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

Minutes
BYM Reparation Working Group Meeting
22.10.2026 10.00 – 16.35 Elizabeth Fry Room, Friends House and on Zoom

2026.10.01 Opening Worship

During our opening worship 'Opening to love: Contemplative Practices for Decolonising Spirituality' – Althea Banda-Hansmann (Woodbrooke Course) was read.

2026.10.02 Reparation Proposal: Advisory Board

We continued discernment from our June meeting considering Paper 1 'What might Reparation Look Like?'

We had heard of regional advisory boards, of which some members would be Quakers, and we hoped to give autonomy to make reparation in the form of finance, provided it complies with our charitable purposes and law.

We heard the concerns of Friends.

Are Friends distancing themselves from reparation by giving the Advisory Board the autonomy to make decisions about giving funds?

This may be a conversation which the Advisory Board will have.
We heard a concern regarding communicating the idea to BYM as many Friends are not as far along the journey as we are. Identifying an appropriate time to take this to YM will be important.

The majority of Quakers will not be able to go along with this as we would be giving significant power to a small group. How they are selected is key. We still have no clear idea of how they are chosen, and they could come from anywhere in the world and reproduce the legacies of colonial education. We need clarity.

We have not yet got real understanding of what the board may do. We have heard that the agenda will be theirs. We need to empower

Friends who come to YM to take reparatory action. We need to be much clearer about this.

We envisage three kinds of work:
In the UK. Direct links with those experiencing the legacies of past British Quaker actions.
Quakers with direct links – working with descendants of the communities living with the legacy.
The general damage that we have done to areas of the world through colonialism.

We can look at restorative justice with the World Family of Friends. Some Friends want to know “What can I do?” “What can my Area Meeting do?”

In principle, the Advisory Board is a good idea, but taking YM with us will be the issue.

Deciding what is a reparatory action is not difficult; there are lots of people working on this. Quakers have not always got it right and should not make these decisions. We need to work with people experiencing the legacies outside the Quaker community and who are thinking of a big vision.

We need to have that discussion. There are huge visions coming forward from people who have already put together large visions. We need to hold onto the long-term vision and we may do something we have not done before. We need to join with these people. We have given access to our buildings for a long time, but we have not made it known that organisations can apply.

This can take place within our corporate community at the same time as working with those experiencing the legacy. We can go on this journey together. This would be a way of manifesting our commitment to equality and truth. We need to be brave.

Nothing is going to happen unless YM agrees so we need to be spreading the message that reparation is necessary. We really need to communicate that people need to buy into what the RWG is thinking. What is missing is bringing Friends with us.

We can speak with those who have had to deal with those who are not in favour of reparatory justice. We need to consider communication with the Advisory Board. We do need to tap into the work already being undertaken. We do not need to invent new ways of working.

It is too early to take this idea of an Advisory Board to YM. We need to request funds and identify who will carry on our work when we are laid down.

We are reminded that Edwina will still be in post and that will provide continuity.

We need to spend next year gathering ideas and then identify what we might suggest.

What would be good would be to get an apology. We have the FWCC conference next year, when we can have some conversations about how this work may be carried on.

We are looking for generational change. We are reminded of the Bible: when the Israelites left Egypt, not all saw the end of the journey.

We are asking for an acknowledgement in November. In May of next year and November we may be able to reach an apology.

We need to continue to attend conferences and report on them on the website. We can do blog posts. We need to communicate what we have learnt on our journey. We need to take the opportunity the FWCC World Plenary offers in September 2027.

We hope to provide a paper at the final RWG meeting in November 2027.
Can we work together to provide a one-page document which Friends can use to have conversations with their meetings? If we take it to the Plenary, we will get people from other areas of the world.

It would be preferable to get an apology prior to going to the World Plenary in September and invite Friends to join with us to be the bridge between us and the Advisory Board.

What we want to do must be uniquely Quaker.

We will return to this in 2027.

2026.10.03 Trustees Annual Report

We accepted the draft Annual Report prepared by the Co-Clerks with minor adjustments building on the discernment we have had earlier in this meeting.

2026.10.04 Preparation for Conversations with Kenyan Friends

We have considered the draft report provided by Oscar Malande. We understand that the report is still going through a peer review by two female Kenyan academics. This is a very powerful and authoritative report. The documentation of the way early British Quakers viewed and wrote about Africans and the continent of Africa makes discomforting reading.

The AI assisted document identifying the mission work carried out by both American & British Friends in Kenya, we hope, will enable American Friends to join us in the conversations with Kenyan Friends. We note that this work was undertaken in a British colony. We hope this will encourage American Friends to start their research. We will wait for the Historical Research discernment in October to determine if this paper will be used.

These papers will first be shared with Kenyan Quakers and then with American Friends.

We are awaiting a paper from Kenyan Friends and trust that it will be with us in time to prepare to meet with them in the second week of November.

The listening process is going to be very important so that we can identify where we all are on this journey.

2026.10.05 Updates

2026.10.05a Microsoft 365 Guest Acceptable use Policy

Friends are urged to read this policy and send any concerns to Esta by the end of October. Esta will compile replies for our November RWG meeting.

2026.10.05b Conference briefing

We had an excellent conference briefing session last week with Elder, Pastoral Friends, presenters and Clerks where we addressed minor concerns, so we hope for a very good conference tomorrow.

We have found a small number of people who are not members of QRBs or area meetings and others who are staff of QRBs wishing to attend. We have 100 people attending at Friends House and 130 online.

If a person arrives at the building who has not previously registered, they will be registered and admitted if they are Quakers or are involved with a QRB.

2026.10.05c Process for QiB accepting Historical Research

Discussions are taking place around what processes the Historical Research has to go through to be accepted by Quakers in Britain. All has been shared with local and Area meetings and some has been published.

We will discuss the process with Friends in the Historical Research Meeting on Wednesday 28th October.

2026.10.05d Trustees Workshop

The Co-Clerks have been invited to meet with the QiB Trustees on Monday evening. We are using the document in advance that we prepared for July Yearly Meeting and the RWG annual report to the Trustees agreed in minute 2026.10.03.

2026.10.05e Swarthmore Lecture

The Clerks have submitted a proposal to the Swarthmore Lecture Committee. The Clerks are invited to meet the committee in 2027.

2026.10.05f Film proposal

Robert Beckford and Sheila Mars of Birmingham University, who made the After the Flood film, have suggested that we make a film of our journey. The initial cost they estimate to be 60K. We are discussing with staff in Quaker life how this might be met as it could be used for outreach.

2026.10.05g Engaging Quaker Trusts, Foundations and Quaker Recognised Bodies

We have this in our annual plan for 2027. This will enable us to share what we are leaving behind when we are laid down. The final session at the conference tomorrow will touch on this.

2026.10.05h Venue for January RWG 1.5 day meeting and diary for 2027

We ask Esta to investigate St Catherine's College, London for the January meeting.
We will not meet in October 2027.

2026.10.05i RWG presence at YM in 2027

February, May, July and November. We will have a presence during the yearly meetings in May and November. In February and July we hope to provide opportunities for Friends to discuss reparation. In July we may arrange visits to, for example, the Wilberforce Museum. The Clerks will liaise with the APC.

Clerked by Ann Morgan & Marghuerita Remi-Judah