



WATERMELONS NOT WAR COMMUNITY DIALOGUE EVENT

This event aims to bring the community together in a dialogue about conflict, violence and peace in our personal and political lives. It is important that we all take the time necessary to connect, converse and find creative ways to organize against unhealthy conflict resolution, violence and war on both local and global levels.

The good news: Peace *is* possible. Healthy homes, communities and international affairs need to be shaped and influenced by united citizens prepared to struggle for a more peaceful world. Together we can achieve a common vision of a society based on the principles of human dignity, peace and disarmament. Violence, competition and bloodshed are *not* inevitable.

Political pacification will only lead to the reproduction of the status quo. We believe in people power. Don't leave the creation of a better world up to political and corporate elites. Get involved, educate and organize for a more peaceful world today!

THE POWER OF A ROBUST CIVIL SOCIETY



Research shows that a robust civil society can have a tremendous impact on shaping and influencing global conflict (Choi & James 2025). According to Choi and James (2025), civil society contains the capacity to “organize a united front against belligerent leaders, solve collective action problems, and take immediate action against [government and corporate] leaders’ war decisions in pursuit of a common peace agenda.

Robust civil society defined: a society “that enjoys autonomy from the state and in which citizens freely and actively pursue their political and civic goals and therefore can form collective resistance and collective action against government [and corporate] misconduct [...]” (Choi & James 2025).

*Read Choi and James’s (2025) research entitled *Six Alternatives to War, One Solution for Peace: The Pacifying Effect of Civil Society* free online.

ROOT CAUSES OF WAR

1. “War is the continuation of politics by other [violent] means” (Clausewitz).
2. Resource and territorial competition e.g., competition over resources, expansionism, border disputes, control over foreign markets, access to cheap labour and inter-capitalist rivalry.
3. Realization of profit for the military-industrial complex (MIC).
4. Political & ideological factors e.g., nationalism, ethnocentrism, ideology, and regime change.
5. Diplomatic and systemic failures e.g., misinformation and breakdown in trust.
6. Psychological & social motivations e.g., status, pride and ego, fear, security and the need for revenge.



THE COSTS OF WAR

According to Watson School of International & Public Affairs, “An estimated over 940,000 people were killed by direct post-9/11 war violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan between 2001-2023. Of these, more than 432,000 were civilians. The number of people wounded or ill as a result of the conflicts is far higher, as is the number of civilians who died ‘indirectly,’ as a result of wars’ destruction of economies, healthcare systems, infrastructure and the environment. An estimated 3.6-3.8 million people died indirectly in post-9/11 war zones, bringing the total death toll to at least 4.5-4.7 million and counting.”



STOP THE WAR PROFITEERS

According to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) the following weapons companies are making massive profits from war, war crimes and genocide.

- *Honeywell International
- *BAE Systems
- *Boeing
- *Colt's manufacturing company
- *Elbit Systems
- *General Dynamics
- *L3 Harris Technologies
- *Lockheed Martin
- *Northrup Grumman
- *Toyota
- *Caterpillar
- *General Electric
- *Any many more...



ALTERNATIVES TO WAR

- *Be proactive, address the root causes of war and work towards replacing war technologies and tactics with non-violent solutions
- *Prevention, diplomacy and mediation
- *Educate for personal, communal, national and international peace
- *Invest in sustainable development
- *Promote and protect human rights and justice
- *Defeat sexism and establish gender equality
- *Increase democratic participation
- *Promote disarmament initiatives
- *Construct a local and global socio-economic system that works for all versus a minority
- *Foster a world voice diplomacy vs. great power diplomacy
- *Implement anti-capitalist, anti-military, anti-colonial and anti-imperial ways of thinking and acting locally and globally



For more information on anti-militarist and anti-imperialist networks doing great work around the globe go to everydaypeacebuilding.org and read article entitled **23 Pacifist Organizations Working to Abolish War**. Peace organizations include: *War Resisters (WRI); Pax Christi; The International Peace Bureau (IPB); World Beyond War (WBW); Code Pink* and many more...

For more information linked to political actions download Frauzel and Collinson's (2015) document entitled **10 Ways People Power Can Change the World**. Examples include: Boycotts, employee pressure, legal action, divestment, lobby MPs, join a grassroots group, letter writing campaigns, political protest, educate the public, petition, non-violent direct action, occupying, blockading, civil disobedience, mass strikes and many more...

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed."
 - UNESCO Constitution -



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