
To decolonize our lives we must shift our identities and share leadership.

To Friends Everywhere,

FRRIENDS PEACE TEAMS (FPT) is where Quakers from many yearly meetings gather to share and support each other's peace and justice ministries. We develop long-term relationships around the world with global networks of peace and justice workers, leaders, facilitators, participants, supporters, and donors of many backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs, including marginalized and Indigenous people. We include people from a wide range of beliefs and faith traditions. Together, we celebrate life's transforming power and open to everyone's authentic experience of Spirit, love, and conscience to guide our work and transform our lives, communities, and societies.

We function as a network of autonomous regional groups who share power based on mutual discernment. We are a multilingual-rich community that supports native languages, using English as the base reference language. Our activities respect the dignity of all life and cultivate each person's innate capacities; challenge exploitation, domination, racism, and colonization; and value honest, direct relationships among all people and with nature.

We work to recognize and challenge identities that may be rooted in white supremacy and racism. To that end, we set up an FPT Global Coordinating Team clerked by the regional groups. The US group changed its name from FPT Council to North American Regional Group, taking its place as an equal member in the global network.

FPT offers amazing, fertile opportunities to question the impacts of colonization and how to undo them in the small circles of our lives, amplified across the world. We do this in outward ways by repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, declaring the transatlantic slave trade a crime against humanity, and calling for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We also do this internally, asking these questions of ourselves in our own hearts and minds and with our families and communities. The dialogue among such a diversity of people is inspiring.

Europe faces the daily tragedies of ongoing bombardment and destruction of life-sustaining infrastructures in Ukraine. Those we reach are grateful for the companionship and trauma counseling we offer as they face the harshness of war. For their own safety, we cannot share much news of peace workers in the North Caucasus, but our hearts and support go out to them in this time of isolation. Some members of the Europe Regional Group work in Palestine, Israel, and Iraq. We need more Friends who want to help with simple tasks to support activities in these stressful settings.

Asia West Pacific continues to reach out: encouraging the Europe Regional Group's attention to Ukraine, North Caucasus, and the Middle East; supporting West Papuans' care for children affected by armed conflict; spreading the message of peace and justice through Alternatives to Violence Project and the Power of Goodness; and building relationships with Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute and FWCC-AWPS. We continue to be guided by mutual discernment among peace workers in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Korea, Nepal, USA, UK, and Australia.

Peacebuilding en Las Americas takes the challenge, accepting responsibility to decolonize and think from our roots about the relationship with culture and ancestral lands that were unjustly usurped. We build fair and equitable relationships and address inequality through education, dialogue, and actions for justice, freedom, reconciliation, and peace. In addition to continuing in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Ecuador, where we hold AVP and Trauma Resilience workshops with children, adolescents, youth, women, people who are incarcerated, survivors of armed conflicts, others suffering from domestic violence, people with disabilities; we are also developing new connections in Nicaragua. Our online activities and events reach more than 20 countries inside and outside our region.

African Great Lakes Initiative spreads peace and healing through mediation, peer mediation, Alternatives to Violence Project, gender-based violence prevention, and peace and justice education in Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and other African countries. Building on Read Aloud workshops last year, librarians from Children's Peace Libraries with

Literacy for Peace and Justice started English training for teachers in four Quaker schools. We plan to host Healing and Rebuilding our Communities workshops with South Sudanese refugees living in Kakuma, Kenya, the largest refugee camp in Africa, and in Gulu, Uganda.

North America looks forward to taking our place as one member at the global table, encouraging leadership from a wider diversity of people. This opens an opportunity to reflect on peace and justice work in North America, such as responsibility for reparations and wealth redistribution and other ministries alive among us. Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples coordinates Native and non-Native facilitators to present educational programs that motivate North Americans to build relationships with Indigenous peoples based on truth, respect, justice, and shared humanity. Programs in schools, colleges, faith communities, and civic organizations start with truth-telling about the ongoing impacts in Native communities of centuries of genocide, colonization, and forced assimilation. From this grounding, we take steps to acknowledge historical and ongoing harms, accept responsibilities, and work together toward justice and healing.

We invite you to:

- » **Share your ministry** for peace or justice, by contacting peaceministries@friendspeacetteams.org.
- » **Register online** for events at friendspeacetteams.org/upcoming-events.
- » **Join training sessions** for Alternatives to Violence Project or Power of Goodness facilitators.
- » **Join a Regional Group or Global Committee:** Peace Ministries, Communications, Fundraising, or Finance.
- » **Read our news** and reach out to the authors to offer encouragement, feedback, and ways to improve.
- » **Visit the Friends Peace Teams website.**
- » **Read stories of peace and nonviolence** and find recommended children's books in Friends Peace Libraries.
- » **Sign-up for e-news** and share the news with your meeting or church.
- » **Share this epistle with your meeting,** church, friends, or others. We depend on your prayers, abiding concern, outreach, and financial support.

» **Send a check/cheque:**

- **USA:** *Friends Peace Teams*, 1001 Park Avenue, St Louis, MO 63104 USA
- **Australia:** *Friends Peace Teams AWP*, Jane Drexler, 5/5 Que Court, Riverside, TAS 7250 Australia
- **United Kingdom:** *Friends Peace Teams Europe*, Unit 7, Thorne Farm, Bude, Cornwall EX23 0LU England

» **Donate online** at friendspeacetteams.org/donate:

As an organization of primarily volunteers, 100% of funds designated to a specific country or program go directly to the people there — the needs are great, the Spirit is moving, please be generous.

On behalf of Friends Peace Teams,

Kevin King

Communications Committee Clerk

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