



**Religiöse Gesellschaft der Freunde (Quäker)
Deutsche Jahresversammlung e.V.**

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
German Yearly Meeting**

RGdF (Quäker) DJV e.V. Planckstr. 20, 10117 Berlin

Bundeskanzleramt
Bundeskanzlerin
Frau Dr. Angela Merkel
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Refugees/Asylum Seekers

4 November 2015

Dear Madam Chancellor,

Large numbers of refugees are coming to Germany. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is pleased to see that so many citizens are welcoming the refugees open-heartedly. Many of us have been looking after refugees for a long time. Therefore, we know of the need for help and the necessity of giving them non-bureaucratic access to trauma therapy - especially for children.

The reception and integration of these refugees presents an organizational, financial, cultural and human challenge. We are grateful for the efforts of official bodies and we are relieved at so many attempts to cope with this challenge. We support you, Madam Chancellor, and all the politicians who advocate the policy of open borders and the admission of asylum applicants. We also live in the hope that WE CAN DO IT! We ask you to continue to stand fast in the face of opposing positions at home and abroad. Of course, it is also important to take into account the fears of the citizens – especially for marginalized groups in our society - so that envy and xenophobia are not nourished.

Stopping arms exports - particularly to areas in crisis - is an important contribution to the prevention of military conflicts, which often result in the displacement of the people living there. We, as a traditional peace church, wish for a world without weapons and increased support for peaceful forms of conflict resolution.

Aware of the historical responsibility of Germany, we call for a just economic order in the world, one to improve political and economic conditions in the native countries of the refugees. The huge economic and social disparities in this world have triggered a mass exodus that will only cease when people can live with dignity in their countries of origin. That is why great efforts must be made to improve the living conditions in those countries.

We are encouraged by the Book of Isaiah (32/17) where it is written:
"The work of righteousness shall be peace."

Best regards, on behalf of the
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
German Yearly Meeting

sgd. Sabine Alvermann (Clerk)

sgd. Neithard Petry (Clerk)