

October 2019

QUNO's continued support for Peace in the 2030 Agenda

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Opening of the High-Level Political Forum.

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July in New York was once again an exciting month for QUNO. The meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” took place from 9 to 18 July at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters.

This year, six goals were up for review and the UN community was re-energized in its support of the 2030 Agenda, which includes Peace as one of five areas “of critical importance for humanity and the planet.” Throughout the Forum, Member States, civil society and practitioners stressed the critical importance of ‘leaving no one behind’ in the pursuit of peace.

For QUNO, this was an entry point for reviewing progress on all goals, especially for Goal 16, which remains at the heart of the work of QUNO and peacebuilders all over the world. This goal covers cross-cutting

issues, and reaches the furthest behind first, including those threatened by violence, injustice and exclusion.

When we do look at the Goal

16 targets, the scope is surprisingly broad, emphasizing reducing violence and violent death, equal access to justice, good governance (including fostering accountable and transparent institutions), inclusive decision making, access to information and funda

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QUNO welcomes Quaker Peace & Social Witness to New York



QUNO staff with Tobias Wellner at Quaker House in New York.

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This summer, QUNO had the great pleasure of welcoming our colleague, Tobias Wellner, the East Africa Programme Manager at Quaker Peace and Social Witness (Quakers in Britain, QPSW). The trip was a wonderful opportunity for QUNO and QPSW to further strengthen our work together to promote Quaker-rooted peacebuilding approaches, and for QUNO staff to learn more about QPSW's programs and partners in East Africa.

QPSW's East Africa Programme works with peacebuilding partners in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi to implement initiatives through the Turning the Tide (TTT) program. TTT accompanies and supports local peace and justice campaigns, with

all programming centered on seven principles of non-violence. Through trainings and programming grounded in these principles, TTT supports the transformation of societies to prevent, mediate and respond to conflict and tensions before they

QPSW's East Africa Programme works with peacebuilding partners in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi to implement initiatives through the Turning the Tide (TTT) program.

become violent. Together with their fellow peacebuilding organizations in the region, QPSW works to directly contribute to building peaceful and just communities in East Africa.

The visit allowed for QUNO and QPSW to share more about each organization's experiences to build and sustain peace. Tobias taught QUNO staff about the non-violent principles that underpin the TTT work and how those principles translate into the programming implemented throughout East Africa. QUNO staff also discussed the quiet diplomacy working methods we carry out at the UN, and how we seek to strengthen the UN's capacity for peace through our conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives.

Tobias' visit also coincided with the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which takes place each year and is the UN's platform for process,

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Letter from the Director

Dear Friends:

Greetings from New York!

This year has seen significant progress for the peacebuilding and prevention agenda at the UN. The Secretary-General's reforms of the peace & security architecture led to the creation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs – a renaming and reconfiguration of one of the most important offices of the UN secretariat, reflecting a mainstreaming of peacebuilding approaches. And the reforms of the development system hold out the promise of UN country teams that are more closely aligned to

the broader aims of the organization across the three pillars of development, human rights, and peace and security.

The past year has also seen a renewed focus on the universal commitment to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that is headlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). A highlight was the High-Level Political Forum in July, which included a focus on the goals and targets on peace and inclusion. Welcome progress is being made in some areas, but efforts to integrate a peace lens need to be signifi-

cantly accelerated if the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda are to be met.

As we move into the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, QUNO continues to act on your behalf behind the scenes, working for a more just and peaceful world through the unique vantage point of the United Nations.

Thank you for your encouragement and support!



Andrew Tomlinson

News from QUNO Geneva



Lindsey Fielder Cook at a press conference on **Courage and Ethics for Climate Action** during the international climate change negotiations in Bonn, Germany in June.

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At the climate change negotiations in Bonn, Germany in June, QUNO held an off-the-record quiet diplomacy dinner for negotiators from nineteen countries. These dinners, offered at the negotiations since 2013, aim to help build com-

munication and understanding between countries.

Representative for Climate Change, Lindsey Fielder Cook, also spoke at a [press conference](#) calling for courage and ethics for climate action as a moral call to conscience.

Lindsey shared how the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's *Special Report for Global Warming at 1.5C* confirmed that a 1.5C temperature rise limit is still possible, and stressed how following the healthiest pathway could save hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of human lives, save thousands of species from extinction, and prevent the collapse of critical eco-systems.

QUNO also distributed a new leaflet, *Human Rights Based Climate Action*, outlining how rights-based approaches to climate policy can result in more effective and fair action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Also in June, our Human Rights & Refugees programme published *Briefing Tools for Practitioners—Children: unseen victims of the death penalty*. The set of seven briefings was published ahead of the [World](#)

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Day Against the Death Penalty on 10 October 2019, and is intended to inform decision makers, including defence lawyers, sentencers, legislators and also diplomats of the impact of parental death sentence on children and the relevant international legal standards in order to change policy and practice.

The issue of the impact on children of parents sentenced to death or executed is applicable to all countries, and at all stages of the process, from arrest through to post-execution; there are parents everywhere.

Emphasizing the duty to respect the best interests of the child in all decisions that affect them can mitigate the sentences of those who may otherwise be sentenced to death or executed, reducing the overall number of those who are executed.

In September, QUNO's Sustain-

able & Just Economic Systems programme hosted its first lunch with members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), who are currently negotiating an agreement on reducing or eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies (which lead to overfishing). Fisheries are crucial for food security, livelihoods and poverty reduction.

In 2017, the WTO committed to reaching an outcome on reducing or eliminating harmful fishery subsidies by 2020. QUNO is offering quiet meeting space for WTO members to express and understand their respective needs, which vary widely, and to help find ways forward in the negotiations. Programme Representative Joachim Monkelbaan plans further meetings before the end of the year.

QUNO's Peace & Disarmament Representative Florence Foster was invited to the Stockholm Peace Forum for "Breaking Silos and Building Bridges," a roundtable discussion on human rights and peacebuilding

in May. This event was an opportunity to share and discuss findings from our ongoing project exploring the potential within the UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to sustain peace. For this project, QUNO also traveled to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to meet peacebuilding civil society actors and support them in submitting reports to the UPR, which is a regular examination of the human rights performance of all 193 UN Member States. This trip also included meetings with the UN Country Team and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss ways that human rights and peacebuilding actors, processes and approaches can complement each other. Also in May, alongside QUNO New York, we met the member state Caucus on Human Rights and Preventions and hosted a civil society meeting on those subjects. ❖

Peace in the 2030 Agenda

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mental freedoms. It also addresses issues at the global level, including trafficking, illicit financial and arms flows, and more inclusive global governance.

Much of the discussion in July placed great emphasis on Goal 16 as both an end in itself, and a crucial part of delivering sustainable development in all countries. It has in fact been seen by many Member States and civil society alike as being *the* transformational goal and key to ensuring that Agenda 2030 can

be accomplished.

QUNO believes that the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and the peaceful, just and inclusive societies agenda in particular, is very substantial. At the very

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least it provides a new, positive and universal aspirational framework that

can recast the terms of discussion on a wide range of issues, from development to the prevention of armed violence. ❖

Quaker Peace & Social Witness

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as well as expectations for opportunities and challenges moving forward.

As the office representing Friends at the United Nations, QUNO values the opportunity to support the work of our fellow Quaker organizations, and to facilitate their participation in peace work at the UN.

We learned so much from Tobias' visit on the work carried out by QPSW and its partners, and value that we were able to learn more about the impact of Quaker peacebuilding work in East Africa. We hope to welcome QPSW back soon and look forward to continued partnership with Quakers in Britain. ❖

QUNO participates in New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions



QUNO participates in NYYM Interest Group Session.

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QUNO was excited to join Friends from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for the Summer Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM). NYYM Summer Sessions is an annual event that brings together Quakers from local and regional Meetings and their families for a week full of exciting activities focused on community and movement-building.

This year, QUNO was represented by Mireille Evagora-Campbell and Jędrzej Nowe, QUNO New York Program Assistants, who were delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the first three days of the gathering.

Particular highlights included attending the plenary session “Be-

ing Quakers in a World That Needs Us,” connecting with Young Adult Friends and joining Friends in Meetings for Worship. Our Program Assistants also held an Interest Group Session on our work representing Quakers at the United

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through peaceful means and answer questions regarding our peacebuilding and prevention programs. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to share our work and engage in dialogue with Quakers, and to connect with the NYYM community. We look forward to participating again next year! ❖



How to Support QUNO

QUNO welcomes donations to help cover the cost of its work. We are happy to accept contributions towards two areas of our work:

The Fund for Quaker House: the endowment supports the maintenance and operation of Quaker House.

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

Please make your check payable to “QUNO.” If you’d like your gift to go towards Quaker House, please write “Quaker House” in the memo portion of the check.

For credit card gifts, call toll free 1-888-588-2372 ext.1 , or click the [“Donations”](#) button on our web site and follow the instructions provided.

Please send checks to:
Quaker UN Office
777 United Nations Plaza,
5th Floor
New York, NY 10017

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

Staff comings and goings



Stephen Murray, Mireille Evagora-Campbell and Jędrzej Nowe: Program Assistants

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It has been a time of transition and excitement for our office. As QUNO continues its work at the United Nations (UN) we have reached that time of the year when we have to say goodbye to our outgoing Program Assistants (PAs) and reflect on their year of service with us.

QUNO was privileged to have Mireille Evagora-Campbell and Jędrzej Nowe serve on our team in New York, where they assisted senior staff in our programmatic areas of Peacebuilding and the Prevention of Violent Conflict. We now welcome Stephen Murray into the PA role and are excited to have him on board.

Additionally, we find ourselves saying farewell to our Office Coordi-

nator (OC) of eight years, Elisabeth Halliday-Quan, and welcoming our new OC, Andrew McKenna, who joined us in September.

Mireille and Jędrzej left an indelible impression through their professionalism, insightful enthusiasm and commitment towards our goal of promoting peace and cooperation at the UN.

With regards to our PA transitions, Mireille leaves QUNO grateful for the many learning opportunities she has benefitted from and confident that QUNO's unique working methods, including quiet diplomacy and bridge-building through transformative spaces, will

greatly impact her future career in the international sector. Mireille returns to Europe where she will carry out research for a gender equality and global health initiative before pursuing development experience at the country level. She looks forward to applying the skills and knowledge she has developed at QUNO.

Jędrzej has very much enjoyed these past 8 months at QUNO. With a focus on the Peacebuilding Program, he engaged in multiple projects centering on civil society. In addition, he helped organize meetings with Member States and was responsible for covering the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. As much as he is sad to

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Andrew McKenna and Elisabeth Halliday-Quan: Office Coordinators

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Staff comings and goings (Continued from page 6)

leave QUNO and his colleagues, Jędrzej is excited about his next professional experience working for the United Nations Human Security Unit.

While their time with us was short, Mireille and Jędrzej left an indelible impression through their professionalism, insightful enthusiasm and commitment towards our goal of promoting peace and cooperation at the UN. Their experiences throughout this year of service have been especially helpful to our incoming PA, Stephen Murray.

Stephen is originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he holds a BA in International Politics

and Conflict Studies, and an MA in Violence, Terrorism and Security from Queen's University Belfast. He joins QUNO with a background in peace and reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland and a desire to learn more about and contribute to our Peacebuilding and Prevention of Violent Conflict programs.

QUNO is sad to see the departure of Elisabeth Halliday-Quan, who has served as Office Coordinator since 2012. Elisabeth's time with QUNO New York has been a challenging and rewarding experience and she moves on to her next adventure carrying with her a wealth of experience and memories.

We are glad to welcome Andrew McKenna to QUNO as he transi-

tions into his new role as Office Coordinator. Andrew joins QUNO after completing two years of volunteering with the Peace Corps. Serving as a community agribusiness specialist, Andrew lived in Uganda for two years working with a local community-based organization on reducing the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS, and trying to help women and families improve their economic and nutritional security.

QUNO wishes Elisabeth, Mireille and Jędrzej the very best in their personal and professional adventures to come and hopes that Stephen and Andrew will find their experience as rewarding and challenging as it has been for their predecessors. ❖