



# ADVOCACY TEAMS

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

## HOW TO START AN ADVOCACY TEAM

Build a local community of skilled advocates for peace and justice with these simple steps.

2 Weeks to 2 Months



### 1. Tell us you're interested

Fill out the interest form at [fcnl.org/getstarted](https://fcnl.org/getstarted). An FCNL staff member will get in touch about moving forward.



### 2. Gather a Host Committee

Gather 3-8 friends and neighbors to be the Host Committee. Learn about the Advocacy Teams program in a one-hour call with FCNL.

*\*Members of the host committee are not committed to leadership positions*

3-5 Weeks

DISCOVER

1-2 Weeks



### 3. Reach out to your community

Spread the word! With your Host Committee, reach out to your networks and invite people to attend an FCNL Advocacy Workshop. We ask Host Committees to bring 15-30 participants to this workshop.



### 4. Host an Advocacy Workshop

An FCNL staff member will visit to facilitate a workshop where you will learn critical advocacy skills, the Quaker approach to Congressional engagement, and key context for the legislative issue of the year. We launch your team if at least 4 people are interested at the end.

1 Week

BUILD YOUR TEAM

4 Weeks



### 5. Learn Together

Prepare your team to lobby effectively and build your community during FCNL's four-part training series. An FCNL expert will coach these in-person trainings by phone, after which your team will be fully equipped and ready to lobby.



**Your team is now ready to start lobbying with our national network!**

CREATE CHANGE

# ADVOCACY TEAMS FAQ

## What are FCNL Advocacy Teams

The Advocacy Team network is made up of over 1,500 Quakers and friends who use their power as constituents to make change in Washington. We are committed to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. Teams all work on one issue each year, building expertise in the issue area and close relationships with Congressional offices. Advocacy teams create tight-knit communities of advocates for peace and justice in large cities and small towns, in red states and in blue, across the nation.

## Why do Advocacy Teams work on one issue each year?

Our experience and research has proven that to build a relationship with a Member of Congress, a focused agenda is key. The issue chosen is based on a strategic decision as to which legislation is most likely to advance with a concerted grassroots push around the country. We provide extensive resources on one topic to give teams specific information to make their lobbying effective. While we are only able to provide this level of content and programming on one issue a year, FCNL lobbies on range of different issues. FCNL will always support those who are led to lobby on peace and justice.

## Who can be on an Advocacy Team?

Anyone can be part of an Advocacy Team! You can join an existing team or, if there isn't a team within a 30-minute drive, consider starting a new team in your community. Teams thrive when led by people who are looking for a way to make their voices heard and want to work in community - from recent college grads to the recently retired. Teams welcome Quakers and non-Quakers alike, span multiple Congressional districts, and include folks from a variety of backgrounds.

## My Member of Congress either a) Agrees with everything I believe in already, or b) Will never support anything I am advocating for. So, what's the point in starting a team?

FCNL provides strategic training on how to tailor your message to your Members of Congress. Legislators can always be more supportive, even if they agree with your position. There is always the potential to find common ground, even when you don't think they will agree with anything you support.

## How much time will it take to be on an Advocacy Team?

Once a Team is launched, it typically takes 10 hours a month to lead a team and 2-4 hours a month to participate. Teams meet once a month for an FCNL conference call featuring policy experts, guest speakers, insights from teams across the country. After the call, teams create a plan to take at least one action a month, from in-person lobby visits to writing a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed.

## How do I learn more?

Email [shoshana@fcnl.org](mailto:shoshana@fcnl.org) to learn more about starting an advocacy team. Sign up for our Introduction to Advocacy Teams conference call at: [www.fcnl.org/atinfocall](http://www.fcnl.org/atinfocall)

# MEET THE TEAM



**Shoshana Abrams**  
*National Field Organizer*



**Sarah Freeman-Woolpert**  
*Advocacy Teams Trainer*



**Teresa Rugg**  
*Advocacy Teams Trainer*