

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from Nia Rhosier

Abigail Phillips,
National Assembly for Wales,
CARDIFF BAY
CF99 1NA
November 1 2011

Dear Abigail Phillips,

WALES PEACE INSTITUTE

As Honorary President of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales, and on a personal level, I would like to declare my complete support for the notion of establishing a Peace Institute for Wales, in order to see WALES state clearly to the British Government in Westminster that it will never again be dragged into wars such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that it will not be part of the military mindset that remains strong among those who 'lead' us from London.

The current system of militarising WALES is entirely unfair and immoral. I refer here to the military presence in Aberporth, St Athan, Epynt, Valley and Llanbedr near Harlech, and the infernal practice of training men and women in Aberporth on how to use unpiloted aircraft (Drones)—planes that have already killed thousands of ordinary people and innocent children in several countries.

As a small country, WALES can provide Europe and the world with leadership by creating a culture of peace instead of a culture of war; it has a long and distinguished history of trying to promote peace, through prominent pacifists such as Richard Roberts, who became the first Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in 1914, George M.L.L. Davies, Henry Richard, Samuel Roberts and Gwynfor Evans. I refer also to the evangelical ministers who were conscientious objectors in the two world wars, to Gwilym Davies, who launched the message of peace from the children of Wales to the children of the world, and to those who established the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, to name but a few. Members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and other peace groups are bearing witness today by holding an annual service of repentance on Epynt, as well as many other gatherings and rallies throughout the country. These include the recent walk from Aberporth to Carmarthen, and signing the White Book of Carmarthen, which shows the desire of many in Wales to enthrone peace and justice for our people.

Some time ago, a petition was submitted to the National Assembly, calling on it to establish a Peace Institute for Wales. I understand that the Assembly Petitions Committee will consider this crucial issue before long. I would be grateful if you could share my comments with the Committee.

Sincerely,
Nia Rhosier