QUAKERS IN SCOTLAND 6th & 8th November 2025

PAPER C

TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY

South East Scotland Area Meeting sends us the following minute for consideration:

QiS 25/11/06 Minute from SESAM: transatlantic slavery

SESAM on 10 September that we agreed should be shared with GMS/QiS - a minute from Central Edinburgh LM on the transatlantic slave trade. Our full minute reads:

6.3 Central Edinburgh: Research into our Quaker ancestors' role in the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and enslavement of people

We have received minute 2025/07/12 from Central Edinburgh LM: Lancaster Quakers have issued an apology and have announced a series of other actions following research into their involvement with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and enslavement of people.

Our Friend Mark Bitel, who is a member of the City of Edinburgh Council Legacy of Slavery and Colonialism Implementation Group has asked us "Is it now time for Quakers in Edinburgh and South-East Scotland to undertake research into the involvement of our Quaker ancestors in enslavement?" He suggested we send this concern to Area Meeting, with the related suggestion that we could apply for a small research grant (circa £5K from the Sylvia Marshall Bequest Fund) to fund a specialist researcher at a university to undertake this research on our behalf.

While recognising concerns related to the issue of research relating to past involvement in the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and enslavement of people, Friends supported the concern and the proposal that research should be undertaken. Dan Dickson expressed her willingness to contribute to this research. For the question of funding though it was agreed that discernment of this be moved to a later meeting.

Clerks will forward this minute onto the Clerk of Area Meeting.

We agree to adopt this concern; we agree to invite the new Quakers in Scotland body to consider it as a Scotland-wide concern. We thank Central Edinburgh LM for bringing it forward.

Alastair Cameron, Clerk