



Quaker  
Council for  
European  
Affairs

around  
europe

ISSUE 390 • SPRING 2022

**WAR IS A CHOICE**

**BUT SO IS PEACE!**

**PAGE 4**  
New  
arrivals at  
Quaker House  
Brussels

**PAGE 6**  
Peace  
for  
Ukraine

**PAGE 8**  
Storytelling  
from the  
front lines

**PAGE 9**  
War vs. the  
planet: Military  
emissions at  
COP26

# EUROPE IN BRIEF

## Is the Conference on the Future of Europe losing its way?

On 9 May 2021, the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) was officially launched.

While efforts to expand the democratic sphere and open new avenues for public participation in EU policy making circuits were initially welcomed by civil society across the EU, it soon appeared that this -initially ambitious- process was compromised by institutional rivalries, absence of political will, and lack of understanding of how proper citizens' assemblies should work.

Many in civil society fear that it is a case of 'anything may be said, so long as in the end nothing fundamental is changed'. At the time of writing, only four countries out of 27 have concluded their national citizens' panels and recommendations<sup>1</sup>. And Citizens Take Over Europe, a coalition of 50 democracy organisations, has underlined major flaws over the process, ranging from the lack of representation of marginalised groups in citizens' panels to the selection of experts controlled by the EU Institutions, excluding for example human rights NGOs from the debate on migration and border management.

In a typical EU-ambiguity exercise, the scope and value of the Conference outcomes were never clearly defined. In other words, would the conclusions of the Conference be a merely indicative wish-list or have real legal consequences, including a possible Treaty reform? Now that the citizens' panels are coming to their end and that the Conference plenary kicked off again to discuss recommendations received, the question is back on the agenda but with little hope for a positive outcome responding to the challenge and citizens' expectations.

Under such circumstances civil society organisations, including faith groups like QCEA, were facing a difficult choice: could we ignore a unique opportunity for citizens to say which Europe they want? To what extent would our participation be instrumentalized to legitimate a process with

flagrant flaws? While individual Quakers may contribute to the conference, QCEA's unique contribution to Brussels advocacy is through quiet diplomacy and is not prioritising at this moment investing its scarce resources in this process.

This does not mean that the ecumenical faith community remained silent:

*Church and Peace* issued a press release<sup>2</sup>; *Faith in Europe* organised five preliminary meetings, followed by an online consultation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 including small groups discussions, in order to built its contribution in the spirit of the CoFoE.<sup>3</sup> The process included individual contributions like the one from Richard Seebohm<sup>4</sup>, member of the Religious Society of Friends and of the Committee of Faith in Europe, and former representative of QCEA. QCEA joins them in pledging for a future of Europe based on love and solidarity, justice and sustainability, peace and human dignity. The EU should remain a peaceful project and stop any policy favouring arms and military power, work for a just and sustainable economic model that will drastically reduce poverty and tackle climate change and environmental degradation, and welcome and protect migrants and refugees fleeing violence, poverty and climate disasters. Whatever the outcomes of the CoFoE, QCEA will continue to make this voice heard by EU decision-makers and promote these values across EU policies as it has for the last 30 years.

1 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/member-states-fall-behind-in-eu-participatory-democracy-experiment/>

2 <https://www.church-and-peace.org/en/2021/11/on-the-future-of-europe/>

3 <https://faithineurope.org.uk/eu-conference-on-the-future-of-europe/>

4 <https://faithineurope.org.uk/2021/12/01/said-up-to-now/>

## EP survey reveals central policy priorities and concerns of EU citizenry

According to an EU Parliament survey (the EP Autumn 2021 Survey), EU citizens consider that democracy (32%), freedom of speech and thought (27%), and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (25%) are the values that the European Parliament should prioritise and defend. As regards specific policies, public health (42%) is the first priority Europeans would like to see addressed by the European Parliament, followed by the fight against poverty and social exclusion (40%) and action against climate change (39%). The EU's defence and security policy, including the protection of EU's external borders, was only the 9th priority (19%). The survey was conducted in November 2021 among 26,510 citizens aged over 15 across EU countries.

## The European Peace Facility will dedicate €500 million for delivering military equipment to Ukraine, including lethal weapons.

Two 'assistance measures' for Ukraine were agreed by EU Member States on 27 February. The first one, granted €450 million, is to fund the supply of lethal material to the Ukrainian armed forces like air defence systems, anti-tank weapons and ammunition. The second is to provide non-lethal supplies such as fuel, personal protective equipment and emergency medical equipment. Already in December 2021, a decision had been taken to allocate €31 million over 3 years to equip Ukrainian forces with non-lethal equipment.

This support will be channelled through the new European Peace Facility (EPF), funded by national contributions, as a means to circumvent the rule preventing the EU budget to fund lethal equipment. This option had been a controversial issue at the time of negotiating the EPF, and till then there was hope that this choice would not be made. The recent decision represents a fundamental policy shift both for providing lethal weapons and for its amount: €500 million represent 90% of the planned annual budget of the Facility. This culminates a recent upward trend in EU militarisation, which, in QCEA's view, risks changing the very nature of the EU as soft power and as a democratic project founded on common values for the benefit of peace worldwide.

## The "Commission contribution to European Defence" Communication is a further step towards normalisation of the military

On February 15, the European Commission presented its Communication on the 'Commission contribution to European Defence' as part of its new Defence Package, which normalises the military sector and refers to defence capability projects as standard industrial activities. Other concrete proposals include an extension of a VAT waiver for EU-funded technologies which would extend beyond capabilities used in the EU framework. It also proposes other measures that would facilitate arms industry access to sustainable finance (a set of financial regulations, standards and products to facilitate the energy transition). This access is justified by the Commission in light of their 'possible contribution' to sustainable economic recovery and the green transition. The Communication explicitly calls on Member States to facilitate arms exports, in particular the EU-funded ones, to provide them with "adequate and competitive access to international markets", overlooking the commitments to International law and human rights protection, normalising the military and reducing this question to a matter of pure industrial competitiveness.

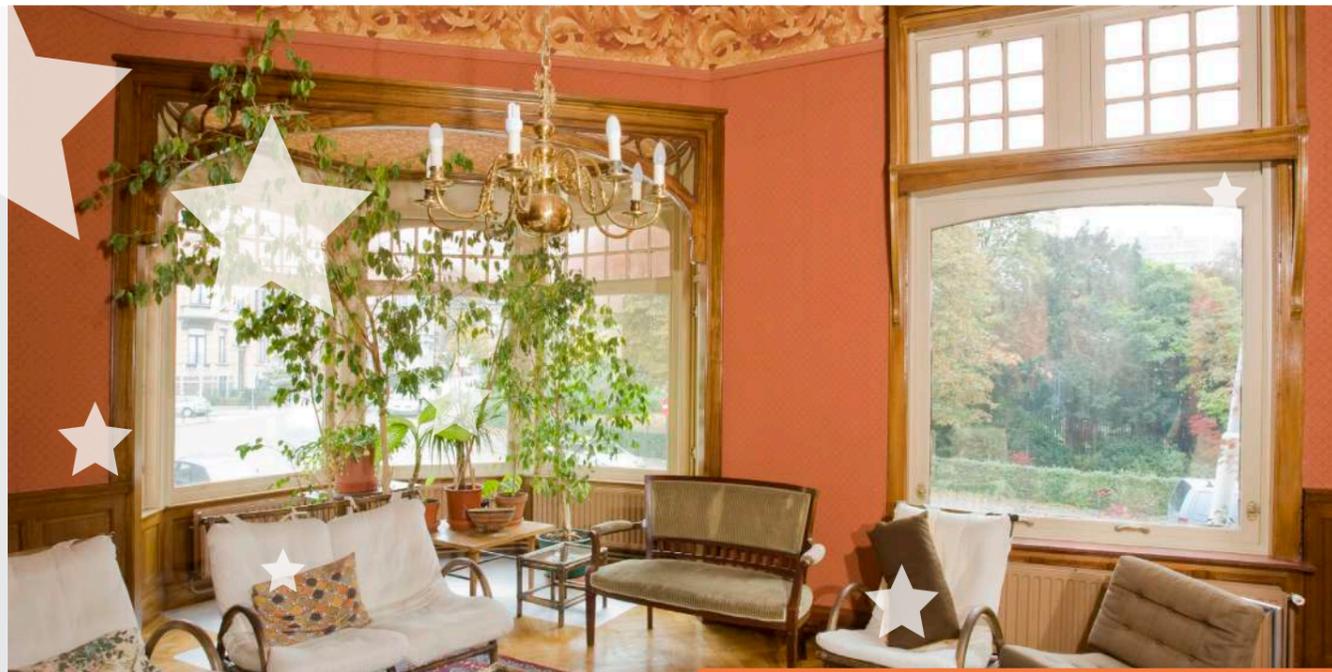
## Commission proposes temporary protection for people fleeing Ukraine

On 2 March the European Commission proposed activating the Temporary Protection Directive that would allow the EU to quickly and effectively assist people fleeing war in Ukraine, providing them with a temporary residence permit and granting them access to education, healthcare and the labour market. If approved, this would be the first time since its conception that this directive is triggered. This policy shift shows that when there is political will, a human-rights-centred migration policy is possible. Civil society groups have welcomed this measure, however some have questioned why other humanitarian crises such as Syria, Yemen, or more recently Afghanistan, were not deemed deserving of this extraordinary measure. In this crucial time where history is being written, the EU should ensure that asylum does not become entangled with politics, and remains a humanitarian instrument applicable to all people fleeing war.



## NEWS FROM Quaker House in Brussels

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.

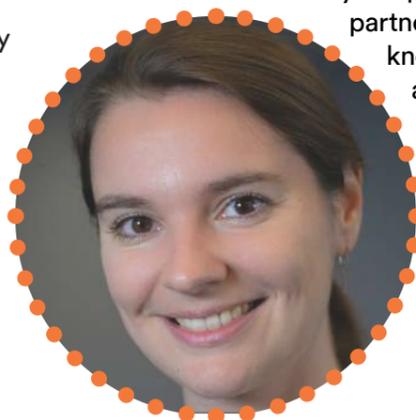


### Farewell to Former Staff

During the last six months several staff have left QCEA. It's always a sad experience, and it will be great for the office to be bursting with activity once more. Kekeli Kpognon had been working assiduously on the human rights programme. She helped focus QCEA's efforts to throw light on the challenges and human rights abuses faced by migrants and refugees, not only at borders but also within European countries. Timmon Wallis came to QCEA with an impressive record of advocacy work for both peace and human rights. Lena Hofmaier did a great job on communications, so it is not surprising that she was snapped up to work elsewhere. Atiaf Alwazir, the former Head of our Peace Programme was ideally equipped by her insights and life experience to help us address the root causes of social injustices including colonialism, structural racism, and patriarchy. The General Assembly and the Executive Committee have also experienced change. Wanda Dahme is no longer Co-Clerk of QCEA's Executive Committee and General Assembly. She worked freely for QCEA despite being a nurse in intensive care in times of Covid, and training to be a doctor as well. We are grateful that Linda Craig has stepped up to the challenge of replacing her, and that John Crosfield and Martin Touwen have joined the Executive Committee. John is active with British Friends of QCEA while Martin has supported QCEA in various roles for nearly 40 years.

### Arrival at Quaker House: Anna Penfrat, Nonviolent Peaceforce & Peace Direct

My name is Anna Penfrat and I recently joined Quaker House as EU Representative for both Nonviolent Peaceforce and Peace Direct. I'm very glad to be working in this familiar building – I used to come quite often as a former staff of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and already have great memories here. Nonviolent Peaceforce is an NGO working to interrupt and prevent violence using Unarmed Civilian Protection, i.e. a methodology for the direct physical protection of civilians by trained, unarmed civilians. Peace Direct focuses on supporting and promoting grassroots locally-led peacebuilding, as local partners have the deep local knowledge of a conflict and the long-term commitment to fight for peace. Don't hesitate to contact me at [apenfrat@nonviolentpeaceforce.org](mailto:apenfrat@nonviolentpeaceforce.org) to know more



### A letter from QCEA's Co-Clerk

2021 was a hard year for many of us. Covid impacted all of us, while social distancing made the work of organisations, including QCEA, more difficult. A cumulation of events has revealed some flaws and ambiguities in our governance practices, which we are working to resolve in a constructive and proactive way. That's how it came about that General Assembly invited a small group to suggest lessons which could be learned. The Executive Committee is acting on what is most important and urgent. In an effort to support our remaining staff, we are hoping to recruit swiftly and wisely, starting with a new Communications Officer.

When the General Assembly meets once more in April, we will share news about how QCEA plans to move forward. General Assembly is there to ensure the process is fruitful and that we emerge from this stronger, embodying the changes we want to see in the world.

*Jeremy Lester QCEA General Assembly and Executive Committee Co-Clerk*

### Welcome Céline!

Dear Around Europe readers,

My name is Céline and I am very honoured to join QCEA as an intern. I will be supporting the team with translation and interpreting tasks until mid of April.

My love for languages and words led me to an English/German to French Translation and Interpreting Bachelor's degree at the Université Saint-Louis in Brussels. I am now studying for a Master's degree in Translation specialised in International and European Affairs at UCLouvain. I am very grateful to be able to do my internship in this organisation whose values I deeply share and whose mission is in service of humankind. I have a strong desire to make my life be a positive intervention that contributes to things moving in a positive direction. My life motto is "If you think it, you can do it" and I truly believe that if we all start to apply that thought we can make our world a better place.

I am looking forward to my work with QCEA.

*Céline*



### Staff changes – learning lessons for QCEA

Following the early departure of the Director in October 2021, the QCEA General Assembly formed a small working group in November to discern the lessons to be learned and propose a framework for QCEA to move forward. The group was made up of representatives from four national, Quaker 'Yearly' Meetings and one from Europe and Middle East Young Friends. During December 2021 and early January 2022, the group met online six times and twice with the Executive Committee. We reviewed a range of internal documents and, at the end of the process, received valuable inputs from some staff members.

Focusing on organisational lessons, we identified a range of issues and discerned some 50 suggestions for: (i) improvements in relation to the recruitment, appointment and induction of new staff; and (ii) things to be clarified in relation to the mission of QCEA, organisational roles and responsibilities, and organisational culture and procedures, including performance reviews.

We also proposed that QCEA should organize two additional, complementary processes: one of listening and healing for those who have been impacted and, separately, an external review. The former could draw on the rich experience of British and other Quakers in active and empathetic listening.

A special, online meeting of the General Assembly discussed and adopted our report in mid-January. The Executive Committee is now charged with following up on it, bringing in extra help either from Quakers or from outside, as needed, and keeping the General Assembly informed about progress. We hope that our work and the follow up to it will provide a solid basis for QCEA to move forward and continue to bring a Quaker vision of peace and social justice to European institutions.

*The Lessons Learned Working Group members*

# Peace Updates



The QCEA peace programme continues to engage with upcoming EU policies on peace and security. Through getting involved in these issues, QCEA is living out the Quaker testimony of peace and equality.

## Peace for Ukraine

*War is always a choice, so there is always an alternative.*

*This analysis was written on 2 March 2022*

The world is watching in dismay as the Putin-led aggression in Ukraine worsens, attacks intensify, and hostilities deepen. At the time of writing, 1.5 million have fled Ukrainian territory, with numbers expected to increase [up to 7 million](#) exiled and displaced, and [18 million](#) requiring humanitarian assistance. The conflict in Eastern Ukraine has already cost [14,000 lives](#) since 2014 and despite a recent [commitment](#) to avoid a nuclear arms race, European citizens are worried about the possibility of the conflict turning into a fully-fledged nuclear war.

We call for immediate intensification of diplomatic efforts, as they are the only way to resolve disputes between states. Leaders should focus on expanding spaces for dialogue, enabling a peace process that is people-centred and ensures meaningful participation

of all parties involved. In returning to the negotiating table, leaders should act with a disposition to find the best way out away from the logics of war. A myriad of peacebuilding tools are at their disposal, with some useful approaches and historical lessons found in our report [Building Peace Together](#).

An old African proverb says: *when elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers*; alas, Ukrainians are paying the price of this geopolitical battle. Our leaders have a positive obligation to ensure that civilians do not suffer the consequences of war. We urge that parties comply with international humanitarian law, particularly the principle of distinction between civilian and military objects, while respecting the rights of peace advocates, war resisters and conscientious objectors. All people displaced from Ukraine should be granted protection as long as their safety is not guaranteed, and irrespective of their nationality.

To know more, read the [Quaker statement on Ukraine](#). Northern Friends Peace Board has compiled a [list of resources](#) that may help you in articulating peace demands in your own communities. Finally, Daniel Jakopovich inspires you to take action by outlining [5 things to do](#) to advocate for peaceful approaches to the conflict in Ukraine. Please consider supporting our partners who are contributing to peace in the region in these difficult times: [Quakers in Kyiv](#) and [Friends House Moscow](#) - who is supporting a project on [Alternatives to Violence in Ukraine](#).



## Time to Bring Peacebuilding Home

*Could the EU benefit from looking inward in their peacebuilding efforts?*

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has shown that war in Europe is neither distant nor implausible. The EU portrays itself as a peace-giver in the international arena and has introduced a number of new instruments to build peace abroad, such as the [heavily criticised European Peace Facility \(EPF\)](#).



Yet it often neglects its responsibility to promote peacebuilding practices and peace values within the EU and its immediate neighbourhood. Disproportionate policing, border surveillance, racial profiling, militarisation, xenophobia, growing inequality, homelessness, dispossession, and acts of violence against minorities are every-day realities in many parts of the EU. Some of these occurrences fall under the radar of the traditional view of *negative peace* and are considered legitimate competencies of the state, but they undoubtedly fuel conflict in society and prevent people residing in the EU from enjoying their full rights. Moving towards *positive peace* is urgent, but remains a distant vision in the context of the EU.

We also know that when there is political will, peace is at hand. The EU could benefit from promoting inward reflection on Europe's own challenges and endorsing a more proactive approach that seeks restoration of relationships and the creation of social systems that serve everyone. Inward reflection and transformation towards more sustainable peace could be fulfilled by, for instance, mainstreaming peace education across education systems; taking a more systematic approach in consulting grass-roots and civil society groups; adopting a

broader spectrum of peace narratives, values and practices; and appointing civil change agents to inform Europe's transformation towards a more just, peaceful and inclusive EU.



## Storytelling from the front lines

*We present readers our upcoming storytelling publication about climate action in militarised spaces.*

War, armed conflict and military intervention have significant environmental impacts, often triggering degradation, ecosystem collapse or even ecocide. Historical examples of this are manifold. In turn, communities affected by the climate and ecological crisis often live in militarised areas and geographies that are suffering from armed conflict, police repression and surveillance. However, people do not remain indifferent about the realities that surround them, they often respond by finding creative ways to protect and restore the natural world, while also sustaining themselves and their communities. Our storytelling series aims to shed light on experiences of people living on the frontline of the climate crisis and on the receiving end of militaristic policies. With these stories we hope to make evident the connections between climate injustice and militarism, while also bringing attention to the work that communities continue to do to build more



*Tateh Lahbib builds houses for displaced Sahrawi people in the Algerian desert*

We hope that by shining light into their lived experience, we can get into the hearts and minds of EU policy-makers who often struggle to relate to the realities on the ground, be it because of distance, compassion fatigue or policy report saturation. We will hear from Yara (Palestine), Tateh (Western Sahara), Tiara (Guåhan, Northern Mariana Islands) and more, and draw lessons about what kind of locally-informed policy responses we need to push for through EU policy circuits.

We hope to count on your support to disseminate this publication in our networks. If you are interested in receiving some copies in your Local or Area Meeting please email [saskia.basa@qcea.org](mailto:saskia.basa@qcea.org)



*Collectif Vietnam Dioxine campaign for an official recognition and reparations for the effects of the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War*

sustainable, just and climate resilient societies, even when all odds are against them.

Centering, uplifting, trusting, amplifying, valuing, upholding. These are values we need to honour as we explore approaches to centre the voices of those most impacted by militarist and environmentally harmful policies. Storytelling provides an invaluable outlet to do just that, and we are excited to publish, in the coming months, our own collection of stories from individuals and communities across the world whose work we believe deserves to be recognised.



## War vs. the planet: Military Emissions at COP26

*QCEA, QPSW and NFPB hosted an online session to reflect on the outcomes of COP26 and to shine light on the missing piece of international climate negotiations: the military.*

Over 80 Friends from Europe and elsewhere gathered online on Saturday 29 January in an event jointly hosted by the Quaker Council for European Affairs, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, and by Northern Friends Peace Board, to reflect on the outcomes of COP26 in relation to peace and militarism. The agenda for this year's COP26 summit, which took place in November 2021 in Glasgow, continued to exclude emissions produced by the military, including those associated with military activities in the context of war and the use, production and transport of weapons, military equipment and personnel.

The environmental impacts of war are evident yet difficult to quantify because reporting of military emissions is not compulsory under international agreements. Participants listened to and learned from Dr. Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director of Scientists for Global Responsibility, who presented his estimates on the 'carbon footprint' of some of the main military players, including the US, the UK and the EU. He found that the majority of emissions of the six largest military spending nations in the EU are indirect, misreported and unreported (France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Poland). In addition to acting with impunity vis-a-vis their climate impacts, militaries continue to seek ways to expand their mandates and capabilities. Defence bodies such as the UK Ministry of Defence and NATO have come up with problematic proposals that involve dedicating a part of green transition funds to reduce the carbon emissions of the military by using more drones, cyber tech or nuclear power.

Following this, participants heard from Sheila Babauta, an indigenous elected representative from the Northern Mariana Islands, who gave a personal account of her experience as a civil society delegate at COP26, and as leader of a community that is disproportionately affected by both the climate emergency and militarism. She spoke of the different ways in which militarism manifests

in her own context in the Mariana Islands, an archipelago that she regards as "the world's biggest military playground"; a paradise-like Pacific landscape dotted with military waste sites, US military bases and nuclear testing sites. Military activities continue to pose significant health and environmental hazards to the local population, with toxic substances being linked to natural resource contamination and high incidences of cancer. She described her experience at COP26, often being the sole representative raising the issue of the military's lack of accountability, and challenging ex-president Obama to bring attention to this issue.

The speaker interventions were then followed by an open space for conversation where participants reflected on ways forward to challenge militarism in their own contexts and to ensure that military emissions are included in the COP27 agenda in Egypt. Friends reflected on the importance of forefronting the voices of those most affected by the climate crisis, militarism and its intersections. Participants left the room with renewed motivation and determination to continue their work to make the military more accountable for their climate and environmental impacts, and QCEA will continue expanding its synergies and programme work in this area.



Missed the event? You can now watch a recording on our [Youtube channel](#)

## 'What's missing (and needed) post-COP26?'

*QUNO and QCEA hosted an event at the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding to reflect on the worrying advance of securitisation responses to climate change.*

QUNO Geneva and QCEA hosted a virtual round-table event at the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. In the post-COP26 context, the session was dedicated to examining the human rights implications of securitised responses to climate change. Securitisation refers to a growing tendency to frame political problems as security issues, requiring intervention from security and military actors. The panel consisted of four experts on climate change and securitisation, including David Boyd, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, Nick Buxton, Future Labs coordinator at the Transnational Institute, Lindsey Fielder Cook, representative for the Human Impacts of Climate Change at QUNO, and Alberto Saldamando, legal counsel on Climate Change and Human Rights at the Indigenous Environment Network.

Reflecting on the outcomes of COP26, Lindsey presented some positive developments resulting from the summit (on deforestation, subsidies and the Paris rulebook), while also pointing out that progress in other areas has been lacking or insufficient. Developed countries have failed to take a lead on emissions reduction and climate finance, and continue to place excessive attention to market solutions and 'technofixes', such as carbon capture and storage technologies. Nick added that we are simultaneously seeing an increase in military spending and police budgets, marking the rise of the so-called 'security state', which frames climate

change as a security issue and the victims of climate change as threats. Power dynamics are increasingly dominated by corporate power, shaping climate responses, be it through political collusion, intransparent lobbying, 'technofixes' or (corporate) securitised responses. The military receives twice as much funding as do climate finance measures, and land defenders and activists taking action for climate are increasingly being depicted as threats. Targeting of indigenous groups and civil society supporters during the Standing Rock protests was intense and had far-reaching consequences for communities, as shown by Alberto's testimony.

Moving forward, we need to ensure that our climate responses deliver the justice-centred, systemic and transformative changes we need, addressing root causes with a focus on human security, instead of securitised responses which often fuel and protect precisely those activities that are driving climate change. As pointed out by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment David Boyd, opportunities are emerging in the context of the recent UN resolution on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which serves as a blueprint for advancing human rights-based approaches to climate action. Through QCEA's continued advocacy work, we hope to see the EU make progress in this area and mainstream human rights concerns across all policy areas, including the green new deal, trade policy, and external action.



## Recent ENAAT report highlights how the EU Defence Fund profits the happy few and violates

### ethics and international law

The European Network Against the Arms Trade (ENAAT) is a network of 21 peace groups across Europe, including QCEA, opposing the arms trade and militarisation. Its EU programme is hosted at the Quaker House. ENAAT already published several papers about the EU Defence Fund and its precursor programmes, as well as an awareness-raising booklet on 'A militarised Union: understanding and confronting the militarisation of the European Union', commissioned by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

Their latest publication, launched on March 17 together with the Transnational Institute, describes how the European Defence Fund is profiting a small number of countries and companies, and how its implementation is dragging the EU to violate basic ethical standards as well as international law. The report exposes the level of influence that arms trade lobbyists have in setting the EU defence agenda. The eight private groups which participated in the 'Group of Personalities' advising the EU to create this funding, received so far 30.7% of the allocated money in 2017-2019 (over €86 million). The fifteen largest beneficiaries get over 59% of publicly-disclosed funding, the top 5 being the arms giant Leonardo (IT), Indra (SP), Safran, Thales (FR) and Airbus (EU). 68.4% of the budget goes to the four EU countries with the largest volume of arms exports: France (the main winner with 26.44%), Germany, Italy and Spain. This EU public money is funding entities involved in dubious and highly controversial arms

### Our Peace Programme in Action

On **26 October**, we organised a joint event with Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) on 'Peace Mediation and the Climate Crisis'. Participants heard from Olivia Lazard, environmental peacemaking practitioner and visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe and Mona Luqman, founder of Food4Humanity and advisor to the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. The event explored how the climate crisis impacts local peacebuilding contexts, and how peace practitioners can adapt to an ever-evolving climate and environmental reality. In an interactive fashion, the audience shared ideas and strategies on how, moving forward, peacebuilding efforts can become more climate-sensitive.

On **6-8 December** QCEA's former Head of Peace Programme, Atiaf Alwazir, met with the Heads of



deals, producers of nuclear weapons, or have been exposed for corruption.

The report demonstrates that the ethical and legal checks applied to approve the funding of novel and potentially lethal weaponry fall short of even the most basic standards. They mainly rely on self-assessments by applicants themselves and amount to a box-ticking exercise. The kinds of technologies being funded may lead to violations of EU and international law once they become operational, like unmanned systems or the use of artificial intelligence as a disruptive tool. Yet state parties' responsibilities under International Humanitarian Law are being shifted to private third-party funding applicants, leading to a de facto deregulation of potentially one of the deadliest pools of money coming from Brussels. The Defence Fund explicitly aims to strengthen the 'global competitiveness' of the European arms industry. It will inevitably boost European arms exports and feed the global arms race, leading to more wars, destruction, loss of life, and forced displacement.

seven international Quaker organisations. Heads of agencies engaged in a three-day gathering and reflected on Quaker concerns around climate justice, peace and dismantling institutional racism and oppression. In the epistle, the group urged all Quakers "to be both humble and bold, to be faithful and determined, to work inwardly and outwardly, within our Quaker communities and outside them, to build the just and peaceful world God tells us can be ours." Read the full epistle in our website.

On **26 January**, Saskia Basa, our Peace Programme Assistant, gave a virtual presentation about QCEA's work on peace to students of the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Birmingham. Students learned about Quakerism, our Peace Testimony and how values of peace, justice and equality inform our advocacy work.

# 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:

**1 Castle Mews, Maidenhead, SL6 1HP**

*Study tour postponed - See you in Brussels in Autumn!*

In our November edition of *Around Europe*, we announced to our friends and supporters that we would host a new edition of our popular Brussels study tour in 2022, where participants have a chance to explore Brussels, meet QCEA staff and learn about our work and engagement with the EU and its institutions.

We await with great anticipation the opportunity to reunite with friends and supporters interested in QCEA's activities and to do so in person and in a place that is so meaningful for so many - Quaker House in Brussels. We believe this will be possible once again, albeit a few months later than anticipated, in Autumn 2022.

To stay in the loop, please subscribe to the digital edition of *Around Europe* in our website, and visit [www.qcea.org/events/](http://www.qcea.org/events/)

*British Friends of QCEA is a registered charity in the United Kingdom, no. 293776. If you would like confirmation that your donation has been received, please email [office@qcea.org](mailto:office@qcea.org) with your name and details of your payment. Alternatively, enclose a contact detail with your cheque when posting.*



around  
europe

Quaker Council for European Affairs  
Square Ambiorix 50  
Brussels 1000  
Belgium

Éditeur responsable  
ANDREW LANE

Mise en page  
et illustration  
LENA HOFMAIER

Numéro d'entreprise  
0420.346.728