

PET(4) WPI 57
Petitions Committee

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from Elenid Jones

6 December 2012

Ms Abigail Phillips

Clerk of the Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Abigail Phillips

I am writing to you as Chair of the Christian Citizenship Department at the Union of Welsh Independents.

We, as a department, are fully supportive of the establishment of a Wales Peace Institute. In Wales, since the days of Henry Richard, we have had a proud tradition of campaigning for peace. Establishing a Peace Institute would be a clear sign of our desire, as a small nation, to promote peace and justice across the world.

We believe that a Peace Institute should bring a range of organisations together such as Christian Aid, Oxfam Cymru, the United Nations Association Wales, without forgetting representatives from the army who have to face danger and death when countries go to war. The presence of university departments, such as Aberystwyth's Department of International Politics and the David Davies Centre, would bolster the Institute's academic credibility and representation from churches and multifaith communities would provide it with moral power and depth.

We cannot see any obstacles that would prevent the establishment of a Wales Peace Institute and we support the petition unreservedly. We would also suggest that it would be a poor excuse to plead a shortage of funds in these times of austerity, given how important an institute of this kind would be within, and beyond, the borders of Wales.

Yours sincerely

A.Elenid Jones

Chair of the Christian Citizenship Department, the Union of Welsh Independents