



Nobel Peace Prize – nominations requested for 2020

The closing date for Quaker nominations is 1 June 2019

As recipients of the Nobel peace prize in 1947, Quakers have the right to send a nomination each year to the Nobel committee in Oslo. We make our nomination each January, after a full discernment process, and unlike other nominating bodies, we publicly announce our nominee. In November each year, after considering all the nominations, the Nobel committee announces the name of the recipient of the peace prize.

Friends in BYM can participate in this process through the Quaker Peace & Social Witness representative to the American Friends Service Committee Nobel peace prize nominating task group. If you or your Meeting has a suggestion to offer for the 2020 award, please request full details of the criteria and the nominating form from:

Philip Wood, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ
philipw@quaker.org.uk

Or download the information from:
www.quakernobel.org

See other side for Additional information for Clerks

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Additional information for clerks

1) What is the point of the Nobel Peace Prize?

The Peace Prize is one of five created by Alfred Nobel in 1896; it is awarded to those who have 'done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses'. The award has often proved controversial: some recipients have been thought too political, while others have subsequently fallen from grace. However it remains the world's most celebrated award for peace-making.

2) Why should Quakers bother to nominate to it?

Quakers received the award in 1947, not only for half a century of war relief but in recognition of 'the strength which is founded in the victory of spirit over force'. This is worth continuing to acknowledge and celebrate. Moreover, since we announce our nominee each year, the Nobel nomination offers us a chance to celebrate and publicise an example of peace-making work which Quakers recognise to be of particular value.

3) Why should British Quakers take part in an AFSC committee?

In 1947 the Peace Prize was awarded jointly to AFSC and Friends Service Council, the forerunner of QPSW. It is important to honour this legacy. It is also an opportunity to share discernment with Friends representing a wide range of American Quaker life.

4) What sort of issues are borne in mind in the discernment process?

In recent years, the Nobel committee has extended its criteria to include contributions to the advancement of human rights and environmentalism. In addition, the Quaker committee weighs issues such as commitment to non-violent methods, the balance between 'front-line' and 'back-stage' work and timeliness, trying to identify themes which are relevant to the current global situation.

5) Some recent Quaker nominees

The name going forward for consideration in 2018 is Search for Common Ground, a peace-building organization founded 40 years ago, with the goal of transforming how the world deals with conflict – away from violent, adversarial approaches toward non-violent, non-adversarial solutions; it now has 600 staff members working in 36 countries. In 2015 the nomination went to an individual, Victor Ochen, who works especially with young people to repair the damage done by war in Northern Uganda.

6) If I/we have a good name, what should I do next?

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