to attend UN meetings all over the world, including facilitating the attendance of QUNO representatives to the climate negotiations in 2012 in Doha. In 2012 QEW received accreditation with ECOSOC and is working with QUNO and other Quaker organizations to discern a supportive role.

In 2013 QEW will follow the concerns of civil society as it engages with the UN and identify where QEW can best engage and report on UN negotiations in its bimonthly publication, *BeFriending Creation* and on its website.

*More information is available at
www.quakerearthcare.org*

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. To aid this, FWCC representatives regularly attend the UN Crime Congresses and sessions of the UN Crime Commission in Vienna.

Following consistent Quaker advocacy for greater use of restorative justice, the UN accepted guidelines on this in 2002. FWCC also contributed to the Bangkok Rules for women prisoners, and to a handbook on the social reintegration of ex-prisoners in Council of Europe Member States. In 2012, FWCC participated in the expert meetings on the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs), raising issues of safety in prisons and children of prisoners.

FWCC formally addressed the 2012 Crime Commission about the treatment of migrants, migrant workers and their families, as well as participating in side events about children of prisoners, the review of the SMRs and resocialisation of offenders.

FWCC will continue its work on criminal justice at the UN promoting restorative justice and the human rights of prisoners and their children.

Personal reflections on QUNO's work

In 2012, two of QUNO's most experienced staff members were invited, in their personal capacities, to give major public lectures to Quakers about their work. For those interested, they provide fascinating personal insights to the history, methods and achievements of Quaker work at the UN over more than two decades.

Swarthmore Lecture 2012

Rachel Brett, QUNO Representative for Human Rights and Refugees based in Geneva, delivered the Swarthmore Lecture "Snakes and Ladders" to Britain Yearly Meeting of Quakers in May 2012. Rachel describes in detail how the work of QUNO and partners has brought real change to the lives of many, including child soldiers, conscientious objectors to military service and women in prison.



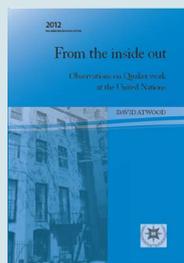
Credit: Trish Carn

James Backhouse Lecture 2012

Former QUNO Geneva Director and Representative for Disarmament and Peace, David Atwood, presented the 2012 James Backhouse Lecture "From the Inside Out" to Australia Yearly Meeting of Quakers in January 2012. David describes his work seeking disarmament and peace at the UN over many years, including the achievement of the ban on landmines, and reflects on what makes it special.



Credit: Australia Yearly Meeting



The books prepared to accompany these lectures are available from Quaker Books at www.quaker.org.uk. The Backhouse Lecture is also available from Friends Book Sales, Australia (sales@quakers.org.au) and, through the generosity of Australian Quakers, via the QUNO website.

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 New York is undertaking an external evaluation of its programme work in 2013. We hope to use the insights gained from this, together with the QUNO Geneva evaluation from 2012, to further increase the effectiveness of our work.

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.

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

Rufus Jones, 1937

QUNO staff

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Sarah Clarke	Quaker UN Representative, New York
Caroline Dommen	Representative, Global Economic Issues, Geneva
Olivia Ensign	Programme Assistant (from August 2012), New York
Lynn Finnegan	Programme Assistant, Global Economic Issues (until August 2012); Project Officer, Food and Sustainability (from September 2012), Geneva
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Helen Kearney	Programme Assistant, Human Rights and Refugees (until August 2012); Project Officer, Human Rights and Refugees (until November 2012), Geneva
René Lejeune	Finance Officer, Geneva

Kirsten Mandala	Programme Assistant (until November 2012), New York
Haifa Rashed	Programme Assistant, Human Rights and Refugees (from September 2012), Geneva
Ellie Roberts	Programme Assistant, Human Impacts of Climate Change (from September 2012), Geneva
Oliver Robertson	Associate Representative, Human Rights and Refugees/Human Impacts of Climate Change, Geneva
Cathy Thomas	Web Weaver, New York
Andrew Tomlinson	Director and Quaker UN Representative, New York
Sylviane Trousseau	Office Manager, Geneva
Jonathan Woolley	Director, Geneva



QUNO administrators (left to right)
Elisabeth Halliday; René Lejeune; Cathy Thomas; Sylviane Trousseau

Donating

Quaker United Nations Committee

The work of QUNO is guided by two Committees, who set the priorities for the work of QUNO, monitor and evaluate progress and report back to their parent bodies.

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 2012, members were as follows:

For FWCC: Nancy Irving, Emily Mmereko Mnisi, Bridget Moix, Neithard Petry, Boni Quirog.

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

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 American Friends Service Committee. In 2012, members were as follows:

For FWCC: Welling Hall, Penny Heymans, Nancy Irving, Oliver Kisaka, Sienneke Martin.

For AFSC: Doug Bennett, Enid Okun, Monteze Snyder, Susan Waltz, Hal Weaver.

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.

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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 the reference so we may thank you.

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 to QUNO New York

Please send US dollar cheques to:

Quaker United Nations Office
777 UN Plaza
5th floor
New York
NY 10017, USA

Alternatively, you may make a donation online using a credit card by clicking the “donate” button on our website www.quno.org. For donations in non-US currencies we do accept wire transfers. Please contact qunony@afsc.org.

QUNO sincerely thanks all those who have made financial contributions to our work, including, in 2012:

The EU Seventh Framework Programme, 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, German YM, Illinois YM, Japan YM, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Netherlands YM, New England YM, Ohio Valley YM, Pacific YM, Quäker-Hilfe, Quaker Peace & Service Aotearoa/New Zealand, Southeastern YM, Switzerland YM and the Yew Tree Trust as well as numerous individuals and local Quaker meetings.



Clockwise from top: Caroline Dommen chairs a discussion at the WTO on Matching Intellectual Property with Farmers' Needs (credit: QUNO), Food and sustainability is one of QUNO's main programme areas (credit: Natalie Maynor, Flickr), Mary Harper and Professor Ken Menkhaus discuss Somalia at Quaker House in New York (credit: QUNO), the Quaker United Nations Committee Geneva has its first ever virtual meeting in November 2012 (credit: QUNO), The QUNO Geneva Committee with staff (credit: QUNO), QUNO attended the World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April 2012 (credit: QUNO)

Recent publications

The following publications and statements are available on our website. We also produce periodic newsletters. Subscriptions and downloads are available on our website www.quno.org

- *Diverting the Flow: Cooperation over International Water Resources*, Steven Heywood, October 2012.
- *Five Years of Progress in UN Preventive Action*, QUNO New York, December 2011.
- *Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge: Getting the Rules Right for Agriculture: a Key Challenge for WIPO's IGC*, Susan Bragdon and Lynn Finnegan, Intellectual Property Watch, 1 February 2013. Available at <http://tinyurl.com/a6wvwxc>.
- *Increasing Trust and Effectiveness under the UNFCCC: Learning from International Monitoring Processes*, Ellie Roberts, November 2012.
- *Letter to the US Senate regarding proposed legislation to cut funding to the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations*, QUNO New York, American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation, November 2012.
- *Putting the Pieces Together: Towards a Unified Approach to Prevention at the UN*, QUNO New York, June 2012
- *Palestinian Statehood at the United Nations: A Resource*, QUNO New York, September 2012.
- *QUNO Review 2011*, QUNO, March 2012.
- *TRIPS-Related Patent Flexibilities and Food Security - Options for Developing Countries*, Carlos Correa, October 2012 (available in English, Spanish and French).

The following QUNO documents have recently been translated:

- *Children of Parents Sentenced to Death*, Helen F. Kearney, Spanish, French and Arabic editions, 2012 (also available in English).
- *Collateral Convicts: Children of incarcerated parents*, Oliver Robertson, Spanish and French editions, 2012 (also available in English).
- *International Standards on Conscientious Objection to Military Service*, Rachel Brett, Russian edition, 2012 (also available in English, Spanish and French).



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