

## Part 3: Communicate

### Agree a contact person

If someone wants to contact your group about an event, do they know who to contact? What if they have a question, or they wish to invite a member of your group to speak at one of their events? Make sure that there is a phone number or an email address which is publicly available.

### Talk to the local media

If you're doing something, advertise it! Simply relying on word of mouth would exclude a lot of people who might be interested – so put an advert in the local paper and ask local community groups and other faith groups to spread the word through their Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, or any other means possible.

## Part 4: Messages

### What do you want to talk about?

Before you speak to people, take a moment to think about your priorities. What do you think are the most important issues and why? This might be:

- Peace
- The refugee crisis
- Trade (and TTIP)
- The environment
- Many other issues

Think about why these issues are your own priorities, and how the EU has an impact on them.

### What will other people want to talk about?

Other people may wish to talk about something completely different – perhaps an issue which has been in the news, or an issue which the main campaigns are talking about. These might include:

- Immigration
- Sovereignty
- The Euro
- Welfare and benefits

Think about how you would respond if asked for a view on these issues.

# Quakers for Europe

## What can you or your Local Meeting do?

Do you want to campaign to stay in the EU, but are not sure where to start? Perhaps you don't feel that you know enough yet to have made up your mind, or perhaps you would like to get your Local Meeting involved.

Here are some suggestions for things you could do.

## Part 1: Organise

### Gather a team

Who is willing and able to do something? It's important to gather a group of people who can help out, especially if they can all contribute in different ways.

### Think about your key audience

Who are you trying to reach? Who lives in your area, or who do you already have relationships with? Are there other community groups which members of your Local Meeting speak with on a regular basis? It's important to make an effort to speak to everyone, not just those people who are like us.

### Think about what you want to say

How can you phrase your message to make it as understandable and accessible as possible? It's all very good saying that our message must be true to our principles, but if someone else has difficulty grasping what we mean then we need to look again at what we're saying. Are we using plain language? Are we assuming particular knowledge or attitudes? How can we make our message really simple?

### Plan carefully

What do you want to do and when do you want to do it? Who is going to be responsible for making sure things happen? What are the important deadlines?

**Vital message: Be registered to vote by 7 June**  
**[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**

## Invite a speaker to give a presentation

*As a Local Meeting, possibly with other churches or community groups*

Do you want to see a short presentation and then ask questions? Quakers for Europe have a PowerPoint presentation which someone in the Local Meeting (or a visiting Friend, if you prefer) could give. Or perhaps you already have experts in your local area and you'd like to ask them to speak.

Whatever you decide, you could advertise this in your local newspaper and organise it jointly with other groups in order to get a good turnout. To ask Quakers for Europe for the presentation or to send you the PowerPoint, email [quakersforeurope@gmail.com](mailto:quakersforeurope@gmail.com).

These are just some of our suggestions for things you could do.

You may have better suggestions, or you may want to combine some of these suggestions! If you do run an event, please let us know at [quakersforeurope@gmail.com](mailto:quakersforeurope@gmail.com).

You could also keep in touch via Twitter (@Quakers4Europe) or through Facebook (search for "Quakers for Europe").

## Organise an official hustings

*As a Local Meeting, possibly with other churches or community groups*

A hustings is when both sides of the debate are invited to answer questions put to them by the audience. In order to comply with Electoral Commission regulations you'll need to invite one person from the official "remain" campaign and one person from the official "leave" campaign. Unfortunately the Electoral Commission probably won't decide on the official campaigns until April.

You should have one person chairing, and that person shouldn't express an opinion while on stage and shouldn't be known as having a public opinion. (For example, don't ask a local councillor who already has stated which side they support.) If there is a local "remain" group or a local "leave" group then you could ask them to be in the audience and to bring leaflets.

If you want more information then there is a guide to hustings produced by Britain Yearly Meeting, which you can find on their election website at [www.quakervote.org.uk](http://www.quakervote.org.uk).

## Part 2: What to do

### Talk to people in the town centre

*By yourself, or with a group of others*

If you are passionately in favour of staying in the EU, perhaps you could spread your views by taking to your local high street. Make a large sign which says "I'm voting to stay IN the EU – talk to me to find out why" and stand next to it in the town centre on a Saturday. Be prepared to argue with a lot of people!

### Host a roundtable discussion

*As a Local Meeting, possibly with other churches or community groups*

If you want more of a debate over cups of tea, you could host one or more roundtable discussions. It's probably not a good idea to have more than fifteen people taking part, or not everyone will have a chance to contribute. Put aside an hour or so after Meeting for Worship one day and invite people to bring some food to share. It's a good idea to ask someone to chair the discussion. You could also invite people from other churches or from other community groups.

### Engage with your local media

*By yourself, or with a group of others*

Local newspapers and blogs may be looking for local views on the EU referendum. If you are aiming for a printed letter, it's best to write around 200 words and to only make one or two main points. If you are writing for an online blog, you may be able to write much more – although it's still important to keep it clear and straightforward. You could also try phoning up your local radio station to see if they are looking for views on the referendum.

### Host a worship sharing group

*As a Local Meeting*

Your Local Meeting could organise a worship sharing session for between five and fifteen people to share their feelings on the EU. Perhaps the way you wish to vote is based on the Quaker testimonies? Ask one person to facilitate the group, and make sure that everyone has a chance to share their thoughts. This isn't about persuading others to vote to stay in the EU, but opening up a space for further thoughts.

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