



QUNO Review

Quaker United Nations Office



March 2015



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 sets out some of the highlights and challenges of our work. It is updated annually. The content of this edition focuses mainly on work conducted during 2014. 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, recognizing the need to look for what seeds of war there may be in all our social, political and economic relationships. Quakers recognize 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.

Quaker House Geneva in winter

Geneva colleagues, clockwise from left: Jonathan Woolley, Diane Hendrick, Rachel Brett, René Lejeune, Susan Bragdon, Stephen Schenck, Susan Sprague Parachini, Laurel Townhead, Rhiannon Redpath, Lindsey Fielder Cook (on-screen), David Elliott

New York colleagues, clockwise from top left: Rachel Singleton-Polster, Andrew Tomlinson, Elisabeth Halliday-Quan, Jordan Street, Camilla Campisi, Vivien Che, Sarah Clarke



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A message from our Directors

International agreements and community action

For more than six decades, the Quaker United Nations Office has sought to assist the international community in fulfilling the aspirations of the UN Charter in building a peaceful, just and sustainable future. The challenges facing humanity are many: worsening economic disparity, increased suffering from violent conflict, and unprecedented environmental stress. These challenges make the call for courage, compassion and hope that first inspired the Charter ever more relevant today.

In response, we continue to witness community efforts world-wide that seek to nurture the best in human nature, working together to create a more sustainable and just world. Communities are often ahead of their governments in bringing the vision and commitment to face the challenges of our time. The examples are everywhere: in calling for fair and effective action to address climate change; in seeking a transformative vision for humanity through more just economic and social models; in cooperation around issues as different as access to water resources and banning landmines; and in tirelessly working for inclusion and human rights.

At QUNO, we seek to nurture these seeds of hope in the work of diplomats, UN staff and civil society partners. We use approaches that arise from Quaker insights and experience. We seek to connect deep knowledge of international processes with an emphasis on the human impact – listening to one another, building understanding and seeking common ground, and searching together for new ways to solve difficult challenges to foster a more peaceful and just world. We also endeavour to demonstrate the connections between the rarefied environment of multilateral policy formation in Geneva and New York and the daily reality of the lives of people around the world.

As always, we thank you, our partners and supporters, for all your practical, moral and financial support in pursuing this vision.

Andrew Tomlinson
Director, QUNO New York

Jonathan Woolley
Director, QUNO Geneva



The 3rd Jakarta Human Rights Dialogue (JHRD) on Rights to Life and Moratorium of Death Penalty in the ASEAN Region 10 - 11 November 2014 Four Seasons, Jakarta

Presented by:

ASEAN Representative to
AN Intergovernmental
Commission on Human Rights

Supported by:



Top: Staff from New York and Geneva join in the Climate March in New York; Middle: Quiet conversation on the terrace at Quaker House in New York; Laurel Townhead presenting at the Jakarta Human Rights Dialogue; Bottom: Susan Bragdon hosting a QUNO side event at the Committee on World Food Security; Quaker House Geneva garden in summer

View of the gardens from the
Quaker House terrace in New York

QUNO Summer School 2014



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.



Peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict

Civil society inclusion

QUNO played a key role in facilitating the inclusion of a diversity of perspectives on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict in UN policy conversations in New York.

Over the past several years QUNO has worked on improving civil society's access to the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture. In 2014, QUNO and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict began a one year joint project focused on civil society inclusion as a contribution to the 2015 review of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in New York and these will be combined with field research, gathering civil society perspectives on UN peacebuilding, and issued in a report in 2015.

On Burundi, QUNO increased the inclusion of local perspectives on reconciliation and peacebuilding by hosting a series of off-the-record meetings at Quaker House for UN experts and diplomats, improving connections between the UN and the work of Quakers in Burundi, including the work of AFSC. QUNO also helped to lift up the work of Burundian Quakers on early warning/early response to the 2015 elections.

Support to NGO inclusion in UN policy discussions in New York on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued through the hosting of off-the-record meetings at Quaker House with high-level UN representatives as well as regular meetings between NGOs and the UN's experts on peacekeeping and humanitarian issues in the DRC.

“This Light That Pushes Me: Stories of African Peacebuilders” exhibition hosted at Quaker House New York

QUNO seeks to transform the UN’s work on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict towards a more holistic approach that emphasizes inclusion, dialogue and reconciliation.

Dialogue and reconciliation

QUNO promoted a more holistic UN approach to reconciliation by giving advice on content and structure as well as participating in key UN meetings, including a UN Development Program-led experts’ consultation on reconciliation and inclusion in South Africa. Increasingly, reconciliation is being viewed as both a lens for a broad range of peacebuilding activities as well as a specific set of tools.

QUNO created the space for discussion on reconciliation at a high-level meeting at the UN through a Quaker House event co-hosted with Club de Madrid on reconciliation and inclusion, including presentations by former Heads of State of Slovenia and Yemen.

We hosted Burundian Quaker Adrien Niyongabo who shared information with key UN stakeholders about local trauma healing and reconciliation work in his country. Adrien’s visit coincided with hosting of the *This Light That Pushes Me* photo exhibit at Quaker House,

highlighting the peacebuilding work of African Quakers.

QUNO was also an active participant in a conference held in Helsinki that helped to strengthen support for the role of religious leaders in national dialogue and mediation processes.

Emerging powers

QUNO’s focus in this area continued to concentrate on China’s emerging role at the UN on peace and security issues. In collaboration with AFSC, QUNO hosted a delegation of Chinese academics and organized several briefings for the UN on Chinese perspectives on peacebuilding and peacekeeping, which contributed to broadening the academics’ understanding of the UN’s work, as well as the UN’s understanding of Chinese perspectives.

QUNO also hosted a Chinese scholar in residence for several months, which enabled him to have access to key stakeholders at the UN as well as allowing UN delegations and staff to be better informed by Chinese thinking



on peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and prevention, paving the way for improved engagement between China and the UN.

Broader UN policy level activities

In addition to the specific areas of work on inclusion, reconciliation & dialogue, and emerging powers, QUNO engaged in broader policy debates at the UN which helped to inform and deepen the overall focus on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict and to create the space for these issues to be explored by UN experts, NGOs, and Member States.

As a member of the Steering Group of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council, QUNO promoted the inclusion of NGO perspectives at the highest levels of UN peace and security decision-making and continued to make the case for reflecting longer term perspectives on building sustainable peace into UN mandates. QUNO was asked to provide input in a Member State meeting to discuss and challenge the “G8 Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding Experts

Group Principles Guiding our Support for UN transitions.”

QUNO partners extensively with peacebuilding policy organizations around the world. We have established an annual meeting under the title of “What’s next in Peacebuilding?” which brings together leading experts from other policy centers including London, Brussels, Geneva, and Washington DC, in order to share lessons learned, to consider collaborations, and to bring their perspectives and insights to a UN audience. This continues to be a successful informal forum for peacebuilding policy organizations, and we look forward to growing and further developing the meeting format in the coming years.

Policymakers in Development, Disaster Response and Humanitarian action are starting to take a broader perspective on the role of social and political factors in designing effective programs. QUNO continues to engage in this area, which has long-term implications for the wider acceptance of peacebuilding approaches.

Camilla Campisi participates in a seminar on Peacekeeping and Conflict in the DRC

Programme Assistant Della Anderson engages in discussion on “This Light That Pushes Me: Stories of African Peacebuilders” photo exhibit at Quaker House in New York



QUNO was invited to contribute to a consultation process framed as the “Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue on Development Cooperation in Conflict-Affected and Fragile States,” including providing a briefing on the g7+ and the New Deal at a three day consultation in Washington DC. Similarly, QUNO emphasized the potential benefits of peacebuilding perspectives to UN development and humanitarian action in a two-day “Expert Group Roundtable on Fostering Resilience in

Fragile and Conflict Contexts” hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Linking with the peacebuilding work, coming out of QUNO’s long history of engagement with and expertise on the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), QUNO was one of the few NGO participants in the PBC’s first annual meeting and provided interventions on revenue generation and UN support for transitions.

CONTACT

Camilla Campisi
ccampisi@afsc.org



Camilla Campisi



Sarah Clarke



Andrew Tomlinson



Della Anderson



Rachel Madenyika



Rachel Singleton-Polster



Jordan Street



Vivien Che



Food and sustainability

Our focus is on trade rules and intellectual property rights (IPR) because of the significant effect these policies have on what food is grown, how it is grown, by whom and to whom it is accessible. Both areas of our work take a similar starting point, that food security, environmental sustainability and rural livelihoods should be facilitated, not undermined, by the international rules that govern trade and IPR in agriculture.

In 2014, QUNO hosted two multi-day consultations to discuss the challenges of current trade rules and the connection between these rules and food security concerns. We brought together experts from farmers' organizations, State trade negotiators, academia and the UN system in order to foster understanding between often isolated groups and strategize on how QUNO can best support decision makers to protect food security.

Participants agreed that, to create a foundation for change, there is need to

shift the narrative that underpins the current trade and investment system. QUNO therefore commissioned a paper, *Trade Liberalization and Food Security: Examining the Linkages*, by Professor Jennifer Clapp of the University of Waterloo. The paper challenges the concept of economic efficiency in the context of agricultural trade and examines how it affects broader social goals, such as the human right to adequate food, decent work and ecological diversity.

We also convened and moderated two panel discussions at the World Trade Organization and at the World Committee on Food Security, inviting representatives from State delegations and farmers' organizations to share their experiences with trade rules and national food security measures. Through this and other outreach activities, we continue to highlight that trade in agriculture must be regulated in such a way that food security is supported.

Vegetables displayed at a Sri Lankan market

QUNO seeks to broaden discussions in policy areas that affect food and sustainability to include the voices of small-scale farmers, a critical yet mostly unheard voice in these policy debates.

QUNO has long encouraged states to apply IPR in ways that promote food security. In 2014, we began to step back from the detail of negotiations, in recognition of the fact that IPR is only one way to incentivize small-scale farmer innovation. We are now attempting to build a more complete picture of the drivers of agricultural innovation. This will enable us to better understand the interaction between IPR treaties, small-scale farmer innovation and food security, and develop appropriate tools for policymakers.

We also continue to advocate for more inclusive agricultural policymaking at the international and national levels.

We support small-scale farmers in their efforts to have their voice heard in discussions that concern their lives and livelihoods, in the belief that such participation will lead to stronger and more equitable agricultural policy.

CONTACT

Susan Bragdon
shbragdon@quno.ch



Susan Bragdon



Claire Rodgers



David Elliott



Jonathan Woolley



Human impacts of climate change

Our focus is threefold. We offer quiet diplomacy at the climate change negotiations, we connect international and civil society efforts, and we highlight the cross-linkages between climate change and other Quaker concerns.

QUNO supports the establishment of an ambitious, transparent and fair outcome to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. Now in our second year of quiet diplomacy, we continue to bring together highly diverse groups UNFCCC delegates for informal, off-the-record dinners to help facilitate communication and build understanding. Through these more intimate spaces, delegates are encouraged to speak more openly and sincerely on challenges confronting the multilateral negotiations, and to draw on personal experience in facing the human impacts of climate change.

In support of this this work we produced two publications: *Moving Forward*

in International Negotiations, which presented four examples of complex multilateral processes and the innovative approaches used to build consensus; and *A Call to Conscience*, a booklet profiling Quaker experiences in facing the challenge of climate change.

QUNO also initiated efforts with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to help connect civil society with the latest climate science findings. At Quaker House in New York, QUNO and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) brought together the Chairman of the IPCC and over thirty regional faith leaders. This year, QUNO will expand these efforts, using Quaker House in Geneva as a space to promote discussion between climate scientists and the wider international community.

QUNO works with grassroots, national and international efforts that engage with climate change as a peace and justice concern. We continued to

A view from the street of “illUmiNations: PROTECTING OUR PLANET,” being projected on to the UN Secretariat building in New York ahead of the Climate Summit

QUNO views climate change due to human activity as a peace and justice concern, and focuses on the impact of rising global mean temperatures on the most vulnerable communities now, and on all future generations.

support the Nansen Initiative, which focuses on human displacement in the context of climate change and natural disasters. In July, we participated in a consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur John Knox and leading NGOs working to strengthen human rights protection in climate change mitigation and adaption efforts. At the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 20 in Lima, Peru in December, we co-hosted a side event entitled *Climate Change Threatening Human Rights*, and we are exploring additional ways to encourage human rights protection through both the UNFCCC and the Human Rights Council.

Within the Quaker community, QUNO participated in the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Annual Meeting, and

in a workshop with the Canterbury Commitment of British Quakers. We co-hosted with FCNL a meeting for a diverse group of leading North-American climate advocacy NGOs to consider ways forward to strengthen the voice of the movement. We also drafted Quaker Statement on Climate Change to reflect a joint presence with QEW and FCNL during the UN Climate Summit, now signed by over twenty-five Quaker organizations worldwide.

QUNO recognizes that human activity is placing the Earth on track for a 4°C rise in global mean temperatures by 2080. Such catastrophic climate change is not inevitable if humanity acts now with urgency and fairness, and we articulate this challenge as a moral call to conscience.

CONTACT

Lindsey Cook
lfcook@quno.ch



Lindsey Cook



David Elliott



Jonathan Woolley



Rachel Singleton-Polster



Human rights and refugees

Our current work focuses on children of prisoners, children of parents sentenced to death or executed, conscientious objectors to military service, indigenous peoples and refugees. We seek to foster dialogue that will support these groups and improve the functioning of the UN human rights system.

A significant recent achievement was the issuing of new guidelines on refugee status relating to military service by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). QUNO contributed to the development of these guidelines by highlighting the nature of the persecution faced by conscientious objectors and promoting awareness of the types of protection that should be offered. We published a paper detailing discrimination and rights violations of conscientious objectors and another outlining a peace and human rights perspective on education and the military.

Together with Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and War Resisters' International (WRI), QUNO submitted a joint amicus brief on conscientious objection to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea, which is reviewing the imprisonment of Korean conscientious objectors. At the WRI Triennial Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, we also led a workshop on conscientious objection and participated in the series of discussions on countering the militarization of youth.

QUNO continued to draw attention to the situation of children of prisoners, especially those whose parents are sentenced to death or executed. Following our side event on this issue at the March session of the Human Rights Council and a follow-up event at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna in April, we produced a pamphlet and a short video

Embrace sculpture at the 2013 Revere
Beach Sand Sculpting Festival 2013

QUNO's belief in the inherent worth of every individual leads us to work for the promotion and protection of human rights for all, with a focus on marginalized groups, those who are unseen, ignored or excluded.

to bring the topic to a wider audience. In February, we also presented a paper on children of prisoners at the international expert symposium on women prisoners in China, organized by the Dui Hua Foundation and Penal Reform International in Hong Kong.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child raised questions and made concluding observations relating to the rights of children of incarcerated parents in general and took up the specific issue of children of parents sentenced to death or executed. This issue was also raised in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review process.

In 2014, the human rights impacts of statelessness (an issue that QUNO has been raising since the 1990s) gained focused attention in UNHCR's ten year action plan to eradicate statelessness. Having worked on this issue for decades it is rewarding to see such high-level push toward a solution, rather than just mitigation of the impacts.

CONTACT

Laurel Townhead
ltownhead@quno.ch



Laurel Townhead



Rachel Brett



Emily Graham



Peace and disarmament

Our peace and disarmament programme 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, NGOs, UN staff and others in Geneva and beyond to support the creation of legal instruments, new policy and effective practice.

Together with our partners in the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, we guided the development of the White Paper on Peacebuilding, which was completed at the end of 2014. As the UN Peacebuilding Architecture undergoes a 10 year review, the White Paper aims to broaden this discussion, by presenting a variety of peacebuilder perspectives, from the local to international level, on how societies can most effectively move towards sustainable peace with

the assistance of the UN and the international community.

QUNO continues to follow developments around nuclear disarmament, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and new weapons technologies, including drones and lethal autonomous weapons systems. The ATT, which regulates international trade in conventional arms, from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships, came into effect on 24 December 2014. With our partners in the Geneva Forum and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, we helped set up the Arms Trade Treaty Network, which provides opportunities for dialogue and training around issues of interpretation and implementation of the treaty.

In November, we led a panel discussion of the Geneva Forum, addressing the psychological impacts of drone warfare, and the effects of these new technologies on the protection of civilians. We were

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

also present at the third international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in Vienna, Austria.

Natural resources, conflict and cooperation

A large part of our peacebuilding work focuses on cross-cutting work around natural resources, conflict and cooperation. Together with our colleagues in human rights, climate change and food and sustainability, we explore opportunities for the prevention of destructive conflict 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, and QUNO's work involves identifying good practices

for policy makers, highlighting ways to prevent conflict and build peace around natural resources.

We work with international forums and processes in Geneva to support participatory and equitable natural resource management with a view to preventing destructive conflict. QUNO is attempting to break down barriers and foster a holistic approach to natural resource management that recognizes rights-based and prevention of destructive conflict approaches as mutually reinforcing. To this end we engage with environmental rights forums at the United Nations, as well as interacting with the human rights processes in Geneva, bringing a peacebuilding lens to these settings.

In June 2014, at the Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention in Maastricht, QUNO presented an event and briefing paper showing how the legal provisions of the Aarhus Convention



can be used in peacebuilding and the prevention of destructive conflict around natural resources. With the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) we were able to bring an official from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in Myanmar and a Professor from the China University of Political Science and Law to Maastricht to learn about the Aarhus Convention and see its international workings.

At the Human Rights Council, we hosted a side event to look at developments in regional environmental democracy in Latin America and Africa and point to the opportunities for peacebuilding that these provide. The event also highlighted the positive role that businesses, as well as governments, can play in preventing destructive conflict around natural

resources when they make use of environmental rights frameworks.

As Latin American and Caribbean states negotiate a regional instrument on environmental rights, based on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, throughout 2015 QUNO will be cooperating with local NGOs and finding ways to bring positive examples of good practice that demonstrate the importance of such legal frameworks for equitable, peaceful and sustainable natural resource management.

CONTACT

Diane Hendrick
dhendrick@quno.ch



Diane Hendrick



Rhiannon Redpath



Mihan Borhani



Lynn Finnegan

Diane Hendrick
and Lynn Finnegan
presenting at the
Meeting of the
Parties of the
Aarhus Convention
in Maastricht

A briefing from the
Mennonites Central
Committee at Quaker
House in New York:
“Rebuilding Iraq in the
Nineveh Plain”



Developing Middle East issues

2014 was branded the Year of International Solidarity with the Palestinian people by the United Nations. Sadly this year has not brought the peace to the region that so many desire. The collapse of the US-led peace talks in 2014, coupled with the third military assault on the Gaza Strip in the last six years, has contributed to heightened suffering and further distrust as positions continue to move further apart. However, there have recently been some signs of a reinvigorated discussion among Security Council members, among the parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and among European parliamentarians, which hint at some changing dynamics.

In light of these events, and the further worsening security situation in Iraq,

Syria, and the wider region, QUNO has begun an internal evaluative process to explore opportunities for increased engagement on these issues. Aside from this, QUNO continues to work with the NGO Working Group on Israel & Palestine, follow developments in the Security Council, and support and assist AFSC programs in the region.

Quaker House in New York has been used to host meetings on these issues over the past years, including a timely presentation in September 2014 on Rebuilding Societies in the Nineveh Plain from Jim and Debbie Fine after a five year stint in Erbil, Iraq. Middle East issues promise to figure heavily on the agenda at the United Nations in New York, and QUNO will continue to follow developments.

CONTACT

Andrew Tomlinson
atomlinson@afsc.org



Andrew Tomlinson



Della Anderson



Jordan Street

Peace, development, and the Sustainable Development Goals



2015 promises to be an important year, as the final intergovernmental negotiations to produce a comprehensive framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) take place at the United Nations in New York.

QUNO has been working with delegates, UN officials and other NGOs to ensure that the agreed framework directly addresses the needs of the most vulnerable and those affected by violence. The MDGs failed to bring development to populations in fragile and conflict-affected countries, and thus QUNO has had a sustained engagement to ensure that the future framework addresses these serious shortcomings.

Activities in 2014 have gone a long way to address these concerns. In addition to contributing to many high level side events and meetings, QUNO was asked to deliver a formal statement to the Eighth Session of the Open

Working Group (OWG) on behalf of civil society. This statement, in the context of the sustained work of many partners, was rewarded by the decision of the OWG to specifically recommend, in its Outcome Document, a goal focused on peace and security. Goal 16, entitled “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,” thus becomes part of the proposed list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to replace the former 8 MDGs. This can be viewed as a major success, since the inclusion of peace issues at one point seemed like a distant hope. Nevertheless, nothing is final until the end of the 2015 negotiations.

As the overall process moves into its final days, QUNO will continue to explore ways to inform the substantive debate, and to accompany the intergovernmental negotiations.

Andrew Tomlinson spoke on an expert panel on “Freedom from Violence: Peace, Security and Conflict Prevention in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” hosted by the World Federation of UN Associations

CONTACT
Andrew Tomlinson
atomlinson@afsc.org



Andrew Tomlinson



Rachel Singleton-Polster



Jordan Street



Other Quaker work at the UN

Canadian Friends Service Committee

QUNO continued its supporting role to the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), which carries out Quaker work at the UN on the rights of Indigenous Peoples with a focus on 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, as well as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York. Furthermore, they continued to liaise with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Of particular focus this year were statements and submissions concerning the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, free prior and informed consent and resource development, and also the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. This Outcome Document reaffirms support for the UN Declaration, and CFSC worked with partners to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the process.

CFSC also monitors other international forums dealing with the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This year, work with the support of Friends at the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Intellectual Property Organization stood out as being crucial to upholding the rights affirmed in the UN Declaration.

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 2014, 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 our deep concern over how humans participate in the life-systems of our living 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 UN climate negotiations in the past (QUNO is now attending under the auspices of FWCC).

Currently QEW is following the development of earth-related international policies such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 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

Ready for a meeting
at Quaker House in
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.

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.



QUNO staff

NEW YORK OFFICE

- Della Anderson**, Programme Assistant (until August 2014)
Camilla Campisi, Quaker UN Representative
Vivien Che, Programme Assistant (from August 2014)
Sarah Clarke, Quaker UN Representative (until November 2014)
Elisabeth Halliday-Quan, Office Coordinator
Rachel Madenyika, Quaker UN Representative (from January 2015)
Rachel Singleton-Polster, Programme Assistant (until August 2014) and Fellow (until February 2015)
Jordan Street, Programme Assistant (from August 2014)
Andrew Tomlinson, Director and Quaker UN Representative

GENEVA OFFICE

- Mihan Borhani**, Programme Assistant, Peace and Disarmament (from February 2015)
Susan Bragdon, Representative, Food and Sustainability
Rachel Brett, Representative, Human Rights and Refugees (until August 2014) and Adviser, Human Rights and Refugees
David Elliott, Programme Assistant, Food and Sustainability/Climate Change (from September 2014)
Lindsey Fielder Cook, Representative, Climate Change
Lynn Finnegan, Project Officer, Peace and Disarmament (until October 2014)
Emily Graham, Programme Assistant, Human Rights and Refugees (until August 2014)
Diane Hendrick, Representative, Peace and Disarmament
René Lejeune, Finance Officer



QUNO administrators

Rhiannon Redpath, Programme Assistant, Peace and Disarmament (until January 2015)

Claire Rodgerson, Programme Assistant, Food and Sustainability (until August 2014), Project Officer, Food and Sustainability (September to December 2014)

Stephen Schenck, Communications and Fundraising Coordinator

Susan Sprague Parachini, Office Manager

Laurel Townhead, Representative, Human Rights and Refugees (from August 2014)

Jonathan Woolley, Director



Elisabeth Halliday-Quan



René Lejeune



Susan Sprague



Stephen Schenck

We also thank Ron Ockwell for his support to our work in 2014.



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 2014, members were as follows:

For FWCC: Chris Allan, Gretchen Castle, Justus Mudavadi, Carolan Redfearn.

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 2014, members were as follows:

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

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

The QUNO New York Committee
at Quaker House in New York

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Operating and Program Expenses:

Contributions can be made toward the cost of our annual budget

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Contributions support the maintenance and operation of Quaker House

We 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.



Thank you

QUNO sincerely thanks all those who have made financial contributions to our work in the last year, including: the Nexus Foundation, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Parmigan Trust, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the following Quaker bodies: American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting (YM), Australia YM, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Cumberland Community Foundation, 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, Iowa YM, Irish Quaker Faith in Action, 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.

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Recent publications

The Aarhus Convention and the prevention of destructive conflict, Lynn Finnegan (June 2014)

Call to Conscience: Quaker experiences facing the challenge of Climate Change, Laurie Michaelis (September 2014)

Children of parents sentenced to death or executed: developments, good practices & next steps, QUNO (August 2014)

Conscientious Objection to Military Service: Punishment & Discriminatory Treatment, Emily Graham (June 2014)
Languages: English, German

Education and the Military: A human rights and peace perspective, Emily Graham (July 2014)

Finding the heart of reconciliation: scope, inclusion, values, and the role of external actors, Andrew Tomlinson (September, 2014)

Findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 5th Assessment Report, Lindsey Fielder Cook (July 2014)

The importance of inclusion, transparency and consultation in revenue mobilisation, Andrew Tomlinson (June 2014)

Long-term accompaniment of societies in transition: a role for the PBC?, Andrew Tomlinson (June 2014)

Moving Forward in International Negotiations: Four Innovative Examples, Ellie Roberts (June 2014)

Quaker Statement on Climate Change, QUNO, QEW, FCNL (January 2015)

QUNO and Minute 36: Briefing Paper for the Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014, QUNO (August 2014)

QUNO Review (May 2014)

Remarks for the Eighth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Andrew Tomlinson (February 2014)

Trade Liberalization and Food Security: Examining the Linkages, Jennifer Clapp (June 2014) Languages: English, French, Chinese, Spanish



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 6822745 | Fax: +1 212 938 0034

qunony@afsc.org

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

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