

North West London Area Meeting Social Media Policy

The following policy governs the use of social media relating to North West London Area Meeting (NWLAM) and its constituent local meetings: Finchley, Friends House, Golders Green, Hampstead, and Muswell Hill. For the purposes of this policy, social media refers to information shared online by individuals within a digital platform, such as Facebook, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube. This policy does not provide general guidelines for social media use or advice about the risks associated with it. Its scope does not include email and mailing lists, video conferencing (e.g., Zoom), or the handling of personal information (covered under GDPR).

This policy is divided into the following 3 main areas:

1. Restrictions to the personal use of social media for NWLAM members and attenders
2. Use of social media accounts to represent NWLAM and local meetings for outreach and public relations
3. Administration of online forums by NWLAM and local meetings for inreach purposes

1. Personal Use of Social Media by NWLAM Members & Attenders

The choice to use social media is a personal decision for members and attenders of NWLAM and is not a concern of NWLAM except in the following cases:

- The person interacts in a way that is in clear opposition to Quaker testimonies (e.g. inciting violence, or engaging in hate speech) and the Meeting is made aware of the incident. This will be a matter for Elders to respond to based on considerations such as the teachings in Quaker Faith and Practice (QF&P) or guidance from Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM).
- The person mentions NWLAM or any local meeting(s), or events affiliated with NWLAM or a local meeting. This is in itself not a problem, however the person must not speak as a representative for the area meeting or local meeting, and should be clear they are voicing their own opinion and perspective. They may only share Meeting minutes or other documents produced by or for the Meeting(s) if those are intended to be made public. They must respect the

privacy of the other members and attenders of the meeting, especially children and vulnerable adults (see the Safeguarding Policy).

2. Outreach & Official Social Media Accounts

At the time this policy was created, neither NWLAM nor any of the local meetings maintained an official account on any social media platform. Should a meeting wish to create such an account in the future, for the purposes of outreach or public relations, this policy will first need to be amended to provide guidelines on selecting an appropriate platform and how such an account should be administered. At no point should an individual create an account on behalf of a Meeting without prior consent from NWLAM.

3. Online Forums Moderated by NWLAM and Local Meetings

To entice people to use their services, many commercial social media platforms offer free tools to facilitate an exchange of information among individuals with a shared affiliation in a self-managed space within the larger network. These tools typically allow the organizers to control access and moderate content. For example, [Quakerspace - Connecting British Quakers](#) is a group on Facebook that was created and is run by Quakers in Britain for the purposes of facilitating communication within that platform.

At the time this policy was created, neither NWLAM nor any local meetings administered such a space on a commercial platform, and it is not advised to create one. There are many legitimate reasons people may wish not to support or participate in commercial social media. Instead, NWLAM and each local meeting are registered with the [Quaker Meetings Network](#), which provides a private intranet including a discussion forum for each meeting, designed specifically to support Quaker communities.

The use and moderation of those forums should be guided by [Advices and Queries 17](#):

“Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find the way to be true to it. When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others.

Listen patiently and seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken."

4. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Updates may be made as necessary in response to changes in social media practices or Meeting needs.

5. Contact

For questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact Natalie Stacey or Sean Jacke.