

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute

Response from Uniting for Peace



Response to the petition for proposal for setting up a peace institute for Wales:

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Q. Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible? If so, how important is it to have a peace institute in Wales?

- It is important to have a peace institute in Wales as military spending is risen to all time high to \$1.6 trillion this year. It leads to violence, wars, inequality, injustice and endless suffering around the world.

The peace institute is needed not only to explore root causes of war and violence, but also to find ways to disarm and demilitarise the world and implement solutions for a peaceful future. This will bring progress in economic, political and cultural fields leading to equitable and sustainable development.

Q. How do you think a Wales Peace Institute should be constituted and what should its terms of references be?

- The peace institute for Wales should be an independent and transparent body and its remit should be to implement solution for world peace.

One such program is being started by Uniting for Peace, a campaign called "4D for World Peace". It is a campaign to create global frameworks for taking actions on interconnecting global issues of disarming and demilitarising the world and the savings thus achieved to be deployed for development and democracy.

Q. If you do not feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible, why is that?



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Uniting for Peace

Working since 1979, Uniting for Peace is a non-profit organisation devoted to creating and promoting a global culture of peace, nonviolence and poverty reduction. It is a merger of two former organisations, Action for UN Renewal and World Disarmament Campaign. One of our Founders, Philip Noel Baker is a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1959.

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4D for World Peace

A campaign to create global frameworks for taking actions on interconnecting global issues of disarming and demilitarising the world and the savings thus achieved to be deployed for development and democracy.

4D for World Peace is backed by World Luminaries

Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate 1976, the Nobel Women's Initiative
Dr. Shirin Ebaadi, Nobel Peace Laureate 2003
Deepak Chopra, Best Selling Author
Richard Falk, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights for Palestinian Territories

Peace Activists

Colin Archer, Secretary General, International Peace Bureau
James O'Dea, Former Director Amnesty International
Dr. Scilla Elworthy, Founder Peace Direct
Jeremy Gilley, Founder Peace One Day
Tim Wallis, Director Non Violent Peace Force
Hanaa Edwar, Sean MacBride Peace Prize Laureate, Iraq

Thought Leaders

Arun Gandhi, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi
Polly Higgins, International Environment Lawyer for making Ecocide 5th crime against peace
Jon Love, The Pachamama Alliance, San Francisco
Tenzin Tethong, President Dalai Lama Foundation

- Not applicable

Q. What are the barriers to establishing a peace institute in Wales?

- Finding sufficient funds to run it independently
- Opposition from right wing lobby/war mongers/Military Industrial Complex
- People have a wrong perception that peace is a utopian dream which is distant and hard to achieve
- General apathy among society