

Who are the Quakers?

THE Peace Testimony

“ We utterly deny all outward war and strife and fightings with outward weapons for any end or under any pretence whatever...the Spirit of Christ which leads us into Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man.”

- 1660

From the earliest days of the Religious Society of Friends, there has been a testimony against war and the preparation for war. In 1660, the Friends wrote to the British government stating their opposition to war.

Quakers, along with the Mennonites and Brethren, have opposed conscription and the draft and have encouraged others to declare themselves as conscientious objectors. As a result, some have been imprisoned, worked in non-combatant units, served with the Friends Ambulance Unit or the Mennonite Central Committee, or have volunteered with other relief organizations.

Friends have spoken out against injustice and inequality, two of the roots of conflict. They have provided appropriate programs to help to alleviate suffering and to restore community life. They were among the early opponents of slavery.

The British Friends Service Council and the American Friends Service Committee were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for their humanitarian work.



RIGHT:

Quaker star first used in the 1870s. A modern version by the Quaker Peace and Social Witness Committee.

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RIGHT:
Statement of Peace Testimony, 1660).

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ABOVE:
Nobel Peace Prize Medallion awarded to British Friends Service Council in 1947.

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