



# Quaker United Nations Office

# Annual Review 2010

# Quaker United Nations Office

As an expression of Quaker values and concerns, the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) has been working in Geneva and New York since 1948 towards justice, equality and peace in international law and practice.

QUNO researches issues of concern and raises them through the United Nations (UN) system to get them on to the international agenda. As the UN is a forum for the world's governments and other actors, engaging with it offers the opportunity to encourage governments to act on issues in ways that will improve lives of people in their own countries and beyond. Examples of effective ways of dealing with ongoing and new challenges ('good practice') can be gathered and shared on a global scale.

QUNO focuses on areas of concern where it has leading expertise, such as disarmament and peace, or where it can highlight an under-recognised yet important issue which few other organisations are looking at. At present, QUNO Geneva's broad areas of concentration are Disarmament & Peace, Global Economic Issues and Human Rights & Refugees.

QUNO's staff engage with the UN and wider international community through holding meetings at Quaker House, producing written submissions and briefings, researching and producing publications on relevant topics, and giving oral statements and organising side events at meetings of UN and other international bodies.

Because of the foundational support offered by Quakers, QUNO is able to engage with issues for as long as is necessary to bring change. For example, QUNO began working with the UN on the issue of conscientious objection in 1950, and the first international legal recognition was eventually put in place 56 years later! With high turnover of UN and diplomatic staff and rapidly changing issues for discussion and action, QUNO is a key source of continuity and information in the areas of concern in which it works.

QUNO's informal, usually off-the-record, meetings aim to build trust through open dialogue. These meetings bring together people from international organisations, government delegations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and others on an equal footing. QUNO's expertise on its issues of focus, together with its reputation and the trust it has earned over the years, creates a trusting environment which enables participants to remain free from the constraints of more official processes and come up with truly innovative and effective responses to difficult issues.

In the past decade, QUNO successes include behind-the-scenes work leading to the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel landmines and to the outlawing of the use of child soldiers, and facilitating the stand-alone agreement on public health, including access to medicines, at the World Trade Organisation in 2001.



# *Continuity and Change*

## A message from our Director



Quakers have been active in and around the United Nations for more than six decades. While the particular focus of the work in Geneva and New York has changed with the times and opportunity over these years, there is also a thread to the work that has run throughout the period. This thread has been our engagement with and support of insti-

tutions and processes that offer hope for a safer and fairer world and our way of working which seeks to provide space for decision-shapers and decision-takers to find common ways forward.

It has been my great privilege to serve Friends in their work at the UN for nearly a quarter of QUNO's existence, including the last seven years as its Director in Geneva. If I have learned anything during this period it is that, no matter how limited the means one has, it is possible to make a difference. On a year-by-year basis, sometimes it is difficult to discern real change. Over a 16-year period such as I have had at QUNO, however, broader shifts are possible to see.

All of the work highlighted in this report represents an engagement with change processes. While new emphases and dimensions emerged in 2010, all of the work builds on years of active commitment on specific issues and a general presence in Geneva that is valued by states, UN agencies and other civil society organizations alike.

The occasion of the coming of my retirement from QUNO has been an opportunity for Friends (through the work of its Quaker UN Committee and staff) to take a good look at QUNO as it approaches a new decade of work and to examine the requirements for continued successful involvement in Geneva and beyond. Decisions for changes in leadership and governance have been made, and I feel certain that these will serve the work of QUNO well in the coming years.

I have had an extraordinary life experience working as I have on issues of disarmament and peace throughout the last 16 years as well as seeking to provide QUNO with direction over recent years. I thank all who have been collaborators with me on this journey. Jonathan Woolley will succeed me in June 2011 as Director. I wish him, the QUNO staff and the Quaker UN Committee all good things for the future and "bonne continuation".



**David Atwood**  
QUNO Disarmament and  
Peace Representative  
1995-2011, QUNO Director  
since 2004

# Human Rights and Refugees



Rachel Brett  
Programme Representative

*"We were able to present evidence first hand. We were able to close the information gap. We were able to speak from the soul. The environment in which we were speaking was one focused solely on human rights; it was not intruded upon by politics. We were able to reach heights in dialogue and understanding that we hadn't expected."*

– Djinyini Gondarra, from Arnhem Land, northern Australia, whose visit to attend the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for discussions on the Australian government policies on Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory was facilitated by QUNO in 2010.

Quakers' involvement with prison reform began during the early days of Quakerism, in the seventeenth century. At that time, many Quakers were persecuted and imprisoned for their beliefs, experiencing the very poor conditions in prisons first-hand. Since that time, Quakers have been concerned with the causes of crime and the treatment of criminals.

## **UN rules on the treatment of women prisoners and offenders**

Since 2004, QUNO has highlighted the needs of women prisoners and offenders. Women have different offending patterns, socioeconomic positions and family relationships from men, yet prison regulations frequently ignore their situation. In December 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted

new UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, to be known as the Bangkok Rules because of the leading role of the Thai Government in their initiation and development. QUNO was involved in drafting and developing the text for the Bangkok Rules and has undertaken research, publications and advocacy on the subject in both the human rights bodies in Geneva and the criminal justice bodies in Vienna. QUNO is delighted with this result and is working with others to publicise these new Rules and encourage their use.

## **Children of prisoners and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion**

Our work on children of prisoners includes both those babies and children who may live in prison with their mother (rarely are fathers allowed to have children in prison with them), and those children left outside while one or more parents are in prison. Statistics on children of prisoners are not systematically collected so numbers are difficult to estimate, but it is thought that millions of children are affected worldwide. In the UK, there are six times as many children who have a parent in prison as there are children on the Child Protection Register.

In October 2010, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child decided to devote its 2011 Day of General Discussion (DGD) to 'children of incarcerated parents', following persistent lobbying from QUNO. This is a significant step forward in getting real attention on and a child rights approach to the situation of these children.





During 2010, QUNO was also engaged in the three-year EU-funded research project 'Children of Prisoners, Interventions and Mitigations to Strengthen Mental Health (COPING)', alongside partners in Germany, Romania, Sweden, France and the UK. The study will collect data which will enable direct comparison between parental imprisonment and other factors in terms of their impact on children's mental health. The results of this research will provide input to the 2011 DGD and to QUNO's future work on this issue.

**Rulings on conscientious objection by the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee**

Quakers are pacifists, opposing war in all its forms, and have had a long involvement in promoting the right of individuals to refuse to perform military service – conscientious objection.

The European Court of Human Rights is poised to decide whether conscientious objection to military service is protected under the European Human Rights Convention. To date, it has lagged behind the UN in this respect. Building on the jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, QUNO and four other organisations prepared and submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Grand Chamber of the European Court, providing the Court with information in support of the right to conscientious objection. The hearing took place in November 2010, and the final decision is expected in 2011.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Committee in 2010 decided unanimously that failure to provide for conscientious objectors to military service on various religious and non-religious grounds was an infringement of their conscience and a violation of the Covenant's article 18 on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This decision reaffirms and strengthens their earlier jurisprudence on the issue.

**Progress in the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

In July 2010, QUNO and Canadian Quakers hosted their regular meeting for members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which reports to the UN Human Rights Council), with participation by selected government representatives. The subsequent resolution adopted at the 15th session of the UN Human Rights Council in September 2010 included almost all that the Experts had requested at that meeting.



**Holly Mason-White**  
Programme Assistant  
September 2009 – July 2010



**Carolan Goggin**  
Programme Assistant  
September 2010 – August 2011

**Publications:**

*Children of Prisoners: a Draft Framework for Decision-Making to take account of best interests of the child*

Holly Mason-White (2010)

# Disarmament and Peace



**David Atwood**  
Director & Programme  
Representative

## Publications:

*Ripples into Waves: Locally led peacebuilding on a national scale*

Peace Direct & the Quaker United Nations Office by Carolyn Hayman (ISBN 978-0-9552419-1-8) (2010)

*Reducing Armed Violence in East Africa: Civil Society Good Practices Magazine* (East Africa Regional Seminar, November 2010) – English

*Reducing Armed Violence in South America: Civil Society Good Practices Magazine* (South American Regional Seminar, November 2010) – Spanish

All are available on the QUNO website

Progress on reducing armed violence and enhancing real security in the world is hard to measure and – however you choose to measure it – painfully slow. The strength of the Quaker commitment to peace ensures that, crucially, QUNO is able to engage for the long haul.

The QUNO Representative for Disarmament and Peace, David Atwood, describes how QUNO's work to promote peace through the United Nations and other international bodies is multi-layered: "Building trust, sharing ideas, conversations ... eventually a way forward emerges even though it looked so frustrating and impossible before".

QUNO seeks to pursue this long term engagement in peace promotion through three tracks of activity.

## Reducing armed violence to facilitate sustainable development

QUNO coordinates the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development's NGO Working Group, facilitating civil society participation. Through its programmes, the Geneva Declaration works to enhance the capacities of affected governments and civil society organizations to further armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives and enhance development. During the 2010 UN review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Geneva Declaration actors highlighted the correlation between states experiencing high levels of armed violence or emerging from armed conflict and those least likely to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Since the Geneva Declaration was adopted in 2006, more than one hundred states have endorsed it. There has been a strong Quaker involvement from the outset. The Geneva Declaration will have its second Ministerial Review conference at the end of 2011, and, in advance of this, QUNO is seeking to build the capacity of local civil society organizations engaged in practical armed violence reduction programmes to impact the policy process effectively. To this end, QUNO coordinated workshops in Rio de Janeiro and Nairobi in November 2010. Through a series of presentations, interactive discussions and workshops, members exchanged experiences from the field and shared a number of 'best practices' in advocacy, measurability and programming. Both meetings presented recommendations to civil society, Governments and the UN which, along with other "good practice" evidence, will be presented to the Ministerial Review.

## Promoting arms control and disarmament processes

QUNO aims to contribute to international peace and security by promoting





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partnerships on disarmament and arms control issues. We work in formal collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in a partnership known as the Geneva Forum. Through high level seminars and other activities the Geneva Forum brings together government missions, international organisations, civil society and the media to examine and discuss security and disarmament issues.

As part of this initiative, QUNO helped to set up the long-term mechanism of the Geneva Process on small arms. This involves governments, international organizations and NGOs in regular informal consultations to promote and monitor implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. There has been a high level of commitment from the participating States to these dialogues, and it has thus been able to influence the shape of the UN Programme of Action biennial meetings thereby helping to move the process forward. The Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the implementation of this Programme of Action took place in June 2010 and looked in particular at eradicating illicit cross-border trade in small arms through specific mechanisms for tracking cross-border flows of small arms. A consensus outcome was achieved and the report set a number of ambitious goals for the international community for the future. This work on small arms remains a key commitment of QUNO and shapes its substantial involvement on arms management and disarmament concerns.

### **Focal point for peacebuilding organisations in Geneva**

Geneva is a crossroads for many global efforts. The creation of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 stimulated attention to the role that Geneva actors also play in many forms of peacebuilding activity. QUNO was among the catalysts for a new Geneva-based initiative that took formal shape in 2008, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. The goal of the Platform is to facilitate cooperation and dialogue among peacebuilding actors through informal discussions and debates. Among the range of activities of the Platform in 2010, it played an important role in the five-year review of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. A new web-site for the Platform has been launched (see side bar). QUNO's Geneva work on peacebuilding complements the important work of our colleagues in QUNO New York at the UN Headquarters on violent conflict prevention and peacebuilding.



**Tom Richardson**  
Programme Assistant  
September 2009 – July 2010



**Aoife Reaper-Reynolds**  
Programme Assistant  
September 2010 – August 2011

#### **More information**

*Geneva Declaration*

[www.genevadeclaration.org](http://www.genevadeclaration.org)

*Geneva Forum*

[www.geneva-forum.org](http://www.geneva-forum.org)

*Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

[www.gppplatform.ch](http://www.gppplatform.ch)

*For more information on the Working Group on Armed Violence and Development please visit our Facebook page.*

# Global Economic Issues



Caroline Dommen  
Programme Representative

The Global Economics Issues programme at QUNO works on food and sustainability, and on human impacts of climate change, promoting long-term equity and justice within and between countries. These issues become ever more pressing, as 2010 saw both food prices and carbon emissions continue to rise.

## Food and sustainability

One facet of QUNO's work on food and sustainability aims to bring evidence about issues such as food security, climate change and low-input farming to agricultural trade negotiators. Through meetings with delegates and experts we have sought to reframe the agriculture trade discussion to focus on ensuring long-term food security. This may not sound radical, but it is a far remove from negotiators' current concerns with agreeing mathematical formulae for measuring the opening up of markets, and promoting agricultural exports and imports. At the World Trade Organisation's annual Public Forum in September 2010, QUNO invited Christian Aid to present the results on their research on how small-scale, low-input farming has the potential to significantly increase food production, reduce carbon emissions and sustain biological diversity.

Another facet of QUNO's work in this area looks at issues relating to agricultural research, currently focusing on the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). UPOV acknowledges the work of plant breeders, to motivate them to develop new, improved crop varieties. However, despite stating that its mission is 'for the benefit of society', UPOV pays little heed to public interest concerns such as food security, maintaining biological diversity or the needs of small-scale farmers.

For example, UPOV rules are unable to formally acknowledge the traditional knowledge through which small farmers gradually improve the crop varieties that they plant. Through the UPOV process, private firms could control the use of new crop varieties, which could limit the choices of the poorest farmers and further marginalise them. At present, twenty-three of the twenty-five organisations with observer status at UPOV are business



*"It seems very informal, so it gives us more space to speak about what we really want to say."*

- First time participant in a Quaker House lunch from a country mission





associations. QUNO successfully worked with not-for-profit NGOs for them to be admitted as UPOV observers, in order to improve farmers' representation; the first two NGO observers were accepted in October 2010.

QUNO commissioned a study on UPOV, published in early 2011, in order to further raise awareness of the issues amongst the government delegations to the UN in Geneva.

### **Human impacts of climate change**

Much attention has been given to the scientific debate on climate change and environmental degradation. QUNO is concerned with ensuring the international community works together to minimise the negative impact of climate change and environmental degradation on people. Advance planning gives the best possibility that the international community will be able to find solutions which offer those affected the chance to retain their dignity and control over their lives.

In 2010 we looked in depth at how climate change may cause people to move from one place to another. QUNO gathered representatives of the international community in Geneva – governments, NGOs and the UN – in a series of dialogues for in-

formal in-depth discussion and sharing of ideas on these issues. This type of displacement is likely to increase as the effects of climate change intensify, but policy makers and civil society are still unsure of how to respond to it. It is already a pressing matter in some places – for example, the Pacific islands of Kiribati and Tuvalu are likely to become wholly uninhabitable by 2050 due to the rising level of the sea.

During 2010 we began to collaborate with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). QUNO is working with them to gather input from representatives from all major faith communities on climate change and migration. We hope that the representatives will share and learn from their faith's different perspectives on the welcoming of strangers, as well as discussing ideas for practical responses to the developing situation, and find ways to inject the moral dimension of these issues into UN debates.



**Oliver Robertson**  
Programme Officer,  
Global Economic Issues  
and Human Rights and  
Refugees programmes

# Supporting civil society

An important strand of QUNO's work across our three programmes is supporting others to have their voice heard at the United Nations. Examples of QUNO's work with civil society in 2010 include:

## **Aboriginal Elders at the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

The Northern Territories Emergency Response Act of 2007 was felt to be the most serious breach of human rights in Australia for many years, with the government blaming and shaming the Aboriginal people who responded with silence and despair.

In partnership with Australian Quakers, QUNO facilitated and supported two Aboriginal Elders from the Australian Northern Territories, Djiniyini Gondarra and Rosalie Kunoth-Monks, to make the long journey to present the situation and concerns of their communities directly to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in August 2010.

The two elders made careful and detailed presentations to the Committee. The Australian Human Rights Commissioner then quoted them word for word in his own presentation to the same Committee. They were clearly heard, and the Committee responded by making strong and specific recommendations to the Australian Government.

## **Regional Best and Promising Practices Seminar on Armed Violence Reduction and Prevention in East Africa**

Thirty-five expert practitioners from civil society organisations in Southern Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Burundi, and Democratic Republic of Congo gathered in Nairobi in November 2010 for a workshop organised by QUNO.

The workshop aimed at building a community of practice through which organisations with programmes of armed violence prevention for development in Eastern Africa could learn from each other's knowledge and experiences. It was also to enhance the capacity of the organisations for effective participation at policy level in the field of peacebuilding.

Through presentations and discussion groups, the participants explored and shared good practice in work related to pastoral conflicts, disarmament and reconciliation, and armed violence reduction in conflict areas and fragile states. Two interactive training sessions were also held – one on communications and one on monitoring and evaluation.

From the discussions, recommendations were made for civil society, governments and the United Nations, emphasising the importance of community ownership and empowerment – through local Peace Committees, for example - the inclusion of youth and women and conflict-sensitive programming.

A plan of action was created to map out the next steps to be taken, which included setting up of working groups, a focal point, organising advocacy activities and starting a blog on armed violence reduction and development work for the region.

## **Working with partners to promote shared concerns**

In September 2010, QUNO invited Christian Aid to present the findings of a Christian Aid-supported study on small-scale farming (*A Green Evolution? Sustainable Agriculture & Small Farmers in Africa and Asia*).

The study (in a range of countries like India, the Philippines, Zimbabwe and Burkina Faso) found that small-scale, sustainable, farming can promote food security, whilst enhancing the environment and supporting biological diversity.

QUNO facilitated Christian Aid's presentation of this work before an audience of over 100 trade policy specialists, from governments, academia and the private sector.

As this topic becomes increasingly prominent at international level, QUNO expects to continue facilitating this dialogue between small-scale farmers and international decision-makers in governments, international organisations and civil society.

# Looking forward to 2011



2011 will be a period of change for QUNO. In June, we will welcome our new Director, Jonathan Woolley. Jonathan comes to us with a wealth of experience in advocacy, international politics, economics and programme leadership developed during a career in participatory agricultural research and institutional change. Jonathan is a British Quaker who has been living in Mexico, where he is an elder at Mexico City Meeting.

With Jonathan's arrival we will also be saying a fond farewell to David Atwood, who has been Programme Representative for the Disarmament and Peace programme since 1995 and Director since 2004. David is part of the fabric of QUNO and of the disarmament and peace network in Geneva, so his departure marks a significant change for both.

The Global Economic Issues programme will launch the study on the role of UPOV during the April UPOV sessions in Geneva. The programme will continue a series of lunches on the human impact of climate change aimed at improving understanding amongst Geneva-based delegates and identifying ways that UN processes can be used to take this forward.

September brings the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion on children of incarcerated parents. QUNO's Human Rights and Refugees programme will be heavily involved in preparations for the day, including working with contacts worldwide to gather experiences and good practice to feed into the day.

The Disarmament and Peace programme will continue after David's departure under Paulin Regnard, our new D&P Programme Officer. In 2011, QUNO will be actively involved in preparations for the second Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

Nurturing young talent is an important part of QUNO's work. In July, we will host 25 young people for our annual QUNO Summer School. The fortnight-long summer school is designed to be an introduction to the UN and the other international organisations based in Geneva, giving participants the opportunity to meet, hear from and discuss with diplomats, NGO workers, journalists and UN staff. Since its inception in 1955 the summer school has inspired and engaged participants in international politics, with some going on to pursue careers in that field.

# QUNO Finances 2010

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash in hand	409	437
Reserves	1,135,791	970,968
Sundry debtors	6,251	8,373
Prepaid expenses	6,187	1,925
Project funds to receive	0	6,000
Equipment & furniture	23,437	21,618
Depreciation 30% VR prorata	(11,320)	(4,608)
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,160,755 CHF</b>	<b>1,004,713 CHF</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Sundry creditors	22,317	14,734
Projects & Quaker creditors	1,127,019	978,591
<b>Retained earnings</b>		
Earlier years' gain/(loss)	11,388	10,820
Profit for the year	32	568
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,160,755 CHF</b>	<b>1,004,713 CHF</b>

## Donating to QUNO

As a non-profit organisation that relies on the generosity of individuals and groups to finance its work, we are grateful for donations of any size. If you would like to support our work, direct donations can be made by cheque, bank transfer or online using a credit card. Information on how to do so is listed on the back cover of this report.

### **We wish to sincerely thank all those who contributed to our work financially in 2010:**

*Governments:* Irish Aid, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, UK Department for International Development

*Organisations:* EU Seventh Framework Programme, ARC, CAFOD-UK, GTZ, Ptarmigan Trust

*Quaker bodies:* Albuquerque MM, Australia YM, Basel Quakers, Britain YM, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Germany YM, Japan YM, Marmotte Trust, Netherlands YM, Quaker-Hilfe, Quaker Hulpfonds Netherlands, Quaker Peace & Service Aotearoa/New Zealand, Switzerland YM

### **QUNO would also like to thank all those individuals who gave contributions in 2010.**

<b>Profit and Loss Statement</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants	1,057,338	874,623
Contributions, donations & legacies	54,139	42,498
Interest income	1,974	1,500
Dissolution of provisions & sales	0	16
Lectures, insurance & expenses reimbursements	11,783	108,137
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,125,234</b>	<b>1,026,774</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries & social costs	667,851	622,776
Rent & insurance	32,996	33,277
Printing & dissemination	33,804	55,141
Audit & legal fees	3,452	2,300
Bank charges	2,297	2,267
Exchange losses	28,300	0
General operating expenditure	5,682	2,063
Postage	839	3,695
Equipment purchase & maintenance	15,559	12,099
Staff & non-staff travel	104,957	100,633
Meetings, conferences & consultations	83,247	71,036
Telephone & internet	6,690	7,194
Contributions & grants to other organisations	0	10,000
Consultants	123,117	97,450
Fundraising & promotion	9,699	3,738
Depreciation	6,712	2,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,125,202</b>	<b>1,026,206</b>
<b>Net profit</b>	<b>32 CHF</b>	<b>568 CHF</b>

### Commentary

The broad range of programme work briefly described in this Review is possible only because of grants and donations from supporters and through careful stewardship of the funds which are made available for this work. Despite the uncertain economic situation, in fact QUNO was able to expand its level of work in 2010, including the taking on of additional staff, while at the same time increasing its total revenues for the year. These results contain many reasons to be thankful for the continuing broad support for what we do in Geneva and to be hopeful about the future.

The above figures are based on the external audit of QUNO funds which has been completed for 2010. Copies of this audit are available by writing to QUNO.

# QUNO and Quakers

The Quakers started 350 years ago in England, where George Fox and his followers sought a more direct experience of Christian worship, without the mediation of paid ministers. Quakers seek to experience God directly, within themselves and in their relationships and the wider world.

This was a radical departure from the prevailing religious attitudes of the time, and Quakers were often

persecuted, imprisoned and even put to death because of their beliefs. Their experience in those early days has left a legacy of concern amongst Quakers about social issues, justice, and human rights.

Quakers are more formally known as 'the Religious Society of Friends'. Quaker services are known as Meetings. While forms of worship vary across the world, in Europe communal silent worship predominates, interspersed with spoken ministry when someone feels moved to share their inspiration. Quakers often choose to express their faith through actions rather than through words.

Although Quakers began in England, there are now significant numbers of Quakers also in East Africa and the Americas, with an estimated total number of 350,000 worldwide.

## The Quaker Testimonies

The testimonies are the ways that Quakers bear witness to their beliefs in their actions and the way they live their lives. The four key testimonies are currently:

*Truth:* Quakers try to live according to the deepest truth, which they believe comes from God. This means speaking the truth to all, including people in positions of power. This commitment has led to

their success in business enterprises, because they have been considered to conduct themselves with integrity. Barclays, Cadbury and Rowntree are all companies which were started by Quakers.

*Justice and equality:* Quakers recognise the equal worth and unique nature of every person, believing that there is "that of God in everyone". This means working to change the systems that cause injustice

and prevent true community between people. It also means working with people who are suffering from injustice, such as prisoners and asylum seekers. Quakers were amongst the leaders of the anti-slavery movement in the United States in the nineteenth century.



*Simplicity:* Quakers are concerned about excesses and unfairness in society, and the unsustainable use of natural resources. They try to live simply and avoid consumerism.

*Peace:* Quakers are probably best known for their peace testimony, and are one of the historic "Peace Churches". The peace testimony has led Quakers to refuse military service ("conscientious objection"), and to become involved in a wide range of peace activities, from practical work in areas affected by violent conflict to the development of alternatives to violence at all levels from personal to international.

## Quakers in the international community

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) was set up in Geneva and New York to represent Quaker values to the United Nations and the wider international community. Quaker concerns regarding peace, human rights, international law, and social development have always been highly relevant to the work of the United Nations.

# QUNO governance and staff

QUNO represents Quakers through Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC, the body which links Quakers internationally) at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions in Geneva and New York.

## Quaker United Nations Geneva Office Geneva Association

QUNO is formally recognised by the Swiss Canton of Geneva as a tax exempt association (known as the Quaker United Nations Office Geneva Association). This Annual Report constitutes the Annual Report of the Association. In 2010, the recognised officers of the Association were: Michael Eccles (President), Neithard Petry (Treasurer) and David Atwood (Secretary).

## Quaker United Nations Committee

The work of QUNO Geneva is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee, which is made up of members appointed by the Friends World Committee for Consultation and Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). In 2010, the Committee members were as follows:

*For FWCC:* Nancy Irving, Robert Howell, Emily Mmereko Mnisi, Bridget Moix, Neithard Petry, Andrew Tomlinson

*For BYM:* Helen Drewery, Michael Eccles, Elaine Green, Carolyn Hayman, Gwen Schaffer, Charlotte Seymour-Smith, Bridget Walker

The Quaker United Nations Committee provides a forum for Quakers from around the world to influence the direction of the QUNO Geneva work. The Committee sets the priorities for the work, monitors and evaluates progress, and reports back to the two parent bodies once a year.

## QUNO Staff

<i>Director</i>	David Atwood
<i>Office Manager</i>	Sylviane Trousseau
<i>Finance Officer</i>	René Lejeune
<i>Disarmament &amp; Peace Representative</i>	David Atwood
<i>Programme Assistant</i>	Tom Richardson Aoife Reaper-Reynolds
<i>Human Rights &amp; Refugees Representative</i>	Rachel Brett
<i>Programme Assistant</i>	Holly Mason-White Carolán Goggin
<i>Global Economic Issues Representative</i>	Caroline Dommen
<i>Programme Officer</i>	Oliver Robertson



Sylviane Trousseau  
Office Manager



René Lejeune  
Finance Officer

QUNO would especially like to thank four volunteers who assisted us in our work in 2010:

**Tom Gibson**  
**Nathalia Machado**  
**Kamand Gharun**  
**Karen Glisson**

Their contribution is greatly appreciated. Particular thanks are due to Karen Glisson for her assistance in preparing this report.

Quaker United Nations Office, Avenue du Mervelet 13, 1209 Geneve, Suisse

+41 22 748 48 00 / [quno@quno.ch](mailto:quno@quno.ch) / [www.quno.org](http://www.quno.org)



**Donating to QUNO:** within the UK

*Cheques* should be made payable to Britain Yearly Meeting with 'QUNO' written on the back, then sent to: attn Finance Department, Religious Society of Friends, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ.

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The Cooperative Bank  
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