



**American Friends  
Service Committee**



**QUNO**

Quaker United Nations Office

**For Immediate Release**

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## Ahead of UN opening, global peace-builders call on governments to recommit to peace

131 organizations release statement for International Day of Peace

**NEW YORK, NY (September 19, 2017)** Dozens of international and domestic peace-building organizations have joined together to release a [statement](#) in advance of the International Day of Peace, which falls on September 21. The statement calls on the international community and the UN General Assembly to fully embrace the commitments to peace in the 2030 Agenda; balance national efforts with a focus on regional and international drivers of peace, justice and inclusion; mainstream prevention; and protect and support civil society in fostering sustainable peace. [Full text of the statement is available here.](#)

“While international attention lurches from crisis to crisis, global peace-building organizations focus on long term work to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies,” said Andrew Tomlinson, director of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). “On the International Day of Peace, we encourage governments gathering in New York for the start of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly to join us in these efforts to sustainably address the root causes of violent conflict around the world.”

The Quaker United Nations Office – an organization that represents Quaker concerns for global peace and justice to the international community, and sister organization of the American Friends Service Committee – played a key role in drafting and circulating the statement. The signatories include organizations dedicated to peace from throughout the world, including faith-based groups, international development agencies, and policy organizations, and others.

“The International Day of Peace is an opportunity for all to commit to global shared security and to highlight the critical work of our partners around the world promoting nonviolent

conflict resolution,” said Kerri Kennedy, who serves as the Associate General Secretary for International Programs at the American Friends Service Committee. “We unite with our partners to call on the United Nations to advance these initiatives, and we will continue our efforts to invest in diplomacy and build a just and lasting peace.”

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*The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social systems. For more see <http://afsc.org>*

*Since 1947, QUNO has worked with diplomats, UN officials, and civil society to support a UN that prioritizes peace and prevents war. QUNO uses Quaker House and its convening power to facilitate off-the-record meetings and bring perspectives from outside the UN system in order to promote peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict at a policy level in New York. QUNO also works closely with AFSC and other Quaker Service Agencies in country, and with Friends’ policy offices in Geneva, Washington, and Brussels. For more see <http://quno.org>*