Campaign Against the Arms Trade

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Conciliation Resources

ForcesWatch

International Alert

Oxford Research Group

Peace Direct

Quaker Peace and Social Witness

Quaker Asylum & Refugee Network

Saferworld

Three Faiths Forum

Academics from the universities of Bradford, Coventry, Kent and Oxford Brookes

What to do …　　　　　　**How to get involved …**

- ✓ Explore our website **www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk**

- ✓ Copy this leaflet and spread the word

- ✓ Discuss these ideas with friends and colleagues, face to face and on social media

- ✓ Hold a meeting within your own circles to introduce and discuss them

- ✓ Bring together different local groups to do the same and see how you can cooperate more on a Rethinking Security platform

- ✓ Encourage the national organisations to which you belong affiliate to Rethinking Security

- ✓ Use our parliamentary briefing to engage with your MP

To sign up on our supporters' list, tell us what you're doing or ask for advice, email **info@rethinkingsecurity.org.uk**

Twitter **@securityrethink**
Facebook **www.facebook.com/rethinkingsec**
Web **www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk**

Rethinking Security

for a just and peaceful world

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It's time to

Rethink **Security**

Rethinking Security is a network of organisations, academics and activists who share a concern about the current approach to national security in the UK and beyond.

We believe that this approach is a significant barrier to progress on a range of progressive agendas for peace, justice and ecological sustainability.

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It's time to rethink security

National security or human security?

How secure do you feel in your everyday life? Are there things that make you feel anxious or insecure – maybe to do with money, health, housing, loneliness, the state of the environment or the future of your children?

The United Kingdom has the 5th largest economy in the world and the largest defence budget in Europe, yet many UK citizens face growing insecurity as inequality and austerity measures push them into homelessness, hunger and debt.

The United Nations has defined human security as '*the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair'*. This approach would be a stronger foundation for addressing insecurity in the UK and overseas.

The current UK security strategy

As a post-imperial power, the UK is focussed on global status and influence pursued largely through military means, with a shrinking role for diplomacy, and overseas aid that is increasingly used to further UK interests. It prides itself on its special relationship with the US, its permanent position on the UN Security Council, and its prominence within NATO and other international institutions. It retains its nuclear arsenal, ignoring the UN treaty that bans all nuclear weapons, and its substantial defence industry and arms exports fuel conflict around the world .

Military solutions to perceived threats are failing. Since the beginning of the 'war on terror' the world has seen an exponential rise in terrorism, and military interventions across Asia, the Middle East and North Africa have resulted in human catastrophe and further destabilisation.

National interest or international cooperation?

In 2017 world military expenditure rose to $1,739 billion but few would call the world a safer place. The real causes of insecurity affecting the majority of the world's citizens - ecosystem damage, climate change, poverty, inequality, marginalisation and militarism - must be resolved through international cooperation at all levels. Given the fact of the global interdependence of our species and of all life on our planet, the only security possible is common security. Our failure to understand this reality has brought us to the current crisis.

A vision for change

Rethinking Security is an independent network that aims to stimulate a richer public debate about what security means and how we can create it together. We re-examine old assumptions and explore new approaches, based on values of justice, cooperation and sustainability. We develop new ideas for policy, and new alliances to work together for a security strategy that puts at its heart:

- Global relationships based on cooperation rather than domination
- A global economy which serves the needs of all, rather than the greed of the few
- Flourishing, inclusive societies where the voices of all are heard and each person's wellbeing is valued and respected
- Protection of our planet from looming catastrophe and for future generations

We need your support and your involvement to achieve this urgent change

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