



Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers) in Britain

Minutes

BYM Trustees' Reparation Working Group, June 2026

Thursday 4th June 13.00-16.00 on Zoom

2026.04.01 During our opening worship a passage from *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route* by Saidiya Hartman was read.

2026.04.02 Updates

Clerks Update

a. Reparations Working Group October Meeting. We confirmed that this would take place on 22 October at Friends House and online.

b. Acknowledgement & Apology Workstream. We agreed to establish a workstream to take forward work on seeking an acknowledgement of the harms British Quakers have caused and to draft an apology. The workstream membership will be MRJ, AM, PW, HM & people living with the legacies of enslavement or Quaker colonisation on Turtle Island and will include a Quaker from West Africa and people representing Caribbean societies. Friends are asked to suggest names.

Esta Nyeko-Lacek will provide the secretarial support.

c. Yearly Meeting Timeline. Following guidance from the APC we will provide a prepared ministry to introduce our work to Yearly Meeting in July 2026. In November 2026 we will invite Teresa Parker to provide a report on the RWG Conference on 23 October 2026 when the Historical and Theological Research Workstreams will present the outcomes of their research.

We anticipate being invited to present in 2027, dates to be settled in dialogue with the APC. The multi day session of Yearly Meeting is where special interest meetings will be held.

We ask the APC to consider enabling time for hearing ministry from Friends in November following the prepared ministry.

d. Network and Listening Workstream. We receive the notes of the meeting held on 28th May 2026. We note the plans to hold monthly online drop-in sessions from June 2026 for interested Friends and that this will be advertised in Quake. These sessions will be important in opening up a space for Friends to share questions. The plan is for lunchtime and evening sessions led by AF and EP.

We also look forward to sharing our work at the FWCC Global Conference in 2027.

A copy of the notes is attached to these minutes.

e. Update from Woodbrooke. We have received the update from Woodbrooke requesting our consideration of stage two of the Theological Workstreams work. We agreed:

1. the printing of 250 copies of the report.
2. that the three Woodbrooke courses should be offered as pay as led
3. that Woodbrooke would be invited to administer the bookings for conference which will be at Friends House and on line on 23 October 2026
4. the revised figure of £19,647 for part 2 of the Theological Research which includes the copies of the report agreed in point 1 and the administration of the bookings for the conference. This is an increase of £647 to the budget agreed in January 2025.
5. Friends attending the conference will be asked to make a donate £10 if possible
6. that those attending the conference at Friends House will be asked to pay as led for refreshments when booking
7. QiB staff will take responsibility for registration at Friends House on the day
8. the conference will be recorded.

f. The prepared ministry for July 18th 2026 Yearly Meeting. We have heard feedback from Friends and will revise and expand the document which will become a document in advance. We will work on a different document for spoken ministry. We will share on line with Friends and seek feedback.

2026.04.03 What might Reparation look like?

Reparation Proposal - An Advisory Board to look at Finance.

We hear questions about how this Advisory Group would fit into the broader framework of the RWG's ambitions which include more than financial reparation: we hope to repair relationship.

Members of the RWG would like to explore further how such a Board would relate to the workstreams.

Friends discussed restarting the Meeting for Worship by the Reparation Working Group and Public Meetings for Worship.

Questions include:

Do we start the Advisory Board soon and have it include the work of the other Workstreams?

Do we leave it separate and have it work with the existing workstreams?

Does it replace the financial workstream?

We will explore this further in our July meeting.

2026.04.04 We closed in worship at 16.10.

Clerked by Marghuerita Remi-Judah & Ann Morgan

Paper 1

Networking and Listening Meeting

28 May 2026, via Zoom

Notes

We began with a period of worship.

1. Matters arising from our previous meeting not covered elsewhere: none

2. Progress with NL road map since our previous meeting

Hezron updated us about his work on videos and FWCC Quaker Conversations.

. Videos: he has interviewed several Kenyan Friends about their current concerns in the light of historical injustice. In due course he will analyse the recordings to identify common themes and other key points. He aims to get more representation from women and younger Friends.

. Quaker Conversations: at their recent meeting FWCC's Central Executive Committee (CEC) agreed a process for following up on the 2024 World Plenary theme of *healing and repairing relationships in the light of historic and continuing injustices*. The plan is to send three queries to all YMs around the world. Responses will be fed into a Global Online Conference to be held in autumn 2027. Hezron circulated more information about the plan and the queries after the meeting, and this is attached to these notes.

. Conversations with Kenyan Friends: Rita noted that another conversation with Kenyan Friends is planned in November, in the light of correspondence with Friends Church Kenya, and others.

3. YM Groups Fair

Our stall was well-attended, and Debby/Esta/ Ann F had good conversations with 25-30 Friends, all of whom gave us their contact details and took our handout away with them. Key points from the handout were displayed as posters. The handout is attached to these notes. When we next communicate with AM clerks we will also copy in any relevant contacts we have made with individuals from their AMs.

4. Communication with AMs

In the past we have prioritised AMs as our channels of communication. However, it has become increasingly evident that even when an AM asks for RWG input, this usually only reaches a relatively small proportion of their members/attenders. And despite our efforts, many AMs have not approached us at all.

We will still persist with AMs, and plan another round of approaches, but we need other channels, such as QRBs and drop-in sessions (see 6 below). Also, in this next AM round, we will distinguish between those AMs with which we have had a meaningful interaction and those where we have not. What have those we've met been led to do, if anything, and would they like us to make an updating visit? Would those we haven't yet met welcome a visit now? LDWs may be able to help us here.

We ask Esta to consult Alistair Fuller about LDW involvement and support. 2

5. Communication at YM events

We have held Special Interest Meetings at each YM since we were established (2024,2025,2026). Each time there has been significant interest and thoughtful feedback from those present. This year we had a good presence at the Groups Fair, and this elicited thoughtful interactions (see 3 above).

This demonstrates the potential of opportunities for individual Friends to interact with us directly, and the short videos (see 6 below) and drop-in sessions (see 7 below) are ways of doing this. The conference in October will be another important channel.

For YM 2026-July, Ann M and Rita will speak in person in the prepared ministry slot. It is also hoped to have recorded ministry available, from Paul and Hezron. There will be no time for extended discussion, so material that people can draw on during YM and afterwards, as individuals or in groups, will be particularly valuable.

6. Short videos

Debby, Esta and Ayodele are working on plans for short videos on uncomfortable questions, and will be filming these in July. These will be resources for LDWs, and will also be on the website as an additional resource for anyone to use.

7. Drop in sessions

We plan to begin these sessions in June. They will be open to all British Friends, and will be advertised in Quake! They are intended to be opportunities for open conversations about reparation. People may come for many reasons - to hear more from us, to ask questions of us, to tell us what they think, to tell us what they are doing/thinking of doing and to ask what we are doing. We will also be able to share and test our current thinking.

We would like to arrange two or three of these each month until the end of the year. We ask Esta and Ann F to put a schedule together for June and July and report to RWG on 4 June. We will use a mix of lunchtime and evening slots. RWG members will come as they can.

8. Individual updates

Susan reported that the main action in London is raising money from London AMs in order to fund some research to give us an overview of London Quakers involvement in the transatlantic economy based on enslavement.

Esta reported that Christian Aid had recently prepared a resource called Faith in Repair, which she will circulate.

Chrissie reported that Quakers in Yorkshire plan a conference in early 2027.

Margaret reminded us of the enormous variety of contexts in which our meetings are situated. She is also hoping to bring Friends in 3 AMs together (Manchester, Hardshaw and Mann, East Cheshire, to explore reparation questions.

9. We concluded with a short period of worship.

Ann Floyd, NL Convenor

30 May 2026

FWCC Global Online Conference: Sowing Seeds of Justice

From 29 September to 3 October 2027, FWCC is planning a Global Online Conference, *Sowing Seeds of Justice*. This collaborative, global space for spiritual grounding and discernment will support Yearly Meetings to act upon their 2024 World Plenary Meeting commitments to heal and repair relationships in the light of historic and continuing injustices:

“We call on them (FWCC and Yearly Meetings) to begin by examining our own Quaker communities, to engage in dialogue across the FWCC Sections, to center the voices of those who have endured pain, to take action with and alongside allies, to educate and train ourselves, and to share reports of what Friends are doing so that we can learn from one another.”

Using the powerful imagery of the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23), FWCC invites the global Quaker family to a deep and Spirit-led exploration of our role in healing a world broken by the historic and ongoing harms of exploitation, colonialism, and slavery – and to move from reflection to action.

Yearly Meetings are asked to consider three queries ahead of the Global Online Conference:

1. What acts of injustice, prejudice and discrimination occurring in your communities could your Yearly Meeting be aware of and take action on?

We are called to name our grief in the face of climate and ecological breakdown and face that darkness through the Light with a deeper form of love. The spirit of Ubuntu, the power of community, can also drive us to dig deep into the pain and trauma of the world, to face up to the ongoing effects of historical injustice.

2. What learnings from our Quaker history are there that may be applicable to helping address current injustices and inequities?

Healing begins with sharing our stories, telling the truth, and listening deeply. There are truths which are uncomfortable to hear about Quaker involvement and complicity in past and present injustice. We need to build, or rebuild, trust. We pray that in trying to do the right thing, we do not do further damage. We draw inspiration and hope from the Bible, our Quaker values and examples that demonstrate and lead us to recognise, repent, redeem and restore.

3. How are you sowing seeds of justice, reconciliation and hope?

We need to identify and name the underlying causes of injustice in the world. Only then can we work for repair, through prayerful deep listening. Once we've named the issues, we need to listen to that of God in others, and only then speak our truth with humility, in ways which others can hear. As Friends we are called to action in the world, as individuals and as communities.

HANDOUT (GROUPS FAIR) YM 2026: BYM REPARATION GROUP (RWG)

(AS OF 3 MAY 2026)

REPARATION – WHY?

YM 2022, minute 27 (part): Love and justice require us to tell the truth as best we can about historical and contemporary injustices.

Love and justice also require us to consider deeply how the Society of Friends in Britain might make financial and other reparation...

YM 2022 minute 33 (part) We have heard ministry about the importance of true listening which pushes us to action. We have also heard encouragement to move forward with acknowledgment and apology... We have heard that Quakers and others are already taking forward work to understand how reparations might be made for the harms of the *transatlantic slave trade**, colonialism and economic exploitation, the trauma and impact of which is felt in the lives of Friends and others today. We can build upon the foundations laid by others and work with partners...We

ask trustees, Meeting for Sufferings, and AMs to consider how they, and we, could move forward..

RWG Terms of Reference

The principal objective of the group is to consider and Ron action to develop BYM's response to Minutes 27 and 33 of Yearly Meeting 2022, regarding financial and other reparations for the wrongs of the *transatlantic slave trade**, colonialism and economic exploitation.

Timescale

This handout summarises what RWG has done up until the end of April 2026.

Our report is due in the second half of 2027. There is still time for Friends to contribute to this work. Some ways of doing this are overleaf.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The Historical Workstream is researching and writing about Quaker involvement. One book is out, and another is in preparation.

The Theological Workstream is seeking to understand the theology used to justify this. Woodbrooke are preparing a report for us.

The financial workstream work is ongoing.

The Networking and Listening workstream is engaging with British Friends, with other faith groups, with MPs, and with Friends worldwide, many of whom are living with the legacy of historical and ongoing harms.

We have heard and considered several challenges to this work: e.g. there are more urgent priorities, there is poverty here, my ancestors had no connection with any of this...

A corporate apology?: Lancaster Central and North have issued an apology on their own behalf. RWG has not yet discerned a way forward.

WHAT IS REPARATION? Discernment so far suggests:

Reparation is a process, not a one-off event. We now use the singular (reparation), not the plural (reparations) to reflect this.

Reparation is a long-term commitment: 2027 is a milestone, not the end of the work.

Reparation is not just about money: we also need to work to understand the impact of the past on the present - racism, migration, economic exploitation, inequality, and global economic structures.

Reparation involves systemic change: it is about shifts in power.

Meaningful dialogue with those living with the legacy of historic harm is fundamental: reparative action must be rooted in this. We cannot and should not assume otherwise.

Reparation involves healing and building relationships - it is not a one-off transaction: this was an important strand in the August 2024 Friends World Plenary, in Johannesburg and online. We listened and we contributed.

Education is vital: through it we can correct historical narratives, tell powerful stories about experiences and consequent actions, and provide a framework in which discernment about action can take place .

WHAT ACTIONS MIGHT WE IN BRITAIN TAKE?

Corporately, as BYM: this is RWG's key task, and is ongoing.

Individual/local discernment as well as corporate discernment: individuals/groups can and should act and as they feel led, where they have capacity. There is no need to wait until

the overall corporate response has been agreed, but do let RWG know so we can build up a dossier of stories.

HOW YOU COULD HELP - You could:

Report back to your meeting/Quaker group

Organise a learning session: RWG would be happy to provide a speaker.

Talk with people you know who are living with the legacy of historic harms

Share with RWG any work your Quaker group has undertaken, or is considering

Join in with the online drop-in sessions we will be starting soon

Come to our conference (Truth and Repair: our Quaker Journey towards Justice) on October 23: it's about our historical and theological research

Contact details: Equity@quaker.org.uk