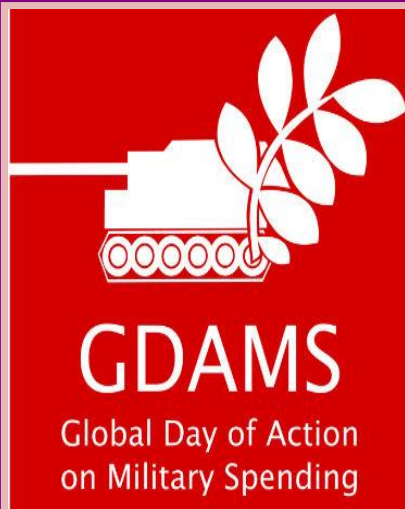


A resource for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending 13 April 2015



Use some of these quotations in bulletins or community newsletters to show that the Churches do have a voice on issues of militarism, use of resources and peacemaking. You could make this leaflet available at any meetings you may host in preparation for the General Election.

Extracts from some could be used on posters/to make mini-exhibitions alongside contemporary news stories with headlines or images from newspapers.

Organise a vigil or service around GDAMS day 13 April and incorporate some of these quotations as readings



Quaker Peace &
Social Witness

Quakers in Britain condemn unreservedly the UK's possession of nuclear weapons and the policy of nuclear deterrence which relies on the threat to use them. We add our voice to growing demands for a new international treaty to ban nuclear weapons, echoing the interfaith statement issued on 9 December in Vienna, calling for "the commencement of negotiations on a new legal instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons without further delay and in a forum open to all states and blockable by none."

From Quakers in Britain, Open Letter to Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Philip Hammond, MP . December 2014

... I am convinced that the desire for peace and fraternity planted deep in the human heart will bear fruit in concrete ways to ensure that nuclear weapons are banned once and for all, to the benefit of our common home. The security of our own future depends on guaranteeing the peaceful security of others, for if peace, security and stability are not established globally, they will not be enjoyed at all. Individually and collectively, we are responsible for the present and future well-being of our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis, message to Vienna Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, December 2014



The twentieth century saw the causes of war shifting from imperial ambition, to economic markets, and then on to natural resources, in particular oil... Seeking to prevent wars happening may well continue to include time honoured methods. There will always be a place for interventions like the mass marches that attempt to forestall specific conflicts, as people did in their millions during the run up to the disastrous Iraq War of 2003. But how much better it is to come into the debate earlier. If the wars for access to natural resources in the last century focussed on oil, it is likely that in the current century the attention will shift to safe and secure supplies of water.

Bishop David Walker, Bishop of Manchester at FoR event, January 2015



Further actions

7 May 2015—General Election

Organise meetings through your local Churches Together or ecumenical peace and justice networks in to question candidates about their policies and attitudes towards security and military spending. Use materials on the GDAMS website to help you. Other election resources here.

- election.quaker.org.uk/
- ncpo.org.uk/

Fast for the climate

Churches and religious groups are at the forefront of efforts to mobilize action for a legally binding agreement on the world's climate at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris at the end of 2015.

In solidarity with people around the world, Christians in the UK are supporting monthly vigils of prayer and fasting and will take part in the pilgrimage of climate justice - either on foot or on bicycles - to Paris in August and December. More here.

- fastfortheclimate.org/en/
- bit.ly/1ytFh6p

Some scripture references

<i>Dt 30:15-20</i>	<i>Choose life</i>
<i>Jer: 6:9-16</i>	<i>Peace, peace when there is no peace</i>
<i>Is 2: 2-5</i>	<i>Turn swords into ploughshares</i>
<i>Is 32:16-17</i>	<i>Justice will bring peace</i>
<i>Mica 6:8</i>	<i>Act justly and walk humbly with God</i>
<i>Ps 9:9</i>	<i>God judges with justice, governs with equity</i>
<i>James:3:13-18</i>	<i>Peacemakers follow true wisdom</i>
<i>James 1:22-27</i>	<i>Be doers, not only hearers of the word</i>
<i>James 2</i>	<i>We must practice what we believe and preach</i>
<i>Hebrews: 10:24</i>	<i>Encourage one another to love and good works</i>
<i>Lk 6:27-35</i>	<i>Make peace through nonviolence and love of enemies</i>

The concept of human security is rooted in some of the most basic principles of our faith tradition: that every person has intrinsic dignity and is of equal value before God: we are called into right relationships with each other and with all of creation. The security of one person or nation cannot be guaranteed while ignoring or undermining the security and well-being of other people in the global community

Marie Dennis, President of Pax Christi International 2010

"With enough public pressure, I believe that governments can move beyond the hypocrisy that has stymied multilateral disarmament discussions for decades, and be inspired and persuaded to embark on negotiations for a treaty to outlaw and eradicate these ultimate weapons of terror. Achieving such a ban would require somewhat of a revolution in our thinking, but it is not out of the question. Entrenched systems can be turned on their head almost overnight if there's the will."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, March 2013

Useful websites/sources

Fellowship of Reconciliation : www.for.org.uk	Northern Friends Peace Board: www.nfpb.org.uk/
Pax Christi : www.paxchristi.org.uk	Quakers in Britain www.quaker.org.uk/
GDAMS UK: demilitarize.org.uk	GDAMS International: demilitarize.org

See below links to photographs from previous GDAMS events that may inspire you!

Images that challenge military spending : <http://bit.ly/1z5flwd>

Images from GDAMS event 2014 : <http://bit.ly/169S9qm>