

# Sharing our election hopes

November 2019



Britain Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious  
Society of Friends

In recent months political debate has been increasingly toxic. We know that divisions may continue to worsen in the run-up to Brexit and the general election.

As Quakers, we'd like to model a different approach. We've developed the election hopes display kit to facilitate positive conversations around the upcoming vote.

This tool is designed to enable Friends and other people visiting meeting houses to share their hopes for the outcomes of the general election.

## How to use the display kit

You may want to use the display as a focus for discussion at a meeting. You can stick the testimony posters up in four corners of a section of wall, with the 'election hopes' poster in the middle. Ask Friends to come together and discuss their hopes for what the election might bring. They can write them on the handprint cards and stick them to the wall near the relevant testimony. If a hope could relate to all the testimonies, stick it somewhere in the middle.

It may be helpful to post some example hopes when setting up the display, so people feel more confident about adding theirs. Some ideas can be found overleaf.

We suggest putting the display up in your meeting house. A café, if you have one, would be a great location for members of the public to take part too. We've set one up in the bookshop at Friends House.

You might want to stick the instruction sheet we've included next to the posters so people know what to do.

As well as the handprint designs we've provided, you can also make more of your own. It could even be an activity for children. If they draw round their hands on paper, they can colour the outside space and then write their own hopes on the inside.

To share your hopes more widely you could write to the local press or post photos on social media. Remember to tag @BritishQuakers on Twitter and Instagram.

For advice, please contact [media@quaker.org.uk](mailto:media@quaker.org.uk).

*continues overleaf*

## Examples of what you could write

We want you to use your imagination and express your views, but we thought it might be helpful to give you some examples of the kind of thing you could write.

“I’m hoping for a government that values the contribution of Quakers and other faith communities to our society.”

“I hope the political parties can put aside their differences to resolve the big questions of our time, particularly climate breakdown.”

“I hope the next government focuses on peace-building rather than military action.”

“I’m hoping for a better future for my children.”

“I hope the next government ends the ‘hostile environment’ and creates a culture of welcome and sanctuary.”

Any questions?

We’re happy to help – just contact [politics@quaker.org.uk](mailto:politics@quaker.org.uk)

For a range of resources to help you engage with politicians, please visit [www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/political-guides](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/political-guides)