

Meeting for sufferings – July the 6<sup>th</sup> 2019

As usual you can find the minutes to this meeting on <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes>

In the meantime, here are a few items that caught the interest of the 'alternate' this time. It was good to hear of our Friend Camilla Wimberley's name being submitted for the Court and Prison Register on account of her non-violent civil disobedience in the recent *Extinction Rebellion* protests.

We received a minute from the Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) and an initial statement of Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC) on gender diversity. We are encouraged as Area meetings to discuss these papers. This topic will be looked at again in the October meeting. QLCC are also happy to receive confidential responses about people's experience which might enlighten the debate. MFS specifically is minded to hear the Quaker contribution.

We were encouraged to consider financially supporting *The Sanctuary Everywhere* work. At present it is funded centrally but this comes to an end in December 2019. £75,000 is needed and AMs are requested to think about making a contribution to this essential work. Roughly £15,000 has been raised so far.

The Vibrancy pilot was assessed as having been a success and a proposal was put forward to continue and extend the idea of paid project offices to support regional work. It was hoped that more wealthy meetings would agree to financially support this work. It was noted that this was a significant change to the usual way in which we had worked in the past but success was noted in areas such as safeguarding, governance, compliance, training in roles within meetings as well as conflict resolution. The full vibrancy report can be found on the Woodbrooke website at <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/about/vibrancy-in-meetings/>

Last of all, we mused over the particular experience of young people in our meetings and whether we needed to be more open minded about the tabular statement's definition of a member. Not all young people came to meeting or are active in meetings but it doesn't mean they don't regard themselves as Quakers. Should we be thinking differently about this issue? What about that young person who only goes to holiday school or Junior Yearly Meeting?

Sarah Allen. 09/07/2019