

June 2008

Dear Associates and Friends of the Iona Community,

I am writing with some words of explanation about the increase in the suggested donation for Associates and Friends in the United States, and about why this step has become necessary.

At present, and for a number of years, the rate suggested in the USA has been for both Associates and Friends: Full rate \$50; Couple \$70; Lower rate (Students, Unemployed and Senior Citizens) \$15

This compares with the rates paid by all other Associates and Friends, both in the UK and elsewhere in the world, given in UK pounds, with US equivalents in brackets, as follows: Associates: Full rate £45 (\$90); Couple £67-50 (\$135); Lower rate £19 (\$38)

We have a lower rate for Friends: Full rate £31 (\$62); Lower rate £17 (\$34)

In addition, for any wishing to receive mailings by airmail and not surface, we ask for a £5 additional donation.

In the rest of the world, Associates and Friends donate in sterling, the UK currency. In the United States, the New World Foundation makes it possible for our Associates and Friends to pay in dollars to an American address, and this means that US citizens are able to claim tax deduction on their giving. We are happy to have this happen, and very grateful to the New World Foundation for enabling it.

Unfortunately, over the last few years, the value of the US dollar against sterling has weakened considerably, and the US dollar is currently standing at around half the value of the UK pound. This means that what we receive for each full rate Associate in the US has actually been decreasing year by year, and the lower rate is now not even covering production and mailing costs. We know that many US Associates and Friends give generously and in excess of the donation sought. We are extremely grateful for this. We know also that many of you also are struggling, as elsewhere in the world, with rising prices and fixed incomes. We regret this rise, but have kept it as low as possible.

We value enormously the interest and commitment of American Associates and Friends, and all that you do in supporting and enabling the work of the Iona Community on Iona, in the renewal of worship, in our work with young people and our action for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. We hope you will still wish to support us and be part of our movement.

Grace and peace,

Kathy Galloway
Leader, The Iona Community