



Quaker  
Council for  
European  
Affairs

around  
europe

ISSUE 389 • JUN — NOV 2021

# PEACE NEEDS PRACTICE



COVER IMAGE: ARTEM PODREZ VIA PEXELS

**PAGE 7**  
Peace  
education  
conference

**PAGE 11**  
QCEA input in  
OHCHR report

**PAGE 4**  
Changes in  
QCEA staff



## Social action against the DSEI arms fair in London

On 14-17 September, one of the world's biggest arms fairs took place in London. Quakers and other activists were protesting, blocking the several entrances of the arms fair and advocating for disarmament and peace. Our head of peace programme Atiaf Alwazir travelled to London to witness the protests and take a nonviolent stance against the arms trade. Despite the pouring rain, women protested by laying on the ground in front of the entrance to block it.

The arms fair, organised by the UK government, takes place every two years. This year, several regimes which are on the Foreign Office's list of countries of concerns for human rights violations, were invited.

Image on the left page and to the right: Impressions of social action against the DSEI arms fair in London  
PHOTOS: ATIAF ALWAZIR



For more information about the action against the arms fair in the UK, you can visit the website of the Peace Pledge Union [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk) and [www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk](http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk).

## Europe in brief

### New IPCC climate report speaks clear language: We need to get used to weather-related catastrophes

In a [report](#) published on 9 August, the world's top scientists for the first time linked greenhouse gas emissions to the type of disasters driven by a warmer climate. Today, the atmosphere is 1.1 degrees Celsius hotter than it was in the pre-industrial era. But the future looks even grimmer: There is no scenario in which the world can avoid breaching the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, which the US, EU, and several other countries have set as their target, says the report.

The [message](#) from scientists about the latest disasters is simple yet devastating: We need to get used to them. The research shows that nations must start active preparations to withstand the weather disasters as they will only grow worse unless the emissions from fossil fuels are eliminated. The extreme events which are observed around the globe lately are happening in such quick and rapid succession that scientists have barely enough time to recalibrate their models to predict the future and the measures necessary.

#### Is there any good news?

[Piers Forster](#), professor of Physical Climate Change and director of the Priestley International Centre for Climate at the University of Leeds, says that researchers have "much stronger confidence" that rapidly lowering greenhouse gas emissions would mean "temperature rise can still be limited to 1.5C."

We now have to hope and campaign so that governments, companies, and humans worldwide can meet this challenge together.

### Belarus weaponises irregular migrants in response to EU sanctions

Belarus has gotten criticism from Brussels after relaxing border controls with neighbouring countries, knowingly facilitating the entry of irregular migrants. This has been interpreted as a retaliatory reaction to EU sanctions imposed on Belarus after the country forced a Ryanair plane to land on Minsk with the purpose of arresting a Belarusian dissident. Belarus' move is akin to recent examples wherein migrants have been 'weaponised' for political leverage, such as in a recent incident between Morocco and Spain.

In response to larger groups of migrants coming to Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland, the EU promised to send [Frontex](#) officers to support border patrols, while Lithuania and Latvia declared a country-wide state of emergency. Just hours after Latvia's state of emergency declaration, reports emerged of migrants being shouted at by Latvian guards, intimidated with patrol dogs, and pushed back into Belarusian territory. In parallel, Poland and Lithuania announced plans to extend their respective barbed wire border [fences](#). All the while, Lithuania announced plans to build their own 500 kilometre fence along the Belarusian border.

Migrants' rights groups continue to demand rights-based approaches to migration that ensure respect for fundamental rights instead of continuing to promote militarised approaches that reduce migrants to pawns in a geopolitical game.



### US weapons and equipment in the hands of the Taliban

After the withdrawal of US-American and other troops from Afghanistan and the takeover of the country by the Taliban, the latter have taken [control](#) of very large quantities of American-made weapons and equipment. The material includes small arms, pickup trucks, aircrafts, and drones. As of now, the exact quantities are unknown. Local experts are concerned that a large arsenal of weapons and equipment will circulate in the region for years to come and support violence. Colin Clarke, director of policy and research at The Soufan Group, is very confident that "some of this equipment is going to end up in the hands of al Qaeda and other bad actors." Meanwhile, the US government seems to have severe problems with taking inventory of all of the equipment which have been surrendered.

### Youth4Climate Summit

About 400 young climate activists met in Milan for the [Youth4Climate Summit](#) to participate in fast-paced working groups to develop concrete proposals for climate action. These proposals will be presented to the Ministers attending the Pre-COP and COP26. Vanessa Nakate demanded the instauration of a loss and damage funding stream for countries which are most affected by climate change, especially in the Global South. In her speech she cited a recent World Bank report, which warns that we could see up to 86 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa displaced due to rising sea levels, food scarcity, desertification, and declining fresh water. The UN also warned that Madagascar is on the brink of the world's first climate change famine.



PHOTO: JOSH BARWICK

Greta Thunberg held a [speech](#) at the event in which she made a connection between the climate crisis and colonialist exploitation and ongoing extractivist policies. She urged governments to focus on root causes.



### Situation in Afghanistan abused as reason to push for European Defence Union

Josep [Borrell](#), High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, argued that the fall of Kabul shows that the bloc needs to form its own army to become more independent. He predicted what eventually did become true: That the EU member states will struggle to complete evacuations before US forces withdraw from the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. Borrell announced that the European Commission "will propose to give the Union a 50 000-strong expeditionary force, capable of acting in circumstances like we are seeing in Afghanistan." This would mean another dangerous step towards further militarisation of the EU.

In a similar fashion, at the last State of the EU Address, Ursula von der [Leyen](#) said that the failure in Afghanistan has, in her opinion, given a new impetus for a cohesive European military strategy. "In the past years we have started developing a kind of European defence ecosystem, but what we need now is a European Defence Union", she said.

Von der Leyen said she and French President Emmanuel Macron will convene a European Defence Summit in the first half of 2022, during the French presidency of the Council of the EU. However, von der Leyen has not given any specifics about her vision for what such a Defence Union would look like yet.

Criticism of those proposals comes from two directions: Peace organisations which are warning that a European Defence Union would make the EU more militaristic, and Eastern European and more NATO-reliant EU member states which argue that the proposals will end up to be a duplication in manpower and money.



Since 1979, the Quaker Council for European Affairs has worked to bring a vision based on the Quaker commitment to peace, justice and equality to Europe and its institutions.



## Goodbye Clémence, welcome Saskia!

Dear Around Europe readers!

My name is Saskia and I am honoured to join QCEA as the new peace programme assistant. I hope to be able to continue the great work of my predecessor Clémence and support Atiaf, the head of the peace programme, to bring forward a more inclusive and bold vision of the peace we all long for.

I have cultivated an eclectic set of interests in both my personal and professional life. I have an academic background in Fine Arts, International Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Migration. As an art student, I explored the therapeutic potential of creativity in mitigating the effects of trauma and displacement, and as an – often overlooked – peacebuilding tool. I then went on to complete a BA in International Studies and a MA in Migration Studies, while volunteering in a number of community-led initiatives to support migrants along migration routes in Turkey, France and Spain. In the past I have worked for the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), the Spanish Red Cross and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

My personal vision of peace is one in which we come together in our shared vulnerability, and learn from each other to act as stewards of the natural world and

future communities. I am passionate about imagining non-punitive and regenerative forms of responding to harm or disagreement, as well as nurturing synergies between diverse social justice causes and communities.

In my role as a peace programme assistant, I will support a range of ongoing QCEA projects. Particularly, I will be leading a new storytelling series bringing attention to the experiences of people facing climate and environmental injustice in highly militarised spaces, be it as a result of state-sanctioned extractivist policies or conflict-driven ecocide. With this series, we hope to move beyond victimisation discourses that often disempower the communities affected, and towards an acknowledgement of the work communities and individuals continue to do to protect the natural world, even when all the odds are against them.

I look forward to the exciting months ahead!

In solidarity, Saskia



Dear readers of Around Europe.

In April 2019 I joined QCEA as the new peace programme assistant. It was my first ‘real’ job and I felt very lucky as a young professional to join an organisation whose values I deeply share. Before that, I sometimes felt a bit lonely, especially in France, where when explaining why as a pacifist I truly believe that military solutions are never the right answer, I was being called naïve or idealistic. But, over the past two years I have been convinced more than ever that there is nothing wrong with being an idealist, as highlighted by my colleague Laetitia Sédou from ENAAT at a 2021 Event about the arms trade: *“It is thanks to idealistic people that we have today democracy in Europe. The utopias and the ideals of yesterday have become a reality on a good number of issues especially in Europe.”*

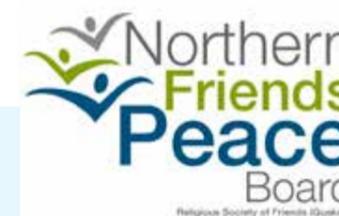
I feel very grateful to have been part of this community for the past two years, highlighting civilian alternatives to peacebuilding, looking at the root causes of conflicts and injustices, promoting a new vision and narrative on security, and more than anything not being afraid to be bold and to start uncomfortable conversations.

In only two years I have been able to do so many different things: Contributing to the publication of a

mediation report, a gender guide, a climate report, co-organising events with YPPF (Young Professionals in Foreign Policy), participating in meetings with policymakers, civil society, activists, and the Quaker Community, and of course organising the peace education conference in May 2021, after working on the project for two years. As a young professional I feel very privileged because QCEA really took a chance on me, gave me a lot of freedom, and trusted me enough to talk in its name in important meetings such as at the European Parliament or at a peace education event in Ukraine.

I am very excited for the next steps of my (young) career but I am already missing QCEA and especially my colleagues. I truly hope I will find such a friendly and caring atmosphere in my next position.

Clémence



**Save the date:**

**Is COP26 enough?**

**Putting justice and community resilience at the heart of our climate response.**

An interactive event hosted by QCEA with the Northern Friends Peace Board.

At this event we hope to offer approaches to bridge the gap between policy and actions in communities and share some newly-gathered global stories of climate action and resilience in communities affected by the climate crisis. Additionally, we will draw out the outcomes from COP26 in relation to climate and peace and reflect together, create, support, and promote actions that can make a difference.

**Saturday 29 January 2022 by Zoom video conferencing,**

**11 am - 12:30 am CET, which is 10 am - 11:30 BST.**

Please **register** using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4f7h6te8>

In the case of any questions, please email Saskia at [saskia.basa@qcea.org](mailto:saskia.basa@qcea.org).

# Staff changes, the work goes on

Five years have passed since we committed QCEA to maximise its impact through 'Quiet Diplomacy.' Focussing on peace and human rights, QCEA has sought to be an effective advocate for Quaker values, devoting at least one full-time staff member to each. During these five years there have been changes in staff, but their commitment to effective advocacy has been a constant.

Over the last several months Timmon Wallis has been working as Director. He brought to QCEA a rich experience of working with peace organisations, campaigning, and advocacy. During the continuing period where staff had to work from home, Timmon and his wife Vicky kept Quaker House as a focal point, ready to

welcome people who might not otherwise meet when once more conditions permit. Timmon, like Andrew Lane and earlier representatives, is now moving on, and we are gearing up to seek a fresh head for QCEA's work.

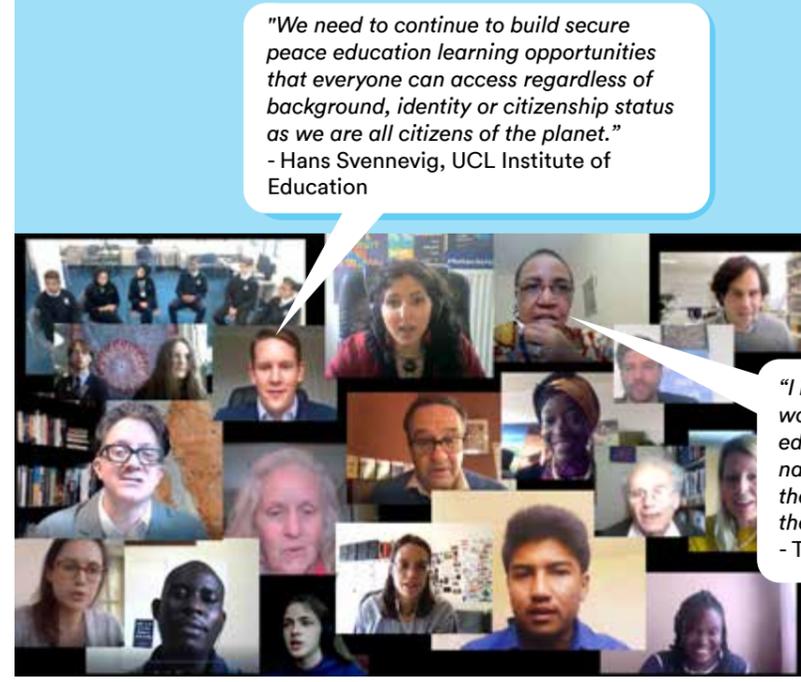
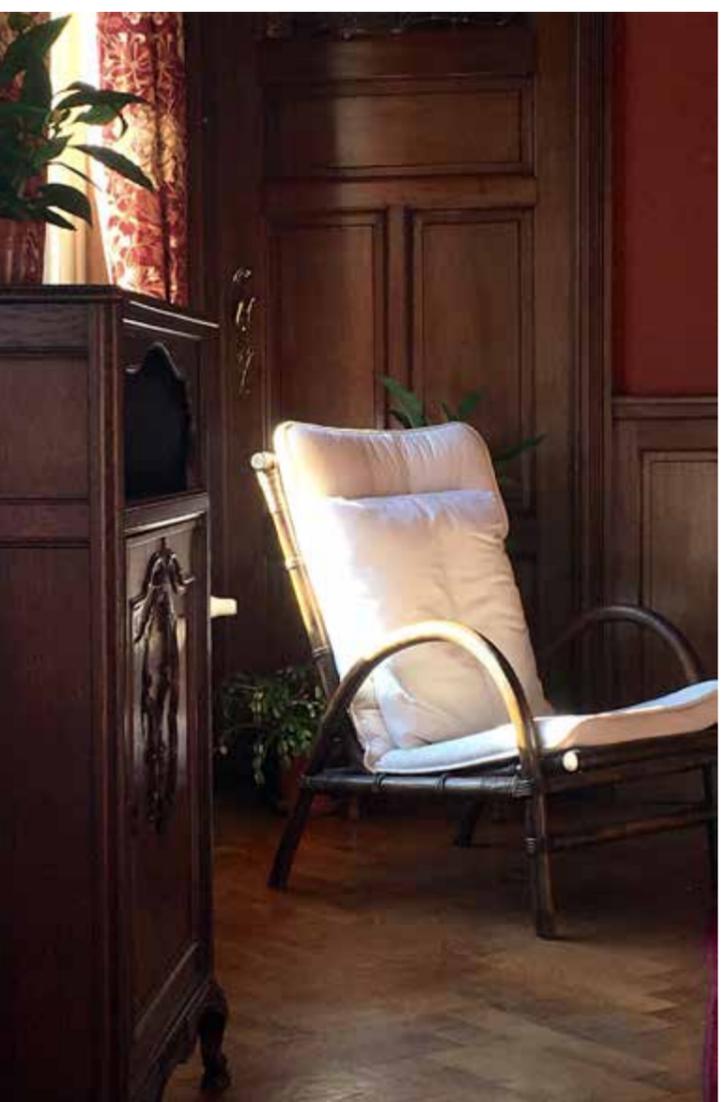
This is a moment we want to make a success, and so we shall take the time to reflect on the profile of Director we seek. That's why we will be appointing an interim director to give us that time. Naturally changes like this put extra demands on staff, particularly when their work has to be coordinated over the internet rather than all together in Quaker House. This has however made us realise how important and valuable it is to cooperate with other parts of the Quaker family to deliver advocacy in a coordinated way.

Britain's Quaker organisation, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, QPSW, and QCEA have worked together to strengthen peace education involving movement-building from the 'bottom up', and influencing policy makers from the 'top down'. Atiaf Alwazir, Head of the peace programme, gets across the message that the EU can build peace in its classrooms better than squandering resources on military hardware.

In recent months QCEA's Kékéli Kpognon has brought a European perspective on combatting racism, xenophobia, and discrimination in the UN: this complements the work QUNO in Geneva is doing to link racial justice with migration governance.

The European Union seems forever at a crossroads, uncertain whether to compete as a military power or whether to be a peace model through a unique model of combining national and international governance. The Conference on the Future of Europe is meant to offer a citizen's view on such choices. QCEA will continue to remind the European Union that 'there is that of God in everyone' – with that in mind, there can be no doubt which path Europe should take.

*Jeremy Lester on behalf of QCEA Executive Committee*



"I believe the peace education that would address this violence is peace education that recognises the subjective narratives and voice of the children about the violence they observe or experience themselves."  
- Teresia Wamuyu Wachira, Loreto Sisters

← Some of the speakers at the peace education conference  
COLLAGE: ELLIS BROOKS, QUAKER PEACE AND SOCIAL WITNESS



## "Imagining another future"

Our biggest event of the year, organised together with Quakers in Britain, brought people together in order to learn and connect about peace education.

On 20 - 22 May QCEA hosted a virtual conference with Quakers in Britain entitled "The possibilities of peace education: Evidence and opportunities". Initially planned to take place in Brussels in September 2020, the conference was postponed and held online, which permitted the gathering of a larger and more diverse group of people. Indeed, more than 500 people from 60 different countries registered for this event.

The conference is the culmination of a joint project supported by the BYM Legacy Fund between Quakers in Britain - Quaker Peace and Social Witness since 2019, working towards better-integrated peace education as a peacebuilding and conflict prevention tool.

The first two days the programme was divided between panel discussions with speakers from Rwanda, Bosnia, the UK, Kenya, Belgium, and Kyrgyzstan, as well as conversations with young people from Afghanistan and the UK who shared their own personal perspectives about what they want from peace education. At the end of the second day participants were invited to share their individual or local projects in the action forum. In the forum, participants were divided into thematic groups focusing on various topics such as inner peace and mental health, intergroup peace and

identity, or peace with nature and the climate.

The last day was dedicated to two sessions of eight parallel workshops each. Participants were able to choose one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. The range of topics addressed included the colonial matrix of power, how to teach the climate crisis to children, restorative practices for challenging identity-based harms, and peace education in the context of forced migration.

In the concluding remarks, participants were asked to think about where peace education will take them next and to reflect about what they have learnt during the past days. Each day the conference came to a close with an epilogue, an opportunity for everybody to reflect quietly on the day together and to share ministry.

The conference was a great opportunity for everyone who participated to discover new ways of doing peace education and other alternatives to violence at times when it is hard to see that there are other efficient ways to solve conflicts. Read the closing remarks of head of peace programme Atiaf Alwazir on the next page to get inspired!

A series of videos produced for the conference is available for you to watch on our [YouTube channel](#).



# Peace needs practice

*This post is taken from introductory and concluding remarks by QCEA's head of peace programme Atiaf Alwazir made at our conference called Peace education: Evidence and opportunities held jointly with Quakers in Britain.*

Given the state of the world, the endless creativity of violence we see, widespread injustice, police brutality, starvation, climate crisis, deaths at sea, and deepening inequalities, some people might believe it's naive to think that peace education could help. But as my colleague Laetitia Sédou says, "being a pacifist doesn't mean being passive".

We know that peace needs action, it needs practice, because violence and war; power and privilege have become ingrained and normalised in many societies and in our psyches. Too many of us, think that war and violence are inevitable because we are constantly bombarded with information telling us that it's the only way. For example, the military-industrial-complex is testimony to our constant preparedness for an unspecified war. But while conflict is inevitable in human interaction, it's bound to happen, violence isn't.

In order to change the culture of violence, we need to change the narratives and the stories that we are told, and replace them with other stories as evidence that peace is possible. This requires both outer and inner work, and that's where the power of peace education lies. Peace education can help us remove the credibility and legitimacy of violence by showing alternative ways of conflict resolution and giving us the skills and knowledge to do that.

When we teach children critical thinking skills

which will allow them to question the nature of power, we are promoting peace. When we teach radical empathy we're promoting peace. When we teach environmental responsibility, we're promoting peace. When we acknowledge wrongs, and take responsibility we begin a healing process.

Neither violence nor peace is reserved for one particular part of the world. They both exist everywhere. However, sometimes we tend to only look outward. We focus on violence that is being conducted abroad for example, and forget the one in our own back yard. We tend to focus on what is happening outside of our bodies, and forget our inner work.

For peace to be a reality, it can't be either or. It's not either working on peace abroad or at home, either working on disarmament or climate, either working on inner peace or structural violence, either working on racial justice or peacebuilding, it is about making links with all of these issues and embracing a holistic definition of peace that reminds us of how interconnected we are to the Earth and to each other.

We need to remember that violence is a child ducking from bombs, and violence is also found in the way we have developed our economies, the way we consume our goods, and in the structures that have been placed upon us impacting some of us more than others. Healing and peace can only begin with the acknowledgement of wrongs committed, and through solidarity across differences. We also need to check-in with our bodies, and ask ourselves, how do we deal with conflict internally?

Many of us simply avoid it, because we don't know how to address it. Many of us avoid talking to our children about important topics; even though it's imperative that children are included in these conversations.

Four days ago, my five-year old daughter asked me, "Mama, what does slave mean?" I froze because I honestly thought that I had more time before I needed to tell her about the cruelty that can be found amongst humans. And for a moment I didn't know what to say because it's really hard to break these issues down in a kid-friendly way. But we must not avoid these topics because of their difficulty, instead, we need the skills and knowledge available in peace education to know how and when to address these issues.

Opportunity is the last thing we think of when we are in crisis, but opportunities are all around us. Our fears can limit us from seeing them, but we have to overcome that, and we have to not only believe that peace is possible, but to also remember that in fact it is our responsibility to dream because imagining a better world allows us to actively participate in creating it.

We must share evidence and stories of how people are actively and successfully promoting peace

all over the world. Peace is not a strange or naive concept. Peace is all around us and within us, in our bodies and in nature. And peace education can help us unlock that.

Like so many people, I've been exposed to an array of violence. My grandfather and aunt were killed, my father was wrongfully imprisoned, I witnessed deaths of peaceful protesters, experienced racial profiling and sexual harassment, heard bombs exploding and drones hovering in the sky. And yet despite all of that, I still believe that peace is within reach. Why? Because I've seen extraordinary courageous and heroic actions by people in the darkest of times.

As a mother of two, I sincerely hope that my children will use the evidence we have of peace and be able to imagine a world without violence. **Because the most revolutionary thing we can do in dark times, is to counter helplessness by imagining another future and believing that peace is in fact a possibility.**

As migrant justice activist Ruby Smith Diaz said: "The notion of dreaming in a time where we are told that it is foolish, futile or not useful is one of the most revolutionary things we can do."

Atiaf Alwazir

## Our peace programme in action

On **11 May**, we organised a joint event with the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) on "The Role of Education in Post-Conflict Settings". It was the eighth of a series of events co-organised by QCEA and YFPF that link geographic case studies to peacebuilding tools from our report *Building Peace Together*. Three excellent speakers were part of the event: Kathleen Forichon, Junior Policy Officer at the Crisis and Security Unit of the OECD, and Anita Kayirangwa, Director of Programmes for Aegis Rwanda, Aegis Trust, and Roisin Marshall, CEO of The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education. They made the case for a better inclusion of education in contributing to peacebuilding as Rwanda and Northern Ireland are both countries where education was used after a conflict or a crisis to build peace, avoid divisions and segregation, and strengthen social cohesion and reconciliation. The event helped us share our work with young professionals working in foreign policy and advertise our upcoming peace education conference.

On **3 September**, Saskia Basa gave a virtual presentation about our work on climate and peace in a workshop called *Sustainable Governance and*

*Political Transformation in the post Covid-19 Era*, organised by IAPSS, an international student-run nonprofit platform for political science students and other students interested in the topic. The goal was to give students a chance to see what a career in sustainability outside of academia could look like.

On **7 September**, Atiaf Alwazir gave a talk at the American Friends Service Committee's conference on *Reckoning with the Global War on Terror: Rethinking Security and Realizing Justice*. The talk focused on the globalisation of the war on terror, borderless wars, and the expansion of violence.

On **8 September**, Atiaf gave a Zoom presentation on "How to Challenge Militaristic Definitions of Security" at the Forum Civil Peace Service's summer school for young professionals from Germany and Ukraine. It began with a short introduction to QCEA and our work in Brussels, with a focus on the peace programme. Afterwards she gave a presentation on the EU's role in peacebuilding, the worrying increase in militarism in the EU, alternatives to militaristic actions, how civil society organisations can impact political and public discourse, and ways for peace activists to get involved.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

"It was particularly interesting to hear people who are now retired acknowledge that they might need to look at what they did in a new light."

"It was very useful to plainly speak about the violence of the colonial past and present."

# Africa-Europe relations in past, present, and future

In 2020, the EU published its document "Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa" which builds on existing Africa-EU policies and frameworks. According to the discourse of EU officials, this partnership will help to create employment in Africa and promote social and human development. While these objectives appear, on paper, laudable and while the need to transform Africa-EU relations is long overdue, the proposal does not engage with structural and systemic issues about the origins and the nature of these relations. Shying away from engaging with these deeper issues is not only intellectually flawed but it also perpetuates historically rooted injustices that need to be addressed in order to build the foundation of more sustainable and fair relations that will benefit both Africans and Europeans equally.

**In this context, on 21 April, 28 April and 5 May 2021, the human rights programme organised three virtual 'brown bag lunch' events on the past, current, and future relations between Africa and Europe.** The series, which was part of QCEA's current work on decolonisation and anti-racism, sought to examine and deconstruct some of the ideas and assumptions about Africa-Europe relations.

The sessions had three broad aims: The first was to look at the long history of Africa-Europe relations and trace a shared history that remains largely absent from education curricula and public debates. The second aim was to examine some of the contemporary repercussions of the centuries-long Africa-Europe relations. We wanted to shed light on power dynamics between the two continents, their historical origins, and how they continue to shape today's world, including current relations between the two continents.

And lastly our aim was to investigate why the extractive and violent endeavour of European colonialism and many of the crimes and injustices committed during this period have remained largely unaddressed. The legacy of racial injustice continues to affect the daily lives of Africans and African diasporas, however, this is not in the conscience of Europeans today because it is not talked about.

Through the sessions we shed light on the fact that the remnants of colonialism are perpetuated through power structures, the economic system, the education system, and the universalism of Western ways of seeing the world.

Here at QCEA, we believe that reflecting deeply on these issues - without seeking mitigating factors - is a first step towards addressing the remnants of colonialism both at the personal and professional levels. We need to fully unpack the matter before proposing sustainable and fair solutions.

"Thank you so much for your excellent talk today. It's left me with so much to reflect on."

"The big historical picture of colonialism and racism was made clear; also fascinating to hear some present institutional actors speak about their experiences."

↑ Feedback from attenders of the brown bag lunch series

## "Racist violence is tolerated by many members of society and fuelled by some policymakers"

In December 2020, QCEA responded to a call for inputs by the OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) in the preparatory phase of the recently published [report](#) on the use of force and other human rights violations against people of African descent in Europe.

In our submission we argued that despite the long-standing relationships between Europe and Africa and the fact that about 13 millions of people of African descent live in Europe, Afrophobia is widespread in many European countries. And although law enforcement organisations in Europe can vary considerably as a result of specific socio-political, social and institutional trajectories, Afrophobia is patent in the everyday encounters between law enforcement officers and Africans and people of African descent in many European countries. The excessive and disproportionate use of coercive measures against Africans and people of African descent in Europe has been widely documented in recent years, as QCEA has reported about in recent years.

### Violence as part of systemic racism

Afrophobia amongst law enforcement officers is part of the enduring systemic racism against racialized people in many European countries. It is rooted in past injustices against African people including the centuries long European enslavement of Africans and colonialism. These past injustices, which have remained largely unaddressed in European societies and their institutions, continue to shape today's stratified world, including Africa-EU relations as well as the place of Africans and people of African descent in Europe. In other words: racism is part of how we have built society, part of how political, social and economic relationships are maintained to this day.

Similarly, policing practices cannot be dissociated from the broader political, economic, cultural and societal divisions of the environments in which the police operate. As such, the use of excessive violence against Africans and people of African descent can be seen as a reflection of the society's ambivalence or tolerance to the use of force against those considered as 'dangerous classes' in society.

This violence is tolerated or ignored by many members of society, fuelled by some policymakers and reinforced by media representations of Africans and people of African descent, forever labeled 'migrants', hence foreigners and 'others', regardless of the context of their presence in Europe.

There is a need for a holistic approach, which pays more attention to the transforming of the environments in which the police operate. More

efforts should be made by policy-makers and the civil society in European societies to deconstruct, condemn and root out afrophobia and all forms of discrimination and their manifestations in the various spheres of social life

### The blurring of lines between the military and the police

The use of excessive force is reinforced by the police's great discretionary powers, a 'code of secrecy' and solidarity amongst law enforcement officers. It is also reinforced by the pervasive impunity, the lack of accountability for police misconduct and more coercive approach that views policing as a force rather than a service. The trend towards the militarisation of policing is also apparent in the actions of law enforcement officers in many European countries and at EU-wide level, Frontex: the European Border and Coast Guard Agency is a prime example with its use of military equipment such as patrol ships and planes, drones and radars. The idea of the use of coercive means by the state to induce citizens to comply is rather problematic in democratic societies.

### Addressing racial injustice in Europe

The scale and severity of the abused faced by Africans and people of African descent globally at the hands of law enforcement moved the United Nations Human Rights Council to adopt in July 2021 a [resolution](#) together with a [Four-Points Agenda](#) Towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality centering the lived experiences of Africans and people of African descent. In Europe, a comprehensive, holistic, cross-sectorial and inclusive approach is central to any strategies seeking to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against abuse be it by law enforcement officers or in other walks of life.

We ought to seize this moment to advance racial justice and rethink what accountability, safety and protection for all would entail.

### Towards transformative change for racial justice and equality:

1. **STEP UP** - Stop denying and start dismantling
2. **PURSUE JUSTICE** - End impunity and build trust
3. **LISTEN UP** - People of African descent must be heard
4. **REDRESS** - Confront past legacies, take special measures and deliver reparatory justice

# Donate to QCEA today

QCEA's important work on peace and human rights **depends on your generous support**. Over 50% of our income comes from donations, and we receive no money from the European institutions, meaning we can **speak truth to power** without fear or favour.

Donating is quick, easy and makes a real difference to our work. **Here's how to help.**



## Bank transfer

### £ Pounds Sterling

“British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs”  
CAF Bank

ACCOUNT 00004748

SORT CODE 40-52-40

### € Euro

“Quaker Council for European Affairs”

BNP Paribas Fortis Bank

IBAN BE58 2100 5598 1479

BIC GEBA BEBB 36A



## Donate online

To set up a recurring contribution or to make a one-off donation, either via DirectDebit or PayPal account, visit [www.qcea.org/donate](http://www.qcea.org/donate)



## Cheque

Friends in the United Kingdom only can also donate by sending a cheque or charity voucher payable to **British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs** to:

**33 Shaw Lane Gardens**

**Guiseley**

**Leeds**

**West Yorkshire**

**LS20 9JQ**

## Watch this space - new study tour coming in Spring!

Many of our friends and supporters have been asking us about the next possibility to join our very popular study tours. In the past, these study tours gave supporters the possibility to come to Brussels to visit Quaker house, meet QCEA staff, and learn about our work and the EU through sessions and visits to the European institutions.

Right now, QCEA staff are working on making this a reality again for spring 2022. Due to Covid-restrictions it is still unclear if an in-person study tour will be feasible (many institutions are completely closed off for visitor groups as of now) and the dates are not finalised yet either. However, we will announce the dates and details as soon as possible. To stay updated on this, please make sure to subscribe to Around Europe via email (you can subscribe via our homepage) and visit [www.qcea.org/events/study-tour](http://www.qcea.org/events/study-tour) for up-to-date information.



Quaker Council for European Affairs  
Square Ambiorix 50  
Brussels 1000  
Belgium

Éditeur responsable  
JEREMY LESTER

Mise en page  
et illustration  
LENA HOFMAIER

Numéro d'entreprise  
0420.346.728