

Peace Hub Focus Group Terms of reference

This is envisaged as a ginger group: 'an active or galvanising group within a larger organisation or body.' This is a working title, the group may find another name that conveys its active nature.

Purpose of the Group

To help develop the content for Peace Hub work and provide guidance on issues and groups for Peace Hub to work with.

To enliven and stimulate the work, and help align priority areas for Peace Hub with the energy and concerns of Friends.

Structure and membership

The group will include two members ex-officio:

- One member of the Peace Hub Management Committee (PHMC)
- The Peace Hub Coordinator

The group will then be open to any Friends (members or attenders) within Central England who are concerned about peace and social justice issues. Group membership will be through active participation, and not be formally nominated.

The group will be accountable to PHMC in terms of keeping content and public communications in-line with Quaker Testimonies and Concerns.

Any Friends wishing to join, or to know more, can contact the Peace Hub Coordinator: office@peacehub.org.uk

Meetings

The Group will meet monthly on Zoom for up to one hour, to discuss current concerns and leadings for the work. The aim of shorter, frequent meetings is to maintain continuity and keep up with current events (in the news and in campaigns that we may align with). It is understood that not every member will be able to make every meeting.

In addition there will be two longer in-person meetings per year, to help develop a sense of community in the group, and reflect on longer-term concerns.

Sub-group meetings to work on a particular event or campaign can be arranged ad-hoc.

Tasks of the group

In its strategy, the Peace Hub Management Committee has identified three priorities for the project:

- Working with & supporting other groups committed to peace & social justice, through outreach, inreach & networking;
- Organising peace events & activities that build on this partnership work;
- Taking people on a journey from passive to active in this peace work.

The Focus Group will help identify which groups and issues to focus on for these three areas. Focus issues could include asylum, the arms trade, tax justice, peaceful communities and rethinking security. Climate work is already supported in a variety of ways – rather than try to replicate this, the group may decide to highlight where climate issues overlap with other peace & social justice topics.

Members will be asked to bring their own concerns for peace and social justice and/or uphold discernment around concerns brought by others.

Ad-hoc sub-groups may form to support the Peace Hub Coordinator in organising events or campaigns around a particular concern (e.g. an asylum sub-group).

There will also be opportunities for sharing peace work that individual members are undertaking personally, for mutual support.

It will *not* be the responsibility of the group to manage finance, employment, line management etc. for the Peace Hub – this will remain the responsibility of the PHMC.

Potential for future expansion

As the group develops, membership could be extended to Friends from other area meetings. Membership could potentially also be extended to non-Quakers who can act in sympathy with our Testimonies and Quaker processes – this will be kept under review.

Any Friends wishing to join, or to know more, can contact the Peace Hub Coordinator: office@peacehub.org.uk

Accepted by Central England Area Meeting, November 2024