

## **RAPID RESPONSE GROUP**

The Rapid Response Group was set up by G & N MM in 1999, when a particular situation arose which needed a response on a timescale that could not be met by waiting for the next MM. The RR group has, produced letters, press releases, public statements and responses to government consultations.

The RR group is in no way meant to be an alternative to the normal way of bringing concerns to AM via Minutes from Local Meetings, or of providing statements etc or sending Minutes to MfS from AM when, as is normally the case, the timescale allows. The RRG would be called on when some global, national or local event occurs for which a swift response is seen to be needed, or where some government process requires an input on a tight timescale.

The matter may arise from the Concern of an individual Friend or number of Friends, but in either case, they should, as far as possible, consult a range of members of their Local Meeting to try to ensure there is support for the proposed action, before coming to the AM Clerk and the RRG requesting the formulation of a response to the particular concern or situation. In some cases, the need for RRG action may come as a result of a matter before AM which is felt to need a response before the next AM.

MfS has provided guidelines on the issuing of public statements, representations etc by BYM, and these guidelines are valuable in indicating how such matters should be approached locally. In particular, any statements should be clearly based on Quaker Testimonies and principles.

They should indicate a positive way forward.

There are clear guidelines on how Friends and LMs should proceed, and the form of Brief that should be given to the RRG.. Notes relating to the RRG will be attached to the AM Minutes.