

climate justice

be the
CHANGE



climate justice

Quakers want justice for those affected by climate change and believe that all people have the right to affordable energy that does not harm the planet.

Global carbon emission reductions are not on track to prevent a temperature rise of no more than 2°C. If this reduction is not achieved, it is the poorest people and those least responsible for climate change who will suffer the greatest impact.

Many people live in countries where energy is plentiful but where the benefits go to a privileged elite or are exported.

In England, in 2013 over 10 per cent of households were living in fuel poverty, which means most of them could not afford to heat their homes.

Quakers think there should be more equality in the way energy is owned and organised. We want an end to the dominance of the energy system by big companies and to see an increase in community ownership.

Quakers work to build an energy and economic system that has equality, justice and sustainability at heart. We believe this is possible. Quakers are divesting their money from fossil fuel companies. Quakers also try to live lower-carbon lives, get involved in community renewable energy projects and protest against the unsustainable economic system.

Quakers want to sustain life over profit and there's a lot we can do about that!

Get informed and involved in this campaign at www.yqspace.org.uk/climatejustice.

tackle inequality

be the CHANGE



tackle inequality

Quakers campaign to tackle economic inequality in Britain because we believe that every human being is fundamentally equal.

The United Kingdom is one of the most unequal societies in the industrialised world. Not only is it unjust that our national economic wealth is shared unequally, but a big gap between rich and poor is bad for everyone. It affects our personal relationships. People in unequal societies tend to be less healthy and less happy. There is more violent crime and people don't trust each other as much.

Our economic system helps to create a consumerist world. Consumerism plays a part in the use of natural resources and worsening climate change.

Extreme levels of economic inequality are not inevitable. There is a lot that governments, companies, community groups and individuals can do to narrow the gap between rich and poor people. Quakers engage with businesses and politicians, and work to challenge common stereotypes in society. We also seek to make practical steps for change through fair pay and ethical banking. Alongside all this, Quakers also join together to protest about issues of economic injustice locally and nationally.

Let's work together to make Britain a better place for everyone.

Now is the time to transform our concern into action!

Get informed and involved in this campaign at www.yqspace.org.uk/inequality.

no nukes

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no nukes

In living out our Peace Testimony, Quakers have long campaigned for the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

As Quakers, we believe these weapons of mass destruction are unethical to possess, let alone use. It's dangerous even to keep them because of the risks involved in looking after them, moving them around the country and deploying them at sea. They're a waste of vital resources too. Britain should not spend billions on nuclear warheads or the submarine-based Trident missiles that carry them. The government could better use this money for the common good, such as health and education.

The United Kingdom has already committed to disarm under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (1968), but never has. Following the Austria Pledge (2014) to "eliminate nuclear weapons", many other countries are calling for a new treaty to ban all nuclear weapons. The UK government opposes such a ban and is instead preparing to hold on to its nuclear weapons at least until the 2060s. More than £3 billion has been spent renewing Trident, even though the full decision to renew Trident will not be made until 2016 at the earliest.

A world without nuclear weapons is possible. Britain could lead the way in disarmament, proving that a country can maintain peace without threatening others with annihilation. Quakers seek to create this change by engaging with politicians and joining with others campaigning for disarmament. Quakers also demonstrate and take nonviolent direct action when this seems appropriate.

Quakers say it's time to get on with it.

Get informed and involved in this campaign at www.yospace.org.uk/nonukes.

taking action

Before taking action, think about why you want to do so.

Go to www.yqspace.org.uk for information about current concerns and ways in which you can get involved.

On the site there are some examples of ways that people can take action on issues of concern to them. Even the smallest action can have an impact and there are ideas from the big to the small about how you can make a difference locally, nationally and internationally.

Consider who you are trying to reach with your campaign, what you are trying to change, and why you think the method you have chosen might be effective. You may also want to consider which of your friends might want to join you in taking this action as well as using the information overleaf to get support and advice about what you can do and what your rights are. Finally, get in touch about what you've been doing.

Get informed and involved in this campaign at www.yqspace.org.uk/bethechange.



a resource for young Quakers taking action

taking action

Demonstrate:

Take action in public to get your message across and let people affected by the issue know that they are not alone.

(www.yqspace.org.uk/demonstrate)

Political engagement:

Contact your elected representatives and ask them to help you raise awareness of an issue, campaign for a change in legislation, or have an input into decisions being made nationally or about your local area.

(www.yqspace.org.uk/politics)

Nonviolent direct action (NVDA):

Make a citizen's intervention that says "No! We will not stop this until you listen." Take action to physically stop, prevent, undermine or disrupt something. NVDA is a radical form of campaigning that needs careful thought before doing it and is best used after more conventional methods have been tried and not succeeded. (www.yqspace.org.uk/nvda)

Join a group:

Join a group to take action, learn together, support each other and do more than you could by yourself. Also you'll have more fun in a group (www.yqspace.org.uk/joinagroup)

Volunteer:

Make a difference to an issue of importance to you by giving your time and skills to organisations campaigning or working on them. (www.yqspace.org.uk/volunteer)