



# Quakers in Scotland

## Parliamentary Engagement – Year in Review. 2018

### Ongoing parliamentary and government engagement

**Parliamentary petition** – the Public Petitions Committee of The Scottish Parliament published a [report](#) into our petition, which has now been [responded to](#) by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney. We asked the committee for further details to flesh out the Government’s response, and they have agreed to contact the Government about this. This was reported in [Commonspace](#), [The Scotsman](#), [The Telegraph](#), [The National](#), and [The Herald](#).

**Parliamentary briefings** – we have sent three briefings to MSPs this year for them to consider when preparing for debates, one on the [UN International Day of Peace](#), another on the planned [CO memorial in Princes St Gardens](#), and another on Leadership in Human Rights.

#### News



*Briefings on the GMS website*

**Parliamentary motions** - Mairi worked with an EAPPI volunteer and staff at Friends House on the wording of a motion tabled by Alison Johnstone MSP celebrating the 73<sup>rd</sup> year of Human Rights Accompaniers travelling to Israel/Palestine.

**Government consultations** - Mairi Campbell-Jack and Ellis Brooks (QPSW Peace Education Worker) also worked together to respond to the Scottish Government Consultation on mainstreaming children’s rights in Scotland. Mairi consulted with young Quakers at General Meeting for Scotland to make sure their views were included. Young Quakers also requested that Mairi assist them with a response to the Equal Protection from Assault Bill, which currently has an open call for evidence. At the request of members, Mairi also formulated a Quakers in Scotland response to the consultation on the Gender Recognition Act.

### Economic Justice



*A sold-out audience at the EIBF*

A **threshing event** was held on universal basic income earlier in the year, for Quakers in Scotland. Mairi helped organise with members of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG).

Mairi has been in **contact with other organisations** who are also interested in Land Value Tax to assess who may be possible partners to work with in the future.

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The PEWG has initiated and is cultivating what we hope will be a **fruitful relationship** with the Edinburgh International Book Festival, which this year saw us succeed in bringing a debate on UBI to the festival.

## Other work

**Friends House** - Mairi has also engaged with colleagues at Friends House to train them on Scotland's different social, cultural and political history, and will be continuing this training with other colleagues in 2019



**SNP Conference** - Joyce Taylor and Mairi Campbell-Jack attended SNP conference where they met with Ruth McGuire MSP, convener of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee at The Scottish Parliament and Stewart Stevenson MSP (left), former Minister and member of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee. They also attended a fringe on progressive foreign policy for Scotland.

**Peace education** - Mairi Campbell-Jack, Joyce Taylor and Ellis Brooks met with staff of Education Scotland, to talk about the opportunities for peace education within the Scottish school system. Ellis noted there were more opportunities and openness to this approach north of the border.

**Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG)** - The PEWG has a new representative for the North. Mairi does not hold a secretariat function for this group information can be received from each areas representative, or through the regular reports in the General Meeting for Scotland minutes.

- Joyce Taylor (Convener)
- William Purser (North)
- Rosemary Harthill (South East)
- Ed Tyler (West)
- Marting Mansell (West)
- Martin Pippard (East)
- Phil Lucas (Scottish Churches)



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