British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs
Registered charity 293776

Registered Address: C/O Finance and Property, Religious Society of Friends, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. **Purpose, Objectives and Activities**

British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs (BFoQCEA) is a Quaker charity whose main purpose is to promote Quaker values at the European level. These values are based on Quaker testimonies to peace, integrity, simplicity, equality and good stewardship of the planet (sustainability). The Charity is also referred to as the British Committee of Quaker Council for European Affairs in our Governing Document.

The purpose of BFoQCEA is achieved primarily by supporting the work of Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), an international non-profit association, registered as a charity under Belgian law, and based in Brussels, Belgium, and by promoting the work of QCEA within Britain Yearly Meeting, the national Quaker Church in Britain. Detailed information about the work of QCEA can be found here: https://www.qcea.org.

BFoQCEA raises sterling funds largely through donations from individuals, Quaker Meetings and Charitable Trusts; acts as agent in the collection of some direct grants to QCEA such as that made by Britain Yearly Meeting; acts as agent in the collection of some membership and service fees charged by QCEA, and makes sterling payments on behalf of QCEA such as the rent for Quaker House Brussels where QCEA is based.

BFoQCEA participates in the governance of QCEA by appointing a member of its Council, as do Britain Yearly Meeting and each of the Quaker Yearly Meetings in Europe. QCEA relies for funding entirely on the Yearly Meetings, local and regional Quaker Meetings, individual Friends and Quaker and other Charitable Trusts. BFoQCEA promotes the work of QCEA so that British Friends and other interested people are aware of the importance of speaking truth to power at the European level.

In 2025, QCEA continued its work on three major strands: Climate Justice and Peace, Migration and Peace, and Dialogues for Transformation, following a strategy approved in March 2023.

The handbook, ‘Moving with Dignity’, explaining principles and giving examples of positive peace approaches to migration, was completed. It was launched at an online event on 23 April 2025 that included a presentation by the main author, Dr. Majbritt Lyck-Bowen. An in-person launch of the handbook was then held in Brussels on 13 May, while the UK launch took place at Friends House, London, on 18 June. The latter was attended by a representative from BFoQCEA.

In June 2025, a joint conference between QCEA and QPSW (Quaker Peace and Social Witness - a central committee of Britain Yearly Meeting) entitled ‘Faith in action in the age of permacrisis', was held in Brussels, attracting almost 60 participants from 12 countries. QCEA produced sensitive guidelines for EU climate policy. Entitled ‘Addressing Conflicts around the Green New Deal’, these were first published in January 2025.

Advocacy work - for peace, equality and justice - with the European Parliament continued, as did consultation with civil society organisations.

Within the work strand, ‘Dialogues for Transformation’, Quaker House Brussels hosted a number of events, including seminars for young professionals in foreign policy and a well-attended Creating Safe Spaces policy event. Dialogues were held on ‘Climate, Nature and War’, ‘Migration and Peace’, and ‘Climate Displacement and Responsibility’, respectively.

QCEA continued to work with other organisations on protecting the right to conscientious objection, and a webinar on the subject was held in December 2025.

On 30 April, Tracey Martin, Director of QCEA, served on a panel with other Quaker international agencies, in an online preparation session for Britain Yearly Meeting.

There was a major staff change in 2025 when Tracey Martin left QCEA and Andrew de Sousa was appointed as her successor, taking office at the start of July following a period of handover. Trustees and supporters of BFoQCEA welcomed Andrew at their online meeting on 26th June.
Also in 2005, a Friend in Residence was appointed to provide a strong Quaker presence in Quaker House, Brussels.

Throughout 2025, the strategy working group, in liaison with staff, was developing QCEA’s new long-term strategy for 2026 – 2030, expected to be a time of great uncertainty in Europe. A draft strategy was presented to the General Assembly of QCEA in November 2025. This is structured around three ‘pillars’: Intersections of Climate, Migration and Peace; Rethinking Security in Europe; Speaking Truth to Power in a Crisis of Democracy.

As a ‘Quaker Recognised Body’, British Friends of QCEA had a stall at the Groups Fair, during the Yearly Meeting (annual gathering) of Quakers in May 2025, informing participants about QCEA’s recent work. BFoQCEA continued to help with the distribution of ‘Around Europe’, the newsletter of QCEA published twice a year. Over the year, British Friends responded to several requests from Quaker meetings to give presentations about the work of QCEA.

Governance

The Trustees of the charity met six times during 2025 via Zoom or Teams video-conferencing. In addition, an Annual General Meeting of the Charity was held on Thursday 5 June via Teams Technology. At the AGM, Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick ended her term of service and Elspeth Wollen was appointed as clerk (chair). Martin Ford was re-appointed as treasurer and Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick as clerk-support. Our Nominations Committee was seeking a new name for treasurer. In the meantime, Martin Ford was confirmed to continue in this role. Martin Hughes was re-appointed as the Charity Commission Contact.

The names of Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick and Caroline Crosfield were added as operators (signatories) to BFoQCEA bank account.

Martin Hughes and Marcie Winstanley, having expressed a wish not to be reappointed as trustees, were thanked for their service, as was Richard Seebohm who had been appointed at the 2024 AGM for one year only. John Crosfield, Martin Ford, Sue Myers and Elspeth Wollen were reappointed as trustees, to serve until the AGM in 2028. Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick was reappointed for one year, to serve until the AGM in 2026. Kenneth Howgill was appointed as a new trustee, to serve until the AGM in 2028.

Commented [EW1]:

As at 31st December 2025, therefore, the trustees were:

Keith Archer
William Becher
John Crosfield
Caroline Crosfiled
Martin Ford
Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick
Kenneth Howgill
Sue Myers

Elspeth Wollen
Conscious of our need to find names for two more trustees in order to fulfil our constitutional requirements, and that our constitution itself requires review, a small Constitution Group has been set up to consider changes to our constitution and to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between British Friends of QCEA and QCEA itself.

A copy of our Governing Document and annual financial returns can be found on the Charities Commission website here: https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/cy/charity-search/-/charity-details/293776.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Financial Summary

The Income of the charity during 2025 was £63,176. This compares with £83,795 in 2024, with the significant change principally explained by a reduction in income from grant-making Trusts. Donations from Quaker Meetings were £11,435 (including part of Ireland Yearly Meeting), donations from individuals £15,029 and donations from Quaker and other grant-making Trusts £35,300. A total of £9,638 in disbursements was made on behalf of QCEA for rent payments to Britain Yearly Meeting for the use of Quaker House in Brussels.

We were able to make donations to QCEA of £66,000 in 2024 as compared with £45,460 in 2025. This increase was enabled as a result of retained surplus funds from 2024 and also following the decision to donate £12,000 from the DW Saunders fund to QCEA for their continued management in line with the fund's purpose of enabling access to QCEA's learning activities.

Donations to QCEA	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Sterling	66,000	45,460	54,000	50,000	182,798	63,000	83,000	88,000

At the end of the year, our General Fund reserve was £23,523, the DW Saunders Fund was £6,169 and the Ramallah bursary fund was £1,103.

These funds were held as £30,795 cash in the charity's two CAF Bank Accounts, the fixed asset bond having been fully redeemed during the year. In the autumn of 2025, a contract was taken out with Intuit for use of the QuickBooks accounting system. This will strengthen financial management and reporting by offering a multi-user flexible system with secure access and data storage.

Looking ahead to 2026

During 2026 we will continue our core work of supporting, promoting and fund-raising for the work of QCEA with Quakers and Quaker Meetings throughout Britain.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. British Friends of QCEA supports work that benefits the public in Britain as a part of Europe's sphere of influence and elsewhere in the world by promoting the values of peace and human rights embodied in the Quaker testimonies to peace, simplicity, integrity and equality.

Signed *Elspeth Wollen*

Elspeth Wollen, Clerk Date 2 September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

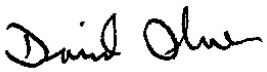
I report in respect of my examination of the British Friends of the Quaker Council for European Affairs accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the British Friends of the Quaker Council for European Affairs as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports} Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Olver
10 Daleside Road
Riddlesden
Keighley
BD20 5ES

10 March 2026

ACCOUNTS

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31st December 2025

British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs (BFoQCEA)		Unrestricted funds						Total 2025	Total 2024
Reg Charity: 293776		General fund	QCEA fund	FWCC for Ukraine	Ramallah Bursary	DW Saunders Capital Fund	DW Saunders Income Fund		
Income	Note								
Gifts and donations	2/7	62,764		0			0	62,764	82,558
Conference fees	2	0						0	0
Interest	2/7	412			0	0	0	412	557
Receipts for QCEA	2/6		0					0	680
Total incoming resources		63,176	0	0	0	0	0	63,176	83,795
Charitable Expenditure									
QHB rent paid by BfoQCEA	4	9,638						9,638	9,067
BFoQCEA grant to QCEA	3/4	66,000						66,000	45,460
Acting for FWCC (Ukraine)	8			0				0	0
Bursaries	7	0			0		12,000	12,000	0
Remitance of QCEA receipts	6		0					0	680
Sub-total		75,638	0	0	0	0	12,000	87,638	55,207
Governance		210						210	343
Bank charges		60						60	65
Admin & publicity		713						713	704
Total resources expended		76,620	0	0	0	0	12,000	88,620	56,319
Net incoming resources	6	(13,445)	0	0	0	0	(12,000)	(25,445)	27,475
Gains/(losses) on investments						626		626	0
Net movement in funds	6	(13,445)	0	0	0	626	(12,000)	(24,818)	27,475
Transfers between funds		0	0			(18,111)	18,111	0	0
Brought forward 1st January	6	36,968	(0)	0	1,103	17,484	58	55,613	28,138
Carried forward 31st December	6	23,523	(0)	0	1,103	0	6,169	30,795	55,613

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025									
2.5% Index Linked Treasury 2024						0		0	9,487
Fixed Assets									
CAF Bank current account		272						272	100
CAF Bank Gold account		23,252	0	0	1,103	18,111	(11,942)	30,524	46,026
Debtors & prepayments									
Current Assets		23,523	0	0	1,103	18,111	(11,942)	30,795	55,613
Less creditors due within one year		0						0	0
Net Assets		23,523	0	0	1,103	18,111	(11,942)	30,795	55,613
Note: QHB = Quaker House Brussels, QCEA= Quaker Council for European Affairs and FWCC=Friends World Committee for Consultation									

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Accounting Policies
A) Basis of accounting:
The accounts have been prepared:
1) on a cash basis
2) Under the historic cost convention, but with investments shown at market value
B) Foreign currencies
Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are converted into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction.
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are converted into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the Financial Year.

Note 2 General Fund Income						
Gifts & donations	**2025**			**2024**		
Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM)		£	-		£	-	
Trusts		£	35,300		£	35,000	100.9%
Quaker Meetings		£	10,935		£	10,035	109.0%
Individuals		£	15,029		£	13,269	113.3%
From part of Ireland Yearly Meeting		£	1,500		£	850	176.5%
Other donations (source presumed unidentified individuals as from 1 Jan 2025)		£	-		£	2,896	0.0%
Conference fees		£	-		£	-	
		£	62,764		£	62,050	101.2%
Interest							
Bank interest		£	412		£	330	
		£	63,176		£	62,381	101.3%
Receipts for QCEA							
Direct Grants	£ -	£	-	£ -		0	100.9%
		£	63,176		£	62,381	101.3%
Associate Membership subs	0			1,376			
Supporting Membership subs	0			0			
Around Europe subscriptions	0			0			
	0	£	-	1,376	£	1,376	0.0%
		£	63,176		£	63,757	99.1%
QCEA Study Tour - UK participants	0			0			
QCEA Conference Fees	0			0			
BYM for European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)	0			0			
BYM landlord's expenses	0			0			
Miscellaneous Inc received for QCEA	0			0			
Sub-total		£	-		£	1,376	0.0%
FWCC Ukraine Appeal					£	893	
Total income		£	63,176		£	64,650	97.7%

Periodically, BfoQCEA make a a transfer to QCEA comprised of some or all of the following:					
A) A grant made by BFoQCEA to QCEA to fund its work (Notes 4 and 5)					
B) Add amounts received in Sterling on behalf of QCEA and transferred to them					
C) Deduct Sterling expenses incurred by QCEA and paid on behalf of QCEA					
Payment	**BFoQCEA grant**	**Bursaries**	**Sterling receipts**	**Less Sterling expenses**	**Total**
06/02/2025	£ 30,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 30,000.00
02/06/2025	£ 14,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 14,000.00
30/07/2025	£ 12,000.00	£ -	£ -		£ 12,000.00
13/11/2025	£ 10,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 10,000.00
	£ 66,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 66,000.00

Note 3 Periodic transfers to QCEA					
Periodically, BfoQCEA make a a transfer to QCEA comprised of some or all of the following:					
A) A grant made by BFoQCEA to QCEA to fund its work (Notes 4 and 5)					
B) Add amounts received in Sterling on behalf of QCEA and transferred to them					
C) Deduct Sterling expenses incurred by QCEA and paid on behalf of QCEA					
Payment	**BFoQCEA grant**	**Bursaries**	**Sterling receipts**	**Less Sterling expenses**	**Total**
06/02/2025	£ 30,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 30,000.00
02/06/2025	£ 14,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 14,000.00
30/07/2025	£ 12,000.00	£ -	£ -		£ 12,000.00
13/11/2025	£ 10,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 10,000.00
	£ 66,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 66,000.00

Note 4 BFoQCEA grant to QCEA

For 2025, BFoQCEA agreed to make a grant to QCEA of £66,000. Separately BFoQCEA paid the rent for QHB totalling £9,638. This is considered to be a further indirect grant payment.

Note 5 Transferring Sterling payments to QCEA in Euros

Payment	Exchange rate	Sterling Payment	Euro equivalent
06/02/2025	1.1786	£ 30,000.00	€ 35,358.00
02/06/2025	1.1622	£ 14,000.00	€ 16,270.80
30/07/2025	1.1318	£ 12,000.00	€ 13,581.60
13/11/2025	1.1117	£ 10,000.00	€ 11,117.00
		£ 66,000.0	**€ 76,327.40**

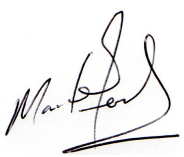
Note 6 QCEA Fund

In 2025, BFoQCEA received a total £63,176 on behalf of QCEA and made donations to QCEA totalling £66,000. This includes income retained over the 2024 year end for payment in early 2025 and a similar amount of income retained at the end of 2025 for payment in early 2026.

Note 7 DW Saunders Fund

The DW Saunders Fund is restricted for use in providing bursary support to enable participation in QCEA Study Tours and other QCEA conferences/learning. In February 2025 the Trustees agreed to transfer £12,000 (€14,118) of this fund to QCEA for their ongoing management continuing under the identical restricted use.

Signed



Martin Ford, Treasurer, 17 May 2026