



How to email your MP about the police raid on Westminster Meeting House

This document is designed to help you email your MP about the police raid on Westminster Meeting House.

If you only have five minutes, you can choose some suggested text in the template email below, add your name and contact details and email it to your MP. You can find your MP's details on <https://members.parliament.uk/findyourmp>.

If you would like to personalise your email more, you can find some more information about the police raid at the bottom of this document. Feel free to still use the template email below as a starting point, or to write your own email using this information.

Email template

Find your MP's email address using <https://members.parliament.uk/findyourmp> then copy the words below into an email to them. **Make sure to edit the sections highlighted in pink – your MP's name, your personal reasons for getting in touch, and your own name and address.**

Dear [your MP's name],

Following the police raid on Westminster Quaker Meeting House that occurred on the 27th March, I'm emailing to ask that you support scrapping the sections of the Public Order Act and Policing Act that restrict people's rights to peaceful protest. On Thursday 3rd April, 300 people joined a peaceful Quaker Meeting for Worship outside New Scotland Yard, 300 more joined on Zoom, and 11 other actions in support took place around the country. I'm writing to join that statement of support for those affected by the raid on a place of worship, and to ask that you respond by defending the right to nonviolent protest.

Add some personal detail about why you care about this issue. You can copy one of the three possible paragraphs below, or add your own words.

From a Quaker perspective:

As a Quaker, I am deeply concerned by the use of expanded police powers to justify raiding a place of worship, and to arrest people simply for gathering to discuss nonviolent action. Quakers are committed to peace, equality, truth and sustainability. These testimonies spring from our conviction as a faith community that there is that of God in everyone, and that we can connect to this divine presence through shared silence and stillness. Quaker Meeting Houses are places

where we gather for that shared silence in the presence of God; they are also places where we support those who are upholding our testimonies through nonviolent action on climate, peace, or other concerns. It is upsetting to see such a space violated by heavy-handed and disproportionate policing.

From an interfaith perspective:

Although I am not a Quaker, as a person of faith I am deeply concerned by the use of expanded police powers to justify raiding a place of worship, and to arrest people simply for gathering to discuss nonviolent action. Many faiths share with the Quakers a commitment to treating all people with kindness and holding human life as sacred. This has led to a rich history of nonviolent interfaith action for peace, and to many connections between our faith communities, including many non-Quaker faiths joining the Quaker Meeting for Worship at New Scotland Yard. It is upsetting to see a place of worship violated by heavy-handed and disproportionate policing.

From a non-faith perspective:

Although I am not a Quaker, I am deeply concerned by the use of expanded police powers to justify raiding a place of worship, and to arrest people simply for gathering to discuss nonviolent action.

Quakers are committed to peace, equality, truth and sustainability. This has led to a rich history of nonviolent action for peace and equality; Quakers were integral to movements such as women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery. Today, Quakers continue to take nonviolent action across a range of concerns, led still by those core commitments and their belief that there is that of God in everybody. It is upsetting to see their place of worship, a space that they use for peaceful organising, violated by heavy-handed and disproportionate policing.

This raid was enabled by expanded powers given to the police under the Public Order Act 2023 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, powers that the current Crime and Policing Bill seeks to expand even further. In the years since these powers were introduced, Quakers in Britain and many others have been campaigning to protect the right to protest. We recognise that we are not alone in being affected by these powers; other protesting groups and voices have faced much harsher policing in the course of nonviolent action. Now that we have seen such a clear illustration of how restrictive these laws are, will you support changing them to ensure people's right to peaceful protest?

I look forward to hearing your views.

Many thanks,

[Your name]

[Your address, so the MP knows you're from their constituency]

- Please let us know that you've emailed your MP, and if you get a response, by emailing politics@quaker.org.uk.
- Once you've edited the text above, put it into an email for your MP, pressed send and let us know, you're done! Thank you for emailing your MP.

More information

Why we're writing to MPs about the police raid on Westminster Meeting House and what we're asking for

On 27 March 2025, more than 20 uniformed police, some equipped with tasers, forced entry into Westminster Quaker Meeting House, in central London, breaking the lock on the door.

They arrested six young people who were attending what had been advertised as a 'welcome meeting' for Youth Demand, an activist group taking action on climate issues and Palestine. This was not a Quaker meeting for worship, but a separate meeting by an external group who had hired one of the rooms. Quakers have a long history of using their buildings and rooms to support people to organise for social justice, peace and climate action.

The police said the raid happened because Youth Demand have stated an intention to 'shut down' London over the month of April using tactics including 'swarming' and 'road blocks'. The 6 young women have now been released on bail, except for one, who has been released without charge. Quakers have been supporting them since their arrest.

We're writing to MPs because this heavy-handed and disproportionate raid was enabled by the punitive anti-protest laws that Quakers and others have been campaigning against for years.

New legislation was passed in 2022 and 2023 (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023), which gave police much greater power to decide that a protest action is illegal, and therefore to close it down or make arrests. The use of these laws to justify raiding a place of worship sets a deeply concerning precedent, and illustrates what Quakers and many others were already saying: that these laws are a threat to free speech and the right to protest.

If you'd like to support by emailing your MP, please make sure to ask that they support scrapping the sections of the Public Order Act and Policing Act that restrict people's right to peaceful protest.

Please also let us know that you've emailed your MP, and if you get a response, by emailing politics@quaker.org.uk.