

Our activities in 2021

Introduction

This is an overview of our activities during 2021. We saw a number of changes in membership and roles during the year, and were pleased to be able to keep in touch and work with many other groups also facing change and challenge. Thank you Friends for your continuing support during the year, a period in which our work and our life as a community of faith and action continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The year started with progress towards nuclear disarmament at the global level; it is important to mark and celebrate such positive developments, built on years of committed advocacy. The year was also one in which climate issues were very much to the fore; the UN climate conference (COP26) took place in Glasgow in November, but throughout the year it was increasingly evident that global heating was having a severe impact on many communities across the world. It was inspiring to see the creative and diverse witness, advocacy and action in and around the COP26, however disappointing the outcome. There is much to do but also much on which to build.

As the year ended, we could not have anticipated the war in Ukraine, which is having such a devastating impact on lives and the planet, as wars always do. We hold onto our vision, with roots in our life as a worshipping community, of a different way.

**For all our futures
Fund
planet care**



not warfare

Northern
Friends
Peace
Board
nfpb.org.uk

NFPB poster produced
ahead of COP26

Northern Friends Peace Board is a Quaker Recognised Body that works to promote and support Friends, Quaker Meetings and others taking action for peace in its height and breadth, with a particular focus on the North of the UK.

During 2021 our objectives included: continuing to bring Quakers and others together as appropriate during the pandemic, providing opportunities for worship, learning and friendship, and promoting awareness and action on disarmament, non-military security, climate change and broader aspects of peace.

Members' meetings

There were four meetings of our members during the year, in March, June, September and November. All were held online; plans for the November meeting to be a hybrid event were not fully realised due to a severe storm the previous night disrupting rail travel across the country.

At our meetings we welcomed opportunities to hear from and to talk with a number of speakers. These included: David Gee, on the theme of hope; Joanna Frew from Rethinking Security; and Grace Da Costa and Andrew Tomlinson, Quaker parliamentary engagement staff for Westminster and Holyrood parliaments respectively.

Other substantive issues considered during the year included nuclear disarmament, Israel and Palestine, and arms trade campaigning. We made time during these meetings and at additional less formal occasions through the year for our members to meet together in small groups for reflection and connection, and as a whole group for sharing information and news.

Witness, peace-promotion and collaboration

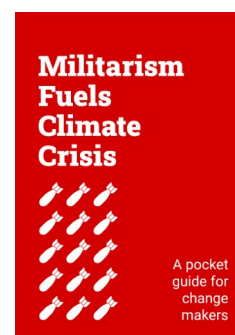
During the year we worked to keep Friends and others informed of current issues and opportunities for action. Whilst much of this involved meeting and working online in the first half of the year in particular, there were increasing occasions when people were able to meet and witness together in-person.



Banner at Pontefract Meeting

In January we produced a simple poster design that Friends used and adapted in a number of ways to mark the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This was backed up by resources on our website at <https://nfpb.org.uk/tpnw-info>. Our members and staff continued to keep in touch with other campaigners on the issue, through online regular meetings of UK-based supporters of ICAN (International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons) and to publicise opportunities for action and involvement. We joined with some of these in signing a letter to the UK government on the plans announced to raise the limit of the number of nuclear warheads the country would hold and deploy.

We continued our working links with a number of groups in developing in the UK the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS). This work had a particular focus on raising awareness of issues during the week of action in the spring, and before and during the COP26 negotiations in November. Throughout this work, there was a particular focus on emphasising the need to increase spending to address climate change, as opposed to still further increases in military spending.



GCOMS booklet

Are you alert to practices here and throughout the world which discriminate against people on the basis of who or what they are or because of their beliefs? Bear witness to the humanity of all people, including those who break society's conventions or its laws. Try to discern new growing points in social and economic life. Seek to understand the causes of injustice, social unrest and fear. Are you working to bring about a just and compassionate society which allows everyone to develop their capacities and fosters the desire to serve?

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Through our membership of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, we helped deliver a series of short webinars. These focused on climate change, racism and on militarism. Separately, we also gave talks to Quaker meetings (via Zoom) on peace and climate issues, co-facilitated a workshop on rethinking security and hosted a webinar looking at armed forces covenants (which many public bodies and businesses have signed to indicate support for current and former armed forces personnel), with expert input from ForcesWatch. The Coordinator also spoke at virtual events organised by wider peace movement partners.

Along with other Quaker bodies, we are members of the Rethinking Security network and members of both its Council and its Outreach Group. In the latter capacity, we worked during the year to support the promotion of the Alternative Security Review project and began planning a course to be hosted by Woodbrooke in the spring of 2022.

“The Alternative Security Review is a civil society-led review of the UK’s security strategy. By asking people in the UK what they feel really matters to them for their security, the Alternative Security Review will create a human security strategy to provide an alternative to failing government policy.”



**Alternative
Security
Review**

<https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/find-out-more/alternative-security-review/>

Alongside the external engagement described above, we developed and maintained our communications and awareness-raising activities for Friends and beyond. New sections were added to our website throughout the year – on peace and climate, the Peace Testimony and on the UN nuclear ban treaty (TPNW), and we used our monthly ‘Peace Round-up’ bulletin and our social media to disseminate information on a wide range of peace concerns.

Pandemic restrictions/virtual meeting practices limited our contact with some Quakers on the one hand, whilst on the other hand opened up more opportunities. We ran a short workshop at and participated fully in British Quakers’ virtual Yearly Meeting Gathering during July and August. We also participated in regular and one-off international meetings of Quakers, gathering in worship, and sharing information and ideas and making connections on peace and on environmental concerns. We began planning a collaborative event on peace and climate concerns with the Quaker Council of European Affairs, to take place in January 2022.

Governance and finance

NFPB trustees met four times during the year, continuing to do so via Zoom. Alan Frith and Peter Speirs began their service from January 2021, and Douglas Shaw and Phoebe Spence completed their service as Clerk to Trustees and Treasurer respectively. Trustees continued to monitor Covid and other risks and to support the staff in their work. Philip Austin and Steven Waling worked as Coordinator and Administrative Assistant respectively, both largely working from home during the year.

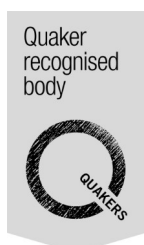
Trustees worked on a revision of our governing document and on the financial strategy. The revised governing document allows for virtual meetings of trustees beyond the temporary relaxation of regulations that arose from the pandemic.

Income from Northern Friends was in line with our budget, but with an un-anticipated reduction in grant funding we drew on reserves to help sustain our work during the year. Further funds from our reserves were invested for income and growth. Activity costs remained low due to home working and virtual meetings.

For full accounts and trustees reports see: <https://nfpb.org.uk/resources/updates-and-reports/>

Receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2021

Receipts	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Donations</i>	36,993	35,912
<i>Grants</i>	345	6,243
<i>Gross receipts from other charitable activities</i>	128	100
<i>Investment Income</i>	1,459	1,146
Total Receipts	38,925	43,581
Payments		
<i>Charitable Activities</i>	46,625	48,233
<i>Governance costs</i>	1,392	1,016
Total Payments	48,017	49,249
Net receipts/payments	(9,092)	(5,668)
Cash converted to investments	20,000	22,000



Northern Friends Peace Board

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