**Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) at Friends House London on 5th September 2015**

**Report to AM on Sunday 13th September**

This follows my second time at MfS as the Area's representative. I've been giving some thought to how I can report back in a way that can be of most use. The calling letter, agenda and most of the papers, tend to be posted, in advance, on the Quakers in Britain website. The minutes are usually posted on the Website within about a week, and can be read at http://old.quaker.org.uk/meeting-sufferings-5-september-2015-final-minutes-and-other-papers. Rather than replicate what's there, I've sought to focus on items I think have most relevance and immediacy and where AM may need to respond.

**The unfolding refugee crisis**. This was brought to the MfS agenda on day. A draft statement had been prepared by QPSW Central Committee. MfS approved the final version. It's on the main Quaker website at <http://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-urgently-call-for-safe-paths-for-refugees> , and now also on the SEAQM website.

This is fast moving concern. Much of the Quaker work centrally is being led by the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN). Friends around the country are applying themselves to the concern locally. At MfS, we were encouraged to think about ways Friends could welcome all those seeking asylum in their area according to their abilities and opportunity. This could include keeping in touch with their local Council, MP and MEP on relevant issues. SEAQM may wish to consider this.

**Our faith in the future**. Friends will recall how this Meeting contributed to the review of the Long Term Framework 2009-14. As well as drawing on Meetings around the country, the review group went out of its way to take leadings from younger Friends. This has culminated in a six point statement. It's not so much a vision of what Quakers do but how we go about in the world, and is being called "Our faith in the future"

MfS sees it as guide for its future discernment and decision-making: it's been forwarded to BYM Trustees and to central and standing committees, asking them to use it as a template for their work and to reflect on progress with it in their reports; and it's been forwarded to Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee for information.

MfS has commended it to Local and Area Meetings. It is hoped it will serve as a template for them too - each meeting discerning where they are today and deciding what they will do, as a part of BYM, to move towards this vision. This meeting may wish to consider this.

"Our faith in the future" replaces the earlier Framework for Action, but there are parts of the old one that are still relevant, to be explained in supporting documents that will follow.