



**IRELAND YEARLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

Quaker House Dublin, Stocking Lane, Dublin, D16 V3F8

Phone/Answering – 01 4998003

e-mail – office@quakers.ie

**STATEMENT FROM CLERK, IRELAND YEARLY MEETING
REGARDING IYM 2020, BELFAST.**

Dear Friends,

I understand that many of you are anxious about the impact of Covid-19 on the holding of our Yearly Meeting on April 16-19, and the YM Clerks have been working hard to stay on top of the evolving situation.

Covid-19 infections are increasing, and it is clear that they will not be decreasing by the planned dates of Ireland Yearly Meeting. Furthermore, our contract with the venue, Stranmillis University College, specifies that considerable cancellation fees be paid were IYM to be cancelled less than a month before the event.

Therefore, we have reluctantly decided today, Thursday 12th March, to cancel IYM 2020. No new registrations will be processed and the office will refund all who have already paid towards their accommodation and/or meals in due course.

I am sure that there will be a mixture of relief and disappointment at this decision. One of the most important aspects of IYM is simply allowing Friends to spend time together, renewing old acquaintances and forming new ones. We will be looking into the possibility of holding a Quaker Discussion Weekend sometime in October or November, so that Friends will have the opportunity to gather together before Yearly Meeting is held in 2021.

Many thanks to all who had put in so much work to prepare for an enjoyable and spiritually fulfilling IYM 2020. Although your efforts will not be able to come to fruition this year, I am sure that many of these preparations will contribute to a worthwhile and enriching IYM 2021.

In warm Friendship,

Denise Gabuzda,
Clerk of Ireland Yearly Meeting