

# our security

Young people across the UK are sharing their ideas about how to make our world more secure.

Enter the **Our Security competition** with your ideas.



If you are aged 10-18, you can enter the competition with a:

- poem or spoken word performance
- picture, painting or other piece of art
- essay of maximum 750 words
- animation or film
- poster

## How to enter

Send your entry by **email** to [competition@rethinkingsecurity.org.uk](mailto:competition@rethinkingsecurity.org.uk) or by **post** to Peace Education, QPSW, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

Include your name, age and contact details.

If you are a teacher submitting entries from students, include their names and ages, with your contact details and name of school.

**Send your entry by 1 October 2018**

We will share inspiring entries on social media throughout the competition.

In October we will judge the best entries and runners up, in two categories: ages 10-14 and ages 15-18.

Winners will receive two tickets for the **Peace Talks event** in November in London. Peace Direct is an international peacebuilding charity working in conflict zones around the world supporting local people to build long term peace.

All selection of entries will also be chosen for a week-long **exhibition** at Friends House in London during November.

Entries will also be celebrated as part of the **INSPIRE project**, engaging young people in remembrance for peace for the centenary of the First World War.



# How can we make our world more secure?

## What is security?

To feel secure, we all need to be able to meet our basic needs - for food, water, housing, health and personal safety. And our sense of security is also affected by what happens in our neighbourhoods, our country, and in other parts of the world.

Many people in the UK and across the world face insecurity, and experience it in different ways. In some places, people are unable to meet their basic needs, while elsewhere, they face the consequences of war or climate change.

There are lots of different ideas about what we need to do to reduce insecurity and build a more secure world. And because security matters so much to all of us, our opinions are really important.

This competition encourages us to think about these questions. What makes us feel secure? What causes insecurity? And what can we do as individuals to make the world a more secure place? And as young people, what do we want our political leaders to do to create a safer future for everyone?

## What makes our world insecure?

Here are some ideas about the major causes of insecurity in our world. Can you think of any others?

### *Poverty and inequality*

Two billion people across the world subsist on the equivalent of \$2 or less a day, and find it very difficult to meet their basic needs. At the same time, the richest 1% of the global population now have more wealth, and power, than the rest of the world combined. This inequality is one of the things that can lead to violence and war.

### *Climate change and scarcity*

Many of the earth's resources are over used or destroyed. Climate change is resulting in extreme weather and environmental changes which are displacing people from their lands and adding to conflict.

## Who we are

**Rethinking Security** is a network of organisations and experts discussing the future of peace and common security in the world. **ForcesWatch** is an ethics focused organisation that monitors and challenges militarism. **Quakers in Britain** is a faith organisation and works to promote education for peace and social justice. Together we are running the Our Security competition to open this important conversation up to young people.

### *Violent conflict*

Individuals, groups or countries might want different things, or have beliefs that don't seem to work together. Conflict is a normal part of life and the process of resolving it can help people understand each other and work together. But if conflict is not dealt with well it can become violent, which leads to suffering and insecurity.

### *Militarism*

Some countries spend a lot of money on weapons and armies as a means of solving conflicts. However, this approach can lead to an increase in distrust between countries, as well as causing death and destruction.

## What could make our world more secure now and in the future?

Here are some suggestions about how we can build a more secure world. Which ones do you think are most important? What else do you think is necessary?

### *Meeting everyone's basic needs*

Everyone needs food and water, somewhere decent to live, education and a healthy environment. We also need to be able to live our lives without fear of violence, and to participate in decisions that affect our future. How can we meet everyone's basic needs in ways that doesn't over-use resources or pollute the planet?

### *Addressing long-term problems*

Efforts to address global problems such as climate change, poverty and inequality, violent conflict and militarism will make all of us safer. What can each of us do to help with this?

### *Working with others*

Because our world is inter-connected, we need to work with others to find solutions to insecurity. How can we find ways of understanding other people's needs and opinions, and create solutions that are fair to everyone?

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Teachers can find **learning resources** on sustainable security at [rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/education](http://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/education)