

Spreading the word

How to talk about QCEA and our work



Quaker
Council for
European
Affairs

This document has been created to help you speak effectively about QCEA and what we do, both informally and in the context of a Meeting for Worship. You can find additional resources, including a Powerpoint presentation to accompany this document, at www.qcea.org/resources.

Key talking points

- As a major economic and diplomatic actor, the European Union (EU) has an influence on many aspects of our lives, as well as the world around us. This is true whether your country is an EU member or not.
- The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) was established in 1979 to provide a Quaker presence in Brussels – the heart of EU decision-making.
- QCEA seeks to influence EU policies in accordance with Quaker values. We do this through —
 - **research** into particular policy areas, providing a base of evidence for what we believe which will help us to convince others;
 - **advocacy**, which involves building relationships with EU staff and other relevant actors to make the case for a particular set of policies;
 - **quiet diplomacy**, bringing people together for discreet discussions in order to explore potential solutions to political challenges.
- QCEA's work is divided into two programmes —
 - our **peace programme** works to promote conflict resolution by non-violent means, such as through EU-backed civilian engagement;
 - our **human rights programme** promotes the adoption of more humane migration policies, e.g. ending the practice of detaining child migrants.
- QCEA brings a vital Quaker perspective on these matters, bringing a message of non-violence and human dignity to European policymaking at a time of increasing polarisation, harsh rhetoric and a hardening of hearts.
- QCEA relies on the support of individual Friends and Quaker Meetings. We receive no EU or government funding, allowing us to speak with integrity. Over half of our income comes from small donations.

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Success stories

- Unfortunately, many children in Europe are detained simply because of their migration status. In order to speak out against this practice, QCEA undertook research which led to us providing some of the most accurate and complete statistics on the phenomenon available in Europe.
- Our peace programme published a report, *Building Peace Together*, which provides eighty real-world examples of “civilian peacebuilding”. The report is now used in the training of German diplomats working on stabilisation in post-conflict settings, and has helped us to bring military staff to the table in order to discuss alternatives to armed conflict resolution.
- In advance of the 2019 European elections, we launched an online campaign against anti-migrant hate speech called *#ChooseRespect*. The campaign provides a “toolkit” for internet users to help them respond constructively to xenophobic speech online. Our work was endorsed by Twitter and ultimately reached thousands of people during the election campaign.
- QCEA is one of the few organisations in Brussels working on both peace *and* human rights. This allows us to bridge gaps between other organisations so that like-minded groups can act more effectively. This was recently illustrated by a joint statement concerning the EU’s budget negotiations, which was signed by around 120 civil society groups with QCEA’s help.

How to give - and why it matters

- 100% of donations received are spent on QCEA’s important work.
- QCEA relies on the support of individual Friends and Quaker Meetings. We receive no EU or government funding, allowing us to speak with integrity. Over half of our income comes from small donations.
- If you’ve already donated to QCEA in the past – thank you. Every penny really does make a difference. Perhaps you’d consider giving once again? Even a couple of pounds or euros more is of enormous benefit to our work.
- Individuals and Meetings can donate to QCEA in a variety of ways. Information on how to do so is available at www.qcea.org/donate.
- It is also possible to become a “QCEA Supporter” for £40 / €40 per year. This includes a print subscription to our newsletter as well as invitations to QCEA events such as our Study Tours to Brussels. www.qcea.org/support.

Learn more

- The latest news about QCEA’s work is available via our website (www.qcea.org) and our Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Individuals and Meetings can subscribe to our regular newsletter, *Around Europe*, via our website. Printed subscriptions are also available.
- For further questions, or to request copies of our publications, please contact us at office@qcea.org.