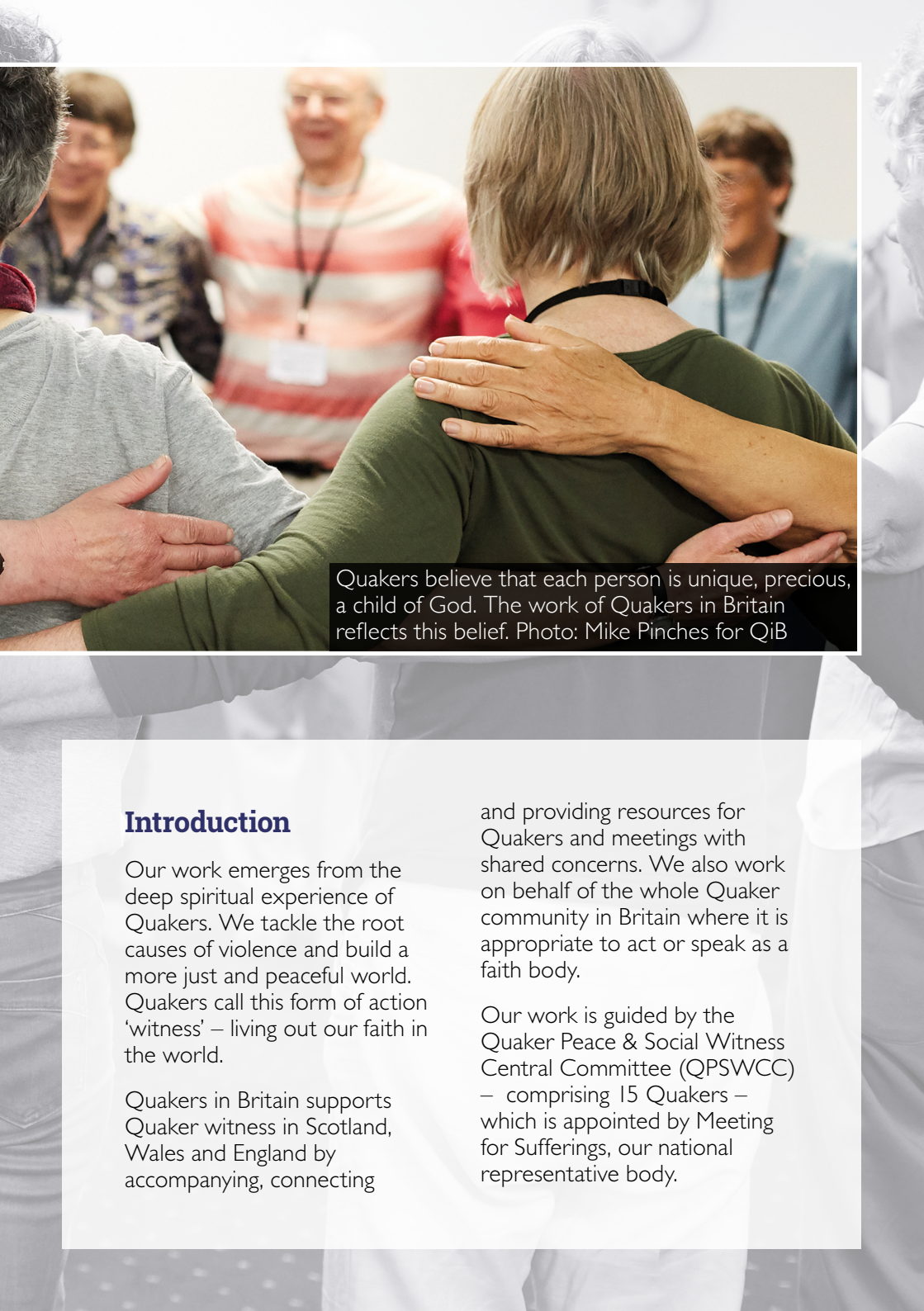


Building a more peaceful and sustainable world

An introduction to the peace and social witness work of Quakers in Britain







Quakers believe that each person is unique, precious, a child of God. The work of Quakers in Britain reflects this belief. Photo: Mike Pinches for QiB

Introduction

Our work emerges from the deep spiritual experience of Quakers. We tackle the root causes of violence and build a more just and peaceful world. Quakers call this form of action 'witness' – living out our faith in the world.

Quakers in Britain supports Quaker witness in Scotland, Wales and England by accompanying, connecting

and providing resources for Quakers and meetings with shared concerns. We also work on behalf of the whole Quaker community in Britain where it is appropriate to act or speak as a faith body.

Our work is guided by the Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC) – comprising 15 Quakers – which is appointed by Meeting for Sufferings, our national representative body.

Speaking out

Climate justice

We work with Quakers, other faith groups and secular campaigners to call for the economic and political transformation needed to address climate breakdown – a global 'just transition' that tackles extreme inequality and prioritises the rights of poor and marginalised people. We campaign for finance to be diverted from fossil fuels into climate action. We also highlight the racism and colonial exploitation inherent in the climate crisis and explore what reparative justice might look like.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/climatejustice.

Peace

We work to raise awareness of the human and environmental costs of militarism, the arms trade and nuclear war. We support grassroots action for political change and work with international peace campaigns to ban nuclear weapons and challenge excessive military spending. We work with different churches and faith traditions and offer a Quaker

voice within the networks and campaigns of the British peace movement. Together we create resources, advocate peaceful alternatives to militarism and war, and support nonviolent direct actions that share the Quaker peace testimony with the world.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/peace.

Democracy

Quakers across Britain care about democracy because it embodies our testimonies to equality, peace, truth and simplicity. Quakers are concerned about the erosion of democratic principles such as integrity and the right to protest. We work to protect and promote democracy in the UK by campaigning against laws that threaten it and supporting efforts to strengthen human rights. We co-convene a network of civil society organisations that are working to safeguard the right to campaign, and we work with politicians to promote truth and integrity in public life.

Learn more at bit.ly/DemoBlogs.



Quakers and other interfaith protestors in Parliament Square Garden during Loss and Damage Action Day. Photo: Lydia Harrold



Friends holding a silent peace march in York as part of a Faith in Action Gathering. Photo: Dixé Wills for QiB

Supporting Quaker faith in action

Faith in Action

The Faith in Action team supports and creates connections among Quakers working for social and political change. Faith in Action coordinators work alongside locally-led community initiatives as well as national and international projects to share learning, skills and inspiration and to build community through networks and gatherings. We offer workshops, worship, phone chats, network meetings, strategy and planning skills-sharing, and shared spaces to reassure each other, find strength and celebrate together.

If you feel called to act, alone or with others, email faithinaction@quaker.org.uk to ask for support or to share your story of witness.

Housing

The Quaker Housing Trust (QHT) provides grants and loans to organisations that provide safe and secure homes for people at moments of transition in their lives. We rely on donations from Friends to support projects with high environmental standards that house refugees and asylum seekers, people

who have experienced street homelessness, addiction or have been trafficked, and younger people and older people as their housing needs change.

Learn more at qht.org.uk.

Grants

Money can be an important factor in turning faith into action. Through grants, Quakers in Britain funds international projects to relieve those affected by natural disasters, climate change, war or conflict. We also fund individuals in need of assistance and make financial support available to local groups engaging in activities or leadings that create the conditions in which peace can flourish.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/grant-making.



Peacebuilding projects – nonviolence and peacebuilding

Conciliation

Quakers are occasionally invited to provide quiet assistance in regions experiencing armed conflict. Historically, this work has taken place in Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland, Israel-Palestine and South Africa. We currently coordinate a group of appointed Quakers to support local conciliators in South Asia. Together they seek to develop nonviolent solutions to entrenched conflicts. Faith is at the heart of this work.

Learn more: bit.ly/QuakerConciliation.

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)

EAPPI gives ordinary people the opportunity to live for three months in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Participants stand in solidarity with local communities, monitor human rights abuses and advocate for change. EAPPI is nonviolent, non-partisan and guided by international law. We work for a future in which the military occupation of Palestine has ended, and Israelis and Palestinians enjoy equal rights, peace and security. EAPPI is an international programme run by the World Council of Churches. In the UK and Ireland it is managed by Quakers in Britain on behalf of 16 partners.

Learn more: quaker.org.uk/eappi.

Nonviolence and peacebuilding

– to Quakers they mean something more profound than mere non-violence and peace-building. Here are two definitions that attempt to capture the sense of them:

“Nonviolence is both without violence and against violence.”

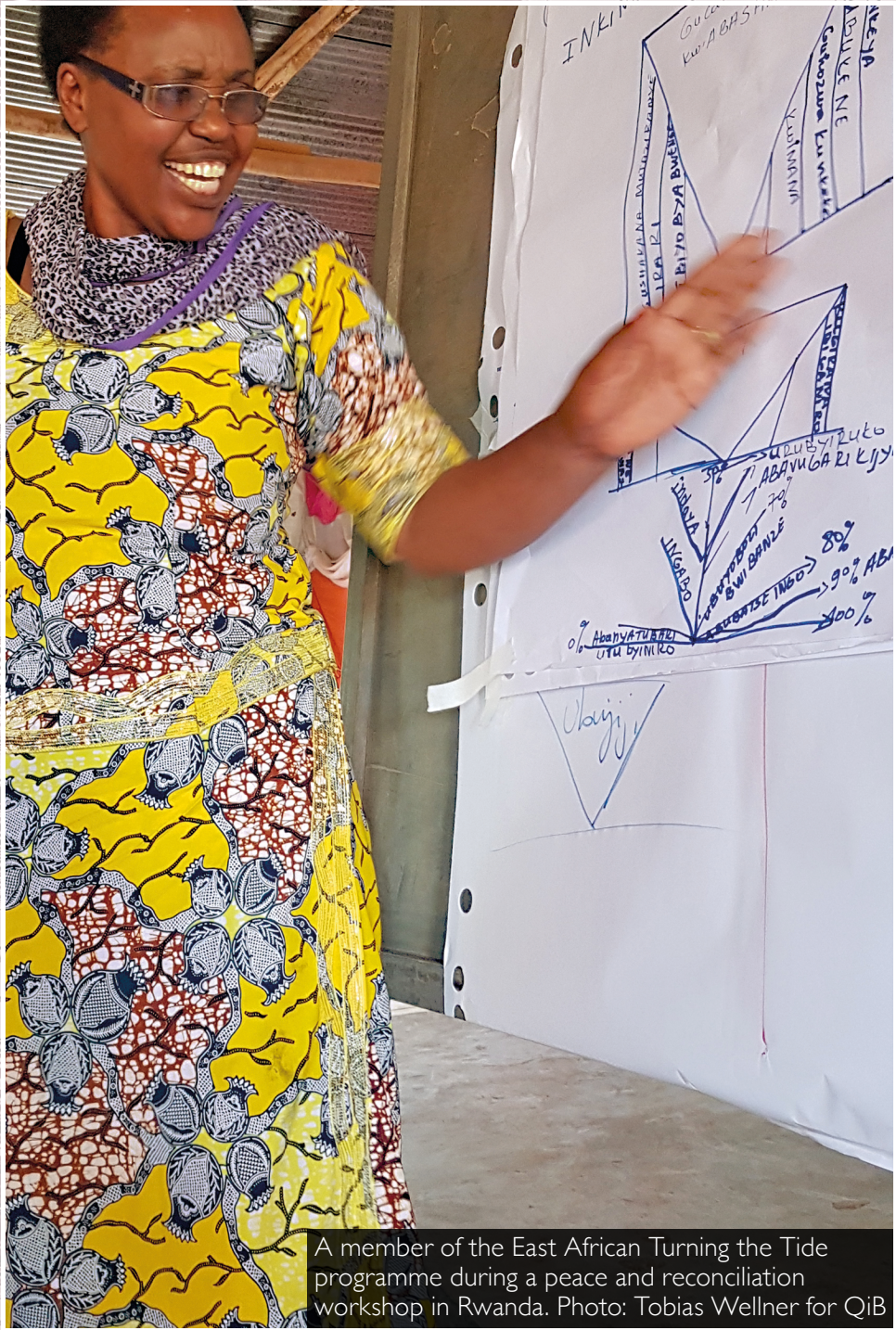
Dr Stellan Vinthagen,
Professor of Sociology,
University of Massachusetts

“Peacebuilding seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict, helping people to resolve their differences peacefully and lay the foundations to prevent future violence.”

Conciliation Resources
c-r.org



An Ecumenical Accompanier monitoring the detention of a Palestinian child at a military checkpoint near Hebron, in the occupied West Bank. Photo: EAPPI



A member of the East African Turning the Tide programme during a peace and reconciliation workshop in Rwanda. Photo: Tobias Wellner for QiB

Peacebuilding in Britain

Accompaniment lies at the heart of our approach to peacebuilding in Britain. Practically, this includes getting alongside those engaged in peacebuilding efforts such as community dialogue work and larger-scale conflict analysis and interventions. Quakers in Britain connects with peacebuilders where welcomed and offers 'heartful' accompaniment such as 1:1 listening support; 'thoughtful' accompaniment such as sharing analyses, tools and approaches; and 'hands-on' accompaniment such as practical help, facilitation and training. Quakers in Britain seeks to learn from East Africa colleagues and to reflect on how peacebuilding and nonviolence can be integrated.

Peacebuilding in East Africa

Quakers in Britain supports those working for peace and justice in East Africa. Through grants and accompaniment, we assist partners in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi who deliver locally rooted projects that combine peacebuilding and nonviolence approaches. It involves helping communities to challenge social injustices and respond to the

root causes of violence in order to build justice and a sustainable peace. Our partners carry out nonviolence training, campaign support and much more besides.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/east-africa.

Peace education

Our team helps children and young people find ways to champion nonviolence and build a more peaceful future. We work with teachers, volunteers, children and partners to nurture peace at different levels. To help embed peace we develop quality teaching materials and raise awareness of peace education approaches. This involves supporting and training teachers so that they can be confident peace educators; nurturing inner peace so that children value themselves; and providing the tools to enable them to become peacemakers. We also work in effective partnerships with universities, schools and civil society to strengthen and amplify the diverse movement for peace education.

Learn more at quaker.org.uk/peace-education.

Get involved

Monthly updates

Get regular updates on this work by signing up to the monthly Faith in Action newsletter at quaker.org.uk/faith-in-action-newsletter.

Events and workshops

Our staff expertise is available to all Quakers in Britain, at our events and on request. Faith in Action Gatherings are a chance for Quakers working for social change to meet up, learn and reflect on different aspects of witness. Staff can also be booked to give talks/facilitate workshops at your local or area meeting.

Accompaniment and networking

Quaker groups who wish to take action on any of the issues featured in this guide, but who are not sure where to start, can get support from our team. If you'd like to find other Quakers who are active on issues you care about, take a look at our activism map at bit.ly/QuakerMap. Email us at: faithinaction@quaker.org.uk.

A forum for Friends

Friends and supporters of Quakers in Britain have their own Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/QuakerSpace.

It's a forum for discussing faith, as well as events and issues that interest Quakers. Our aim is to create a supportive, friendly space where Friends and supporters can find community and share news and information.

Resources

We offer resources designed to help Quakers and others campaign for social change. These cover topics such as peace education and climate justice and how to plan actions and vigils. All our resources are freely available online at quaker.org.uk/our-work and we can post briefings, toolkits, leaflets and guides to Friends and meetings on request. Email qpsw@quaker.org.uk to request information from a programme or to ask what's available.

Volunteering opportunities with EAPPI

If you'd like to experience peacebuilding work first-hand, we invite you to apply to be a human rights monitor with the EAPPI programme.

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Summer School

Younger adults can apply to join the annual QUNO Summer School in Geneva. For more information, go to quano.org/quaker-united-nations-summer-school.



Young Quakers during a candlelit vigil to protest against the DSEI arms fair held at ExCel London. Photo: Michael Preston for QiB



A Friend standing in silence in Russell Square at the start of the DSEI Merchants of Death walking vigil. Photo: Michael Preston for QiB

How you can support our work

Uphold the work

Friends are warmly encouraged to uphold the work with their prayers and worship.

Give time

There are many ways Friends can get involved in our work. These include taking part in our current campaign actions; offering to serve on a Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) committee or subcommittee; or responding to requests for Friends with specific skills (such as communications or events) from the Quakers in Britain peace and social witness team

If time is tight but you'd like to serve, there are still important ways to help, such as signing a petition, sharing news or holding our work in the light.

Find out how to offer service at quaker.org.uk/quaker-service.

Give money

Donations enable us to make the world a more peaceful, just and sustainable place.

All gifts and fundraising efforts help us to turn faith into action. Follow this link or scan the QR code to donate: cafdonate.cafonline.org/24686.

Find out how to give at quaker.org.uk/giving.

We'd love to hear from you

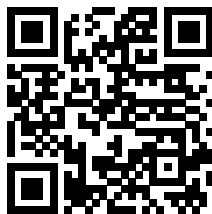
Quakers in Britain supports Quakers in Scotland, Wales and England who are passionate about social change. Get in touch to connect with our programmes, share news of witness work happening in your community or link up with active Quakers across the yearly meeting.

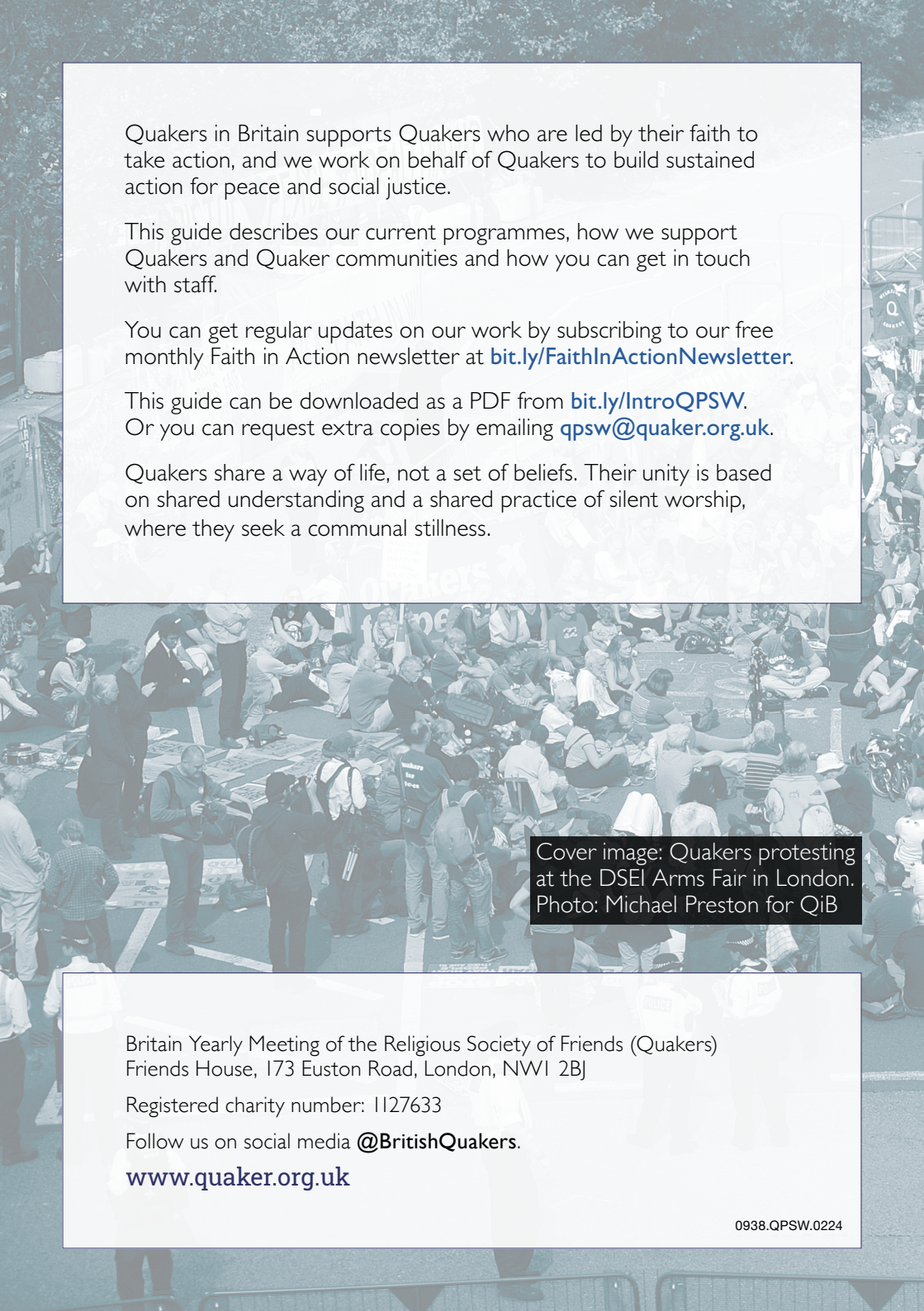
Email us at qpsw@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1000 to be put through to a member of staff.

Find out more

Sign up to Faith in Action, our monthly email newsletter, at quaker.org.uk/faith-in-action-newsletter.

Browse our work online at quaker.org.uk/our-work.





Quakers in Britain supports Quakers who are led by their faith to take action, and we work on behalf of Quakers to build sustained action for peace and social justice.

This guide describes our current programmes, how we support Quakers and Quaker communities and how you can get in touch with staff.

You can get regular updates on our work by subscribing to our free monthly Faith in Action newsletter at bit.ly/FaithInActionNewsletter.

This guide can be downloaded as a PDF from bit.ly/IntroQPSW. Or you can request extra copies by emailing qpsw@quaker.org.uk.

Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. Their unity is based on shared understanding and a shared practice of silent worship, where they seek a communal stillness.

Cover image: Quakers protesting at the DSEI Arms Fair in London.
Photo: Michael Preston for QiB

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Registered charity number: 1127633

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www.quaker.org.uk