

## **Meeting for Sufferings Report July 2 2016- Key items to report on:**

### **Report from Trustees**

Friends House staff seem to be trying to work even closer together, and so, whilst departments will continue, they are going to have a head of worship and witness (Helen Drewery) to try and manage Quaker Peace Social Witness and Quaker Life. This will be reviewed after 18 months to see how it is going - as the job could be a bit too much for anyone.

Legacy income has been sufficiently good that Friends House have advertised for a property person to work to try and find out the best practices and how they could be helping meetings in the future manage their buildings more effectively. Some have large portfolios of old buildings in rural areas and few Friends able to maintain, whilst others have grouped them together - like Manchester and Warrington.

### **From Area Meetings:**

- Unaccompanied refugee children/refugees came up in 2 minutes and early in 2017 there is going to a Woodbrooke conference including Friends from other YMs on what we can/are doing. I reminded Friends that Brummana High School has asked for support for its bursary fund to help refugees/poor children - and helping refugees locally is far better for their future return.
- Arms sales to Saudi Arabia with their use on civilians in Yemen have come up as issues from area meetings and QPSW has been working on it too. Campaign Against the Arms Trade has been given permission by the High Court to take the issue to court with support from Friends.

### **QCCIR:**

Quaker Committee on Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) gave us their annual report. They note that those who claim no religious affiliation now outnumber us - so they have added to their vision to include spiritual and human values or spiritual groups. They also look at how increased tensions, social, political and international are testing Britain, often presented though ill-informed or wilfully misrepresented religious language and imagery.

### **Other issues:**

- Deborah Rowlands (Yearly Meeting Clerk) and Paul Parker (Recording Clerk) are travelling to Philadelphia and Baltimore YMs and will be taking a travelling minute from us.
- We also spent some time reflecting on the effects of the Referendum - reminding us that Quakers voted on both sides too.
- December Sufferings will include a young people's participation event, which I hope our CYPC or nominations group might find 2 young people to come down to with me.

**Our Faith in the Future** - leaflets were sent out to each meeting about how we see Quakers for the future and apparently they are rarely seen. I have therefore been sent out with more for each meeting. Please collect!