

Introduction/Context

The Parliamentary Engagement Officer and the Co-Convenors met with Area Meetings in Jan-March 2025 for input on our priorities, which are currently CLIMATE JUSTICE, PEACEBUILDING, ECONOMIC JUSTICE (including Land Reform)

At these meetings, appreciation was expressed by all Area Meetings for the work already being done and the PEO fortnightly email in showcasing actions Friends can take. All AMs also expressed support for the continuation of our current priorities.

Some additional points came across strongly, in that Friends hope we will

- advocate for truthfulness, integrity and listening, encouraging MSPs to follow their consciences and to work cross-party, recognising that their work is demanding and difficult
- ensure our advocacy is well informed and is a representative/recognisably Quaker voice
- work closely with the Community Justice Working Group and with other allies

In addition, some questions were raised, which the group needs to apply in all our advocacy:

- How to mitigate conflict when issues are presented in extremist or divisive ways.
- How to focus on where we can make the most difference / change things

Proposed priorities for 2026-2028

We hope the priority headings can remain the same as they allow flexibility according to parliamentary business and our own capacity. We have identified particular focus points (framed via our Quaker testimonies) but these will evolve.

The overarching priority is supporting truth and integrity: the feedback from Friends across Scotland seems to endorse how we approach our work, but is also a good reminder about the importance of seeking out and **encouraging courageous truthfulness** in politics, especially in the context of a rise in extremism and divisiveness. (**truth and integrity**). This concern includes speaking out for freedom of expression and assembly where these are under increasing restriction.

Climate Justice

Likely focus points:

1. Supporting continued loss and damage funding (**equality; sustainability**)
2. Continuing to ask for truthfulness in climate policy (**truth and integrity**)

Peacebuilding

Likely focus points:

1. Continued discussions over Scottish Enterprise funding for arms/components (**peace; truth and integrity**)
2. Advocacy where opportunities arise to support ongoing development of Peace Education principles (**peace; equality**)

Economic justice

Likely focus points:

1. Relates to climate justice - keeping **equality and simplicity** in mind when advocating on climate policy (fuel poverty, sustainable economy)
2. Working closely with the Community Justice Working Group on advocacy openings (**equality**)