

Sanctuary Everywhere

QCEA / QPSW CONFERENCE

Chant d'Oiseau Centre, Avenue des Franciscains 3A, 1150 Brussels



Saturday 2 December

09:00 **Keynote address: “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

-- Extended Break --

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 (see following page)**

17:45 Break

18:00 **Workshop sessions #2 (see following page)**

continued overleaf

Workshop sessions

On Saturday afternoon, a range of focused workshops will be held in order to allow attendees to get a more detailed insight into topics of interest to them. Each workshop will run twice (at 16:45 and 18:00) so that attendees can take part in their two preferred sessions.

Please find a brief outline of each workshop below.

- 1 Building a non-violent movement in East Africa (Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda)**

QPSW's *Turning the Tide* project in East Africa aims to spread the idea of achieving social change through active nonviolence by giving citizens and local organisations tools to address conflicts peacefully. Tobias Wellner (QPSW), will discuss what we can learn from African peace activists on how to build a movement for change.
- 2 City of Sanctuary - hospitality versus hostility**

In this workshop we will look at some of the indicators of the "hostile environment" towards asylum-seekers which is sweeping across Europe, and consider how the British model of "City of Sanctuary" and some of the strategies adopted within this network can provide a counter-balance. Led by David and Barbara Forbes.
- 3 Making the case for peacebuilding**

QCEA's Peace Programme engages European officials and governments to rethink responses to security challenges in the world. Dilia Zwart and Olivia Caeymaex (QCEA) will lead a discussion on how different sectors of government, such as justice, economy and agriculture, can contribute to building peace.
- 4 Migration and human rights in Europe**

Sylvain Mossou and Kate McNally (QCEA) will explain the different aspects of QCEA's Human Rights Programme. We will focus on our work to promote alternatives to child immigration detention, and ways for refugees to find safety. We will also explain our recent research on anti-migrant hate speech on European newspaper websites, and ways in which European Friends are working together in practical projects.
- 5 Quaker gender and sexual diversity community - helping LGBTQI+ people to thrive**

Zemirah Moffat and Rob Francis will introduce the UK's Quaker Gender and Sexual Diversity Community. They will share about their recent event *Finding our Voice, Growing our Community*, and consider questions including:

 - What do we and other LGBTQI+ people need to be safe and to thrive, and why would an LGBTQI+ person not feel safe in certain parts of Europe?
 - How can we support ourselves and other LGBTQI+ people to safely thrive?
 - How can we manage differences and conflict within our communities and help prevent polarisation and violence?
- 6 Sanctuary Meetings - a project of Quakers in Britain**

QPSW's Tim Gee, author of the book *Counterpower: Making Change Happen*, will present QPSW's work on forced migration, including information about Sanctuary Meetings in the UK. What can individual Meetings do to offer sanctuary, regardless of their location - and how does this interact with QPSW's work at the national level?