

News Release

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RETHINKING SECURITY ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE SECURITY REVIEW

Rethinking Security, a network of peace and security practitioners, analysts and activists, has launched a project to develop a Human Security Strategy for the UK. Its Alternative Security Review project aims to change the way that UK security policy is generated, based on an approach that promotes peace, human wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

The project is launching as the government finally publishes its own Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy on Tuesday 16th March. Much of the content of the Integrated Review has been pre-announced or leaked since mid-2020 and includes a major reallocation of resources from international development to the Ministry of Defence, a strategic 'tilt' to the 'Indo-Pacific', and the authorisation of 'persistent military engagement' with Russia, China and other perceived adversaries.

The new project builds on Rethinking Security's year-long engagement with the Integrated Review and several years of work analysing the process and content of national security reviews and strategies in the UK and over 20 other countries.

Rethinking Security Co-ordinator Richard Reeve said:

"We look forward to hearing the final outcomes of the Integrated Review, which we expect to serve as the next National Security Strategy for the United Kingdom.

"However, most of what has been pre-announced is concerning, not least the overheated ambition of the strategic 'tilt' to Asia and the defunding, in the midst of an unprecedented global crisis of human security, of international development in order to finance ever more distant power projection and more exotic weapons systems.

"There is nothing strategic about a national strategy that focuses on the operationalisation and normalisation of war rather than addressing the root causes of global insecurity like greed, inequality and ecological collapse.

"Nor will much security derive from any strategy that fails to put people rather than ill-defined national interests or power at its core.

"Over the next three years Rethinking Security will be coordinating an Alternative Security Review to do what this and previous governments should have done: to develop a Human Security Strategy for the UK, its people and the planet."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Rethinking Security Co-ordinator, Richard Reeve is available for comment on the Integrated Review – 07811 362054
2. The Rethinking Security media page and factsheet is at www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/media
3. All Rethinking Security's policy work on the Integrated Review, including the latest briefing can be viewed at <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/policy-makers/>
4. Rethinking Security's evidence submission to the Integrated Review (Sep 2020) can be viewed at <https://rethinkingsecurityorguk.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/rs-submission-to-the-integrated-review-03-sep-2020.pdf>
5. About Rethinking Security:
 - Short description – Rethinking Security is a network of peace and security practitioners and experts.
 - Long description – Rethinking Security is a network of organisations, academics and activists working together for security based on justice, co-operation and sustainability.
6. Member organisations:
 - Campaign Against Arms Trade
 - Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament
 - Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy
 - Conciliation Resources
 - Forces Watch
 - International Alert
 - Medact
 - Movement for the Abolition of War
 - Northern Friends Peace Board
 - Peace Direct
 - Quaker Peace And Social Witness
 - Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network
 - Saferworld
 - Scientists for Global Responsibility
 - United Nations Association – UK
 - War on Want

Our work also benefits substantially from the active participation of academics from the universities of Bradford, Coventry, Kent, LSE, Oxford Brookes and York.