

Oxford Quaker Meeting Statement on Public Spending Cuts

Social justice and equality are basic values for Quakers. We are angered by actions which divide our society into the haves and the have-nots. We are compelled to speak out against the current government's policy to cut the budget deficit primarily through public spending cuts. This policy creates injustice and inequality.

It is inevitably unfair to cut the deficit primarily through public spending cuts. Research shows that the government's proposed cuts will hit people on low incomes harder than those on high incomes, hit poorer regions harder than more affluent regions of the country, hit women harder than men, and hit disabled people harder than people living without disabilities.

Believing that we are indeed 'all in it together' we urge policy makers to address the deficit through a fairer tax system. This ensures that all make a fair contribution. Possibilities include a 'robin hood' tax and measures to end tax avoidance, a high proportion of which is through tax havens.

We urge policy makers to address the failings of the banking and financial system which caused our present economic and fiscal problems.

We will use every non-violent means to uphold the values of justice and equality in the face of the government's planned public spending cuts.

Oxford Quaker Meeting
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