



QUAKERS
Canadian Friends
Service Committee



You're not an individual, and here's why

In our [most recent blog post](#) for *Psychology Today*, CFSC shares startling evidence about the extent to which our social networks influence us.

Data from around the world is clear: people overwhelmingly group together with others who are like them. "It occurs along many dimensions including gender, ethnicity, religion, age, profession, education level, and can even be seen in genetic markers."

Our behaviours and even emotional states also spread within our social networks. The post explains how these facts inform who takes part in social change movements.

Reserve your spot in the next round of our free interactive workshop series to learn more about how groups influence us and tips to make that influence a positive one:

<https://quakerservice.ca/register>

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

for implementation legislation on the
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



A new tool makes it easier than ever to write in support of Bill C-15

Since our last E-newsletter, to counter harmful myths and misinformation CFSC has continued to educate about Bill C-15, *The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. We were one of the groups that worked on an open letter that wound up getting over 200 signatures from Indigenous Nations, hereditary chiefs, activists, legal

experts, unions, faith bodies, professors, and concerned individuals from across the country. See the letter and impressive list of signatories:

<https://DeclarationCoalition.com/blog>

You can also now use this tool developed by the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue to write to your MP in support of C-15: <https://p2a.co/4oHgQa7>



Actions in support for human rights for all in Israel/Palestine

- A [petition](#) started by our partners in Israel is welcoming signatures from around the world. Directed to the Israeli Minister of Defense, it expresses solidarity with young Israelis who refuse military conscription for reasons of conscience, and condemns their imprisonment. (You can refresh yourself about this issue by reading our [2018 Quaker Concern article](#).)

- CFSC developed a concern over the situation of Mohammed El Halabi, a former World Vision director for Gaza, when Mohammed's father wrote to us. We discerned the need to raise this case with Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mohammed was arrested by Israeli security forces in June 2016. After four years and over 150 court appearances, prosecutors have yet to provide evidence for his alleged crime, and an Australian government-funded audit found no such evidence. CFSC is asking what steps Canada is taking to ensure that Mohammed either gets an open and fair trial or is given an unconditional release: <https://quakerservice.ca/MohammedElHalabi> (PDF).
 - CFSC joined with more than 30 other groups to applaud Canada's attempts to curtail online hate but to ask that new legislation not adopt the flawed IHRA definition of antisemitism. Read the full open letter: <https://quakerservice.ca/OnlineHate> (PDF).
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