

Last year UK military expenditure totalled over £35 billion.

Every year 10% of your taxes are spent on the military budget.



Military security is expensive, ineffective and costs lives.

Nonviolent peacebuilding is more effective in the long term, better value and a form of security you can pay tax for with a clear conscience.

conscience TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR works for a world where taxes are used to build peace, not pay for war.



taxes for peace not war



war doesn't work...

Between 2000 and 2005, 17 wars ended in negotiated settlements, while just 4 ended in military victory. A greater percentage of wars ending in military victory restart in less than five years.

70% of deaths in war are now civilians. A US Colonel has openly stated "our soldiers killed maimed and incarcerated thousands of Arabs, 90% of whom were not the enemy. But they are now". 'Peace' imposed by force often makes bad situations worse.

War and the preparation for war are a huge waste of assets that could be used for human welfare. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that it would cost \$30 billion (£15 billion) per year to feed the entire world population thus ending world hunger. This may sound like a lot of money; however last year alone world military expenditure totalled \$1 226 billion (£624 billion).



...but peace building does

Is war inevitable? No! There are many tried and tested, cost-effective ways to build real, sustainable security without violence; including:

- Early warning systems to spot tension
- Free media and education to resist propaganda
- Support for local peacemakers and civil society
- Civilian peacebuilders to negotiate and monitor deals
- Expertise in demobilising and retraining fighters in economic and social reconstruction
- Proper training for judges and police
- Effective action on the arms trade, poverty, injustice and inequality.

The list goes on and on. These solutions aren't easy, but they really work.

£400 of your taxes is spent on weapons for every £1 spent on peacebuilding.

Even during the First World War, politicians recognised the individual's right not to take part in war. Today it's your money not you that is conscripted for war, while better options go begging; and you don't have any choice.

conscience TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR campaigns for a progressive increase in the amount of tax spent on peacebuilding, and a corresponding decrease in the amount spent on war and preparation for war.

We also campaign for an update in the law, so that people with a conscientious objection to war can have the part of their taxes currently spent on arms devoted to peacebuilding instead.

For a more detailed version of this leaflet please visit our website www.conscienceonline.org.uk



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TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR

Archway Resource Centre,
1B Waterlow Road,
London.
N19 5NJ

t +44 (0) 20 7561 1061
e info@conscienceonline.org.uk
w www.conscienceonline.org.uk
w www.peacepays.org.uk

join conscience today

yes, I want my taxes used to prevent conflict, not prepare for it please PRINT your details below

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last name/s _____

address _____

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