

# Update – November 2022



**Northern Friends Peace Board**

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Charity SC 024632

## NFPB Meetings

NFPB members and staff have been out and about these past few months, although disrupted rail services have proved challenging.

Our third members' meeting of the year took place in **Glasgow and online** at the end of September. We heard from Livvy Hanks (QPSW) and Janet Fenton, on **loss and damage** in relation to climate change and on **nuclear weapons** respectively. We were reminded, through these two lenses, of our common humanity and of the imperative for taking action.

NFPB members also gave further time to sharing responses to the war in **Ukraine**, acknowledging the complexity of the situation. We continue to update our webpage with information and resources to help promote possible peaceful ways forward in this distressing war and are planning some additional opportunities for Friends to work together online on these issues.

Our meeting in Glasgow concluded with Friends sharing ideas on the role of NFPB and its Representatives in supporting Friends in their peace action and witness. Some NFPB members stayed in Glasgow after our meeting and joined Scottish Friends for a meeting for worship the next day at the gate of the **Faslane** nuclear submarine base on the Clyde.

A further meeting of NFPB members will take place at **Lancaster Meeting House on 26 November**; we would welcome interested Friends.\*

*Related links:*

- **Climate Change Loss and Damage:** <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/climate-economic-justice/make-polluters-pay-campaign>
- **NFPB page on Ukraine:** [https://nfpb.org.uk/ukraine\\_2022/](https://nfpb.org.uk/ukraine_2022/)
- <https://www.nuclearban.scot/promises-threats-and-nuclear-weapons/>

*\* At the time of posting, we have learned of further industrial action affecting rail services on 26 November – visit our website calendar for updates about arrangements for our meeting.*

## Networking and collaboration

NFPB Coordinator Philip Austin attended the residential weekend of **North Scotland Area Meeting** in late August, the first time Friends in the Area Meeting had gathered since before the pandemic. Peace, and a particular focus on Ukraine, was a theme for the weekend.

We have continued to meet and offer support online with Quakers and others, supporting local and regional peace concerns and projects.

**Contact us if you would welcome input or support for your peace concerns or in facilitating a discussion on a peace theme in your Local or Area Meeting.**

In October, we contributed to the residential gathering of the **FWCC EMES\* Peace and Service Network**, meeting at Bad Pyrmont in Germany. The network has evolved over recent years, with

many more opportunities to meet together online. This first in-person (and online) gathering since 2019 came, of course, during a year in which peace in Europe has been of particular concern. Friends from across the continent shared information and ideas in relation to long-term Quaker peace and service work, as well as focussing on specific current crises, from war in Ukraine to climate concerns and peace.

**See:** <https://fwccemes.org/emes/peace-and-service-consultation>

\* **FWCC EMES** is Friends World Committee for Consultation's Europe and Middle East Section

## Rethinking Security

Earlier in the year we co-facilitated a Woodbrooke course with Rethinking Security, which also introduced some of the work being developed around an **Alternative Security Review** project. We are actively involved in supporting that work, which has facilitated a series of round-table discussions and, with Coventry University, is trialling different approaches to gathering data and opinion on views on security from different parts of society. Some of these will be set out in 'How-to' materials early in 2023 and we would be keen to support Friends in taking these forward.

**You can read more** about the Alternative Security Review at <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/find-out-more/alternative-security-review/>

## Military Spending

With the war in Ukraine, coupled with a very turbulent and uncertain time in UK politics and the economy, government plans on military spending have been difficult to pin down. Partners in the UK steering group of the **Global Campaign on Military Spending** (GCOMS) will be trying to make sense of figures when they do become available and use these to update a campaigning pocket booklet on military spending and climate change. They will also be preparing for the Global Days of Action next Spring.

**To find out more** about the campaign and to view some of its resources go to:

<https://demilitarize.org.uk/climate/> and <https://demilitarize.org.uk/>

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## NFPB Office – on the move

The NFPB office has been in the Methodists' Victoria Hall in the centre of Bolton since the 1990s. We learned in late September that we would have to move by early December, as the space is wanted for other purposes. As we write, preparations are underway for a move to Bolton Quaker Meeting House, hopefully by 6<sup>th</sup> December. Some of our other work has had to be scaled back in order to plan and implement this unexpected move. **Updated contact details to follow.**



## Events and news

We have continued to produce our **Peace Round-up** throughout the year – a bulletin with links to a range of information sources on current peace concerns. You can read these via <https://nfpb.org.uk/resources/publicity-information-outreach/>.

Our website **calendar** is regularly updated with events from across the Quaker and peace network. Here is a sample of some forthcoming events, but please check the calendar periodically for further updates. <https://nfpb.org.uk/calendar/> . Please send us news of events and activities that we can include in this calendar and in future mailings.

- Monday 14 November — **Europe at a Crossroads**  
QCEA study tour opening session welcomes any who are interested 6.15-7.15.  
Details <https://www.qcea.org/2022/10/upcoming-event-europe-at-a-crossroads/>
- Wednesday 16 November — **ACTION AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY: the response of the UK MILLICHAP PEACE FUND LECTURE** - talk by Prof. Gary Craig 7.30pm via Zoom. **Register** in advance for this meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpce-rrzsjE91eq-xOWzp-mUurOcBcou\\_N](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpce-rrzsjE91eq-xOWzp-mUurOcBcou_N)
- Friday 25 November — **Addressing the long-term trauma of war** Woodbrooke. 7pm-9pm.  
Details <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/addressing-the-long-term-trauma-of-war/>
- Saturday 3 December — **Quaker Meeting for Worship at Menwith Hill** 2 – 3pm every other month at main gate of US base near Harrogate. Please bring chair. For further information contact [barbaraepenny@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraepenny@gmail.com)

## Posters



These A2-sized posters are available from us: for **ordering** details contact us at [nfpb@gn.apc.org](mailto:nfpb@gn.apc.org)