

Sanctuary Everywhere

QCEA / QPSW CONFERENCE
Brussels • 1 – 3 December 2017



FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER

The conference venue and accommodation - which are in the same building - will be open from 16:00 for registration, where refreshments will be provided. You are welcome to join us from then onwards.

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Welcome from QPSW and QCEA

20:10 **The history of Friends' work in Europe (1914-1961)**

Dale Andrew (France Yearly Meeting)

Friends in the first half of the 20th century were incredibly active defenders of peace and human rights. How is their important work relevant to us today? With an initial response from Kate McNally (QCEA).

21:40 Epilogue

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

07:30 Meeting for Worship (optional)

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 **Keynote address: "What role for Friends in building sanctuary everywhere?"**

Marigold Bentley, Head of Peace Programme and Faith Relations, Quakers in Britain

Quaker organisations share the common goal of aiming to build communities and societies where everybody feels safe. What concrete steps are being taken to this end?

10:30 Break

11:00 **Keynote address: "How to keep societies in Europe open?
Populism, authoritarianism and their antidotes"**

Heather Grabbe, Executive Director, Open Society European Policy Institute

Europe is currently experiencing a wave of populist politics built on xenophobia, Euroscepticism and fear. What can be done to reverse this worrying trend?

12:30 Lunch, *followed by free time*

15:30 **The work of Quaker agencies on forced migration**

*Tim Gee (QPSW), Sylvain Mossou (QCEA) and Stephen Browne (Quaker UN Office)
Facilitated by Bridget Walker (Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network)*

A series of short presentations and a panel discussion will explore what Quaker institutions are doing on behalf of those seeking refuge from current conflicts.

16:45 **Workshop sessions #1 ***

17:45 Break

18:00 **Workshop sessions #2 ***

19:00 Dinner

20:15 **Action forum: A time to share your local or individual projects**

21:30 Epilogue

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

- 07:30 Meeting for Worship (optional)
- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 **Small groups: Reflection - where are we now, and what are we taking away with us?**
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 **Closing plenary: “Faith and hope”**
A practical session to explore how we can do what love requires of us, and how to overcome the fear to act when it can be difficult to do so.
Facilitator TBC
- 11:30 Meeting for Worship
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 End of conference

After lunch, the conference comes to an end. However, if your travel arrangements mean that you will be spending Sunday afternoon in Brussels, you are welcome to join us for the following free activities. If you wish to do so, we recommend you bring your luggage with you and collect it from Quaker House at the end of the day.

14:30 **Visit to Quaker House Brussels**

See QCEA's offices in person and learn more about this beautiful art nouveau house, followed by a walk past the EU headquarters en route to our next stop.

15:30 **Visit to the House of European History**

Opened earlier this year, the House of European History is a major museum dedicated to the common history shared by all Europeans. It tells the “shared story” of Europe through hundreds of artefacts and events dating from antiquity to the present day.

Attendees are free to spend as much time at the museum as they wish and can return to Quaker House (10 minutes' walk) to collect their bags once they have finished.

NOTES

** The Saturday workshop sessions will consist of thematic presentations and group activities on a range of relevant issues. Each workshop will be run twice to allow attendees to attend their two preferred sessions. The exact content of the workshops will be confirmed at a later date.*

All times are Brussels time (GMT+1).

Details of venues and how to reach them by public transport will be provided prior to the event.