

About the Fellowship of Reconciliation, England

Our Beginnings

The Fellowship of Reconciliation began in 1914 when, on the brink of war, a German and an Englishman parted company on Cologne station with the words "We are one in Christ and can never be at war." Inspired by that pledge, about 130 Christians of all denominations gathered in Cambridge, England at the end of 1914 and set up the FoR. They recorded their general agreement in a statement which became 'The Basis'. In 1919 representatives from a dozen countries met in Holland and established the International FoR, which now has about seventy branches and groups in all five continents.

From the very beginning, FoR has always made it clear that whilst it opposes war and militarism it also strives to promote those things which make for peace and justice, to build - in the words of our founders - 'a world order based on love'.

Our Work Today

Today FoR in the UK

- Undertakes education work within the Christian and wider community on peace, war and nonviolence;
- Engages in both public policy and theological debate from a committed pacifist perspective
- Seeks to identify the causes of violent conflict and raises public awareness of them, encouraging supporters and the public to challenge the structures, policies and attitudes that lead to violent conflict
- Supports and affirms all those with a commitment to peace and nonviolence;
- Is committed to developing a spirituality of peace, justice and nonviolence in witness to Christian faith and gospel values.

Our education work includes the production of resources to enable a better understanding of nonviolence and reconciliation work as well as information to enable a greater understanding of specific conflicts. We provide speakers to groups, churches, schools and the public on a variety of issues connected with our work

Our campaigns and advocacy work is aimed at encouraging members, supporters and the public at large to be aware of and to challenge the structures, policies and attitudes that lead to violent conflict.

Our support for peacemakers includes the International Peacemakers Fund (IPF) which supports grassroots nonviolence projects in areas of conflict. As a Fellowship we are committed to supporting each other in our peace work through sharing of information through our regular newsletter Peacelinks and FoR Email News and by meeting

together at conferences, gatherings and events. FoR also supports and works with the Denominational Peace Fellowships.

Whilst we are keen to work with and build links with members of different faiths, FoR in England remains a distinctly Christian organisation and we work within the Churches and other groups to build a spirituality of peace and nonviolence. This work includes producing worship resources on peace and conflict issues.

Our Structure

FoR England is a registered Charity (no. 207822) and is overseen by a dedicated group of Trustees:

Current Trustees

- Revd. John Johansen-Berg (Chair)
- Gordon Slater (Acting Treasurer and Vice-Chair)
- Denis Beaumont
- Carole Crompton
- Angela Broome
- Gordon Slater
- Richard Bickle
- Hiranya De Alwis Jayasinghe
- Anita Schweinberger
- Naomi Beaumont

Current Observers

- Tina Parsons (Baptist Peace Fellowship)
- Jenny Nicholson (Anglican Pacifist Fellowship)

Each year three trustees retire and elections are held at our Annual Council which takes place in the Spring. Day to Day work is carried out by the staff under the leadership of our Director.

FoR's current staff

- VACANCY - Director
- Amy Hailwood - Education and Campaigns Officer
- John Cooper - International Projects Fundraiser
- Trevor Barton - Centre Administrator
- Clive Gillam - Finance Officer