



Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of
Friends in Britain

Dear Friends in [European YM]

30 June 2016

We send loving greetings to Friends in [YM]

At this time when so much political action is focused on the separations that will result from the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union last week, we feel the strong wish to reaffirm our love for all our neighbours in Europe. We reaffirm especially our sense of the unity between Friends across the whole of EMES. We are thinking of you all and most particularly the many of you whom we know personally. After the painfully divisive campaign in the UK, we as Friends are concentrating our minds and hearts on the great need for bridge-building, both within our country, and across our continent.

Our Quaker forefather William Penn was the first person who ever proposed the idea of a United States of Europe, writing of the value of a European Assembly where delegates could consider controversies peacefully. In these uncertain times, we want to reaffirm, that despite this change in our countries' political relationship, Quakers in Britain are more than ever committed to working cooperatively with Friends across Europe for a peaceful and just world. We will not shrink from our responsibility as citizens of Europe, no matter the time and effort needed, as Quaker Faith and Practice reminds us.

Turbulent times can be frightening, but the Spirit is a source of strength for all, guiding us in who we are and what we do. We take heart from the knowledge that with change comes opportunity. We will look for creative ways to find common cause, to listen, to influence and to persuade locally, nationally and internationally. As the status quo is shaken we must look to one another for support, wisdom and above all ways of healing divisions.

In Friendship,

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