

## The Rethinking Security network includes

Campaign Against Arms Trade	Quaker Peace and Social Witness
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament	Quaker Asylum & Refugee Network
Conciliation Resources	Saferworld
ForcesWatch	UNA-UK
International Alert	Academics from the universities of Bradford, Coventry, Kent and Oxford Brookes
Oxford Research Group	
Peace Direct	

## What to do ...

## How to get involved ...

- ✓ Explore our website [www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk](http://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 to 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](mailto:info@rethinkingsecurity.org.uk)

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## Rethinking Security

for a just and peaceful world

# A New Place for the UK in the World?



## A space for new thinking

**The great Brexit** debate has opened up a space for new thinking about the UK's place in the world. The environmental, economic and technological challenges of the 21st century are immense and are accompanied by ongoing wars, increasing strategic tensions and a growing nuclear threat. Should the UK continue in the old style, with an even stronger focus on military power, or are there ways in which we could make a more positive contribution to human and planetary security?

- **The collapse** of many of the earth's vital systems is resulting in climate disruption, desertification, and species extinction. To address these global problems we need the cooperation and collaboration of all nations and peoples. This cannot be achieved if we pursue policies based on domination, contest, and the interests of national elites.
- **Wars are an** environmental and human catastrophe. They destroy not only lives, homes and infrastructure but the social fabric of communities, and create high levels of displacement, poverty, pollution and agricultural loss. Military systems and wars are responsible for catastrophic carbon emissions.

## A new national approach to security

**Given the urgency** of current challenges, it is clear that a radically different approach is needed, in which security is seen as a common good, the basic needs of all people are met and planetary limits respected. It would require a major shift in the UK's current approach to economics and international relations.

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## Just and sustainable economics

**Humanity is exceeding** ecological limits, yet failing to provide the essentials of life for current and future generations. The UK's approach to economics could be to focus on equity and human well-being, whilst investing in the restoration and protection of the earth's natural systems. This would bring policy into line with the UK's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

**The UK would** command new respect in the world if it were to reshape its economic approach in this way and shift towards a demilitarised, decarbonised and equitable future.

## Cooperative international relationships

**Current UK international** relations policy is made within a system of competing power blocks and based on what is argued to be 'in the national interest' rather than the common good. It is closely associated with the UK's military capacity. Yet if the huge problems now confronting us all are to be overcome, that approach is worse than useless. Military threat could be replaced by constructive diplomacy to rebuild relationships and enable cooperative action.

## Positive steps for the UK to take

- 1 **Rebuild** the UK's diplomatic capacity as a resource for peace making and ensure that UK aid supports local actors working for peace and justice.
- 2 **Implement** international treaty obligations and policy frameworks. In particular fulfil the UK's legally binding disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty by cancelling renewal of Trident and signing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- 3 **Stop** selling arms to regions of violent conflict and to countries that abuse human rights.
- 4 **Redirect** government spending away from arms production towards climate-related research and development, industrial policies which offer well-paid and secure green jobs, and investment in eco agriculture and land restoration – learning from and contributing to best practice internationally.
- 5 **Remove** all military components and UK economic agendas from international aid and reduce military spending at home in favour of welfare and social care.
- 6 **Support** progressive reforms to the global economy, such as cancelling debt for poor countries, reforming international corporate taxation and taxing global financial transactions.
- 7 **Advocate** reform of powerful institutions such as the G20, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation to make them more democratic and accountable.
- 8 **Support** United Nations reform to create a strong and effective multilateral organisation where no country has veto power.