



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Issue 62

Topical activity

Children in Syria



In Syria at the moment there is terrible fighting between soldiers working for the government led by the President, a man called Bashar al-Assad, and Syrian people who don't want him to be their leader anymore. The woman in the picture below is United Nation's Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay. Her job is to help make sure that governments don't do horrible things to people in their countries. This week she said that soldiers in Syria are hurting children and that this should stop.

As Quakers we have a very important thing we have always tried to do – 'speaking truth to power'; telling big powerful people things they are doing wrong and should stop or change.

Talk a little with children in your Meeting about what is happening in Syria and what Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay has said. Ask what children would like to do about it – if anything. If there is uncertainty about what to do suggest writing letters to the Syrian Embassy and copying them to the Human Rights Commissioner. The addresses are below. The letters could be illustrated.

Before talking with the children make sure you have some information yourself about the situation. See if you can find a map to show children where Syria is.



<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/feb/13/syrian-regime-emboldened-un-inaction>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

Syrian Embassy

8 Belgrave Square
London - SW1X 8PH