

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from Mike Gatehouse

Attn: Abigail Phillips, Clerk to the Petitions Committee

Dear Ms Phillips,

Brecknock Peace and Justice Group would like to support the petition calling for the National Assembly to investigate the potential for establishing an Academi Heddwch/Peace Institute for Wales.

We are one of many small peace groups campaigning on a broad range of topics under the heading 'peace and justice'. We receive information, help and support from UK-wide organisations such as CND, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Stop the War Coalition, Refugee Action, Amnesty International and many others. Often, however, it is difficult to define the Welsh dimension of such campaigns and we do not ourselves have resources to produce specifically Wales-directed materials.

We believe that a Wales Peace Institute could help us, and all in Wales concerned with peace and justice by:

- * organising Welsh events and conferences on peace and peace-related themes
- * helping us to address concerns and petitions to the Welsh Assembly, Welsh MPs and AMs
- * working on peace initiatives with local authorities in Wales
- * promoting visits, speaker tours and twinning arrangements
- * producing materials (including Welsh language material)
- * doing research into the Welsh dimensions of the Arms Industry, military training and recruitment, etc.
- * promoting and encouraging peace studies in schools, colleges and universities
- * promoting peace themes in cultural events, concerts, art exhibitions, eisteddforddau, etc.
- * establishing a distinctively Welsh voice for peace in European and international fora

With best wishes,

Mike Gatehouse

Brecknock Peace & Justice Group