



NH Peace Action

As an organization, we work on several issues, topics and problems in our world. We'd like you to understand the relationship we see between our peace work and the issues/topics/problems that we connect with.

Why we are drawn to counter militarism: Militarism is the imbalance in a culture wherein greater weight is given to weapons, aggression, and the structures needed to maintain a military force and its infrastructure. Such a focus on aggression is problematic when other compelling and immediate needs go unresolved or unsatisfied, such as citizens' physical well-being--healthcare, education, hunger, environmental supports like clean water, etc. Militarism presents for us a barrier to peace. Peace means citizens are cared for with resources greater than those devoted to maintaining weapons of war.

What resolution are we seeking in this area: We seek a return of resources to citizens and to areas of human need; necessarily, this means that resources currently devoted to military endeavors decrease. We prefer instead fewer such endeavors that require resources: for example, weapons systems that depend on now-rare inter-state warfare, a reduction and eradication of expensive and illegal nuclear weapons, and the identification of waste, fraud and abuse endured by taxpayers during lengthy military missions abroad. Any of these resolutions release currently tied-up funds; help meet the vast array of human needs in the US; and remove the fire from many structurally-driven conflicts.

NHPA connects with this issue.

We educate on this issue by: We offer, several times a year, presentations and discussions on the nuclear weapons issue and its large cost; on structural issues like homelessness and the ability to solve social problems more cheaply than our weapons programs; on the proportion of the US budget currently consumed by the Pentagon; on the fallout in social terms in rates of personal aggression, surplus military equipment that flows to police forces, etc. We illustrate the relationship between militarism and climate change: climate change is driving some armed conflicts, and the impact of military presence and armed conflict in turn is contributing to environmental disasters, ecological catastrophes and unlivable conditions. And finally, we bring attention to the better relationships we could be having with "enemies" such as North Korea, Iran, and others, were it not for the militarism currently dominating public policy discussions in government.

We organize on this issue by: Sharing knowledge about our legislative representatives' committee assignments with our members and the public. We are in a position to (and do) inspire others to join in discussions about legislation being debated in Concord and/or Washington, and our members gather to demonstrate in favor or opposition of the legislative agenda. Our organization influenced the 2020 presidential candidates to develop and refine positions on the nuclear weapons question, whereas they previously had little to none.

We mobilize on this issue by: insisting that we confront issues of bullying and aggression, etc., and making the connection between cultural norms that favor military contact abroad and domestic unrest. We engage in uncomfortable topics like the recruitment of military service members in our high schools, the proportion of our state's economic activity connected to the defense industry squelching other areas, and the tie-in to structural issues like racism, economic restrictions and diminished expectations for an economy based on human needs.

Our vision comes closer into being when militarism lessens or is resolved because: So many of our current social dilemmas are solvable. Hunger, homelessness, and the general welfare are much more readily confronted in the presence of resources unavailable now because they are currently being diverted toward the Pentagon. In addition, a reduced proportion of focus on militarism means that cultural norms do not depend on aggression as the default position. Human needs become the default position, and military defense retakes its smaller role. We can have a rebalanced human needs-based culture and economy independent of military industry influence which is to say, we can have peace.

If you and/or your organization would like to pursue partnerships in this area, we invite you to contact us at info@nhpeaceaction.org .