

## A resource for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Quotations and scripture resources exploring the vision and practice of non-military security .

- Use some of these on leaflets or in newsletters that you are producing for GDAMS events to show that Christian communities and leaders are speaking out on this issue.
- Extracts from some could be used on posters/to make mini-exhibitions alongside contemporary news stories or images from newspapers.
- Organise a vigil or service and incorporate some of these quotations and readings

... I appeal forcefully to all those who sow violence and death by force of arms, in the person you today see simply as an enemy to be beaten, discover rather your brother or sister and hold back your hand! Give up the way of arms...armed conflicts are always a deliberate negation of international harmony, and create profound divisions and deep wounds which require many years to heal. Wars are a concrete refusal to pursue the great economic and social goals that the international community has set itself.

*Pope Francis, World Peace Day Message 2014*



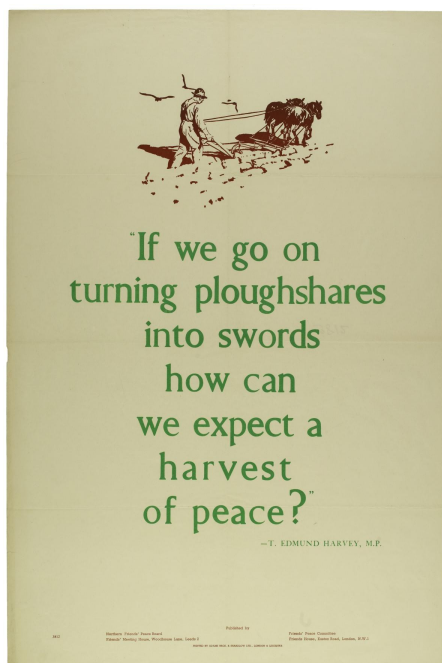
For the amount that Trident costs the UK in a year we could: hire 10,000 more health visitors or 10,000 more teachers, cancel Government freezes to Tax Credits, build 12,500 more council houses, supply solar energy to 345,200 council houses and protect the Sure Start budget from cuts.

*Joint Public Issues Team - Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches working together for peace and justice. 2011*

We have thought of the widespread exploitation of economically under-developed peoples, and of those industrial and other workers who are also exploited and heavily burdened. We must therefore work for a larger measure of liberty in political and economic life. For not only is this at the heart of the Christian message, but we have seen that peace stands on a precarious footing so long as there is unrelieved poverty and subjection. Subjection, poverty, injustice and war are closely allied. This situation demands sweeping political and economic changes; and we are convinced that the hope of freedom does not lie in violence, which is at its root immoral, but in such changes as may be brought about by fellowship and mutual service.

*Religious Society of Friends,  
London Yearly Meeting, 1937*





#### Some scripture references

<i>Dt 30:15-20</i>	<i>Choose life</i>
<i>Jer: 6:9-16</i>	<i>Peace, peace when there is no peace</i>
<i>Is 2: 2-5</i>	<i>Turn swords into ploughshares</i>
<i>Is 32:16-17</i>	<i>Justice will bring peace</i>
<i>Mica 6:8</i>	<i>Act justly and walk humbly with God</i>
<i>Ps 9:9</i>	<i>God judges with justice, governs with equity</i>
<i>James:3:13-18</i>	<i>Peacemakers follow true wisdom</i>
<i>James 1:22-27</i>	<i>Be doers, not only hearers of the word</i>
<i>James 2</i>	<i>We must practice what we believe and preach</i>
<i>Hebrews: 10:24</i>	<i>Encourage one another to love and good works</i>
<i>Lk 6:27-35</i>	<i>Make peace through nonviolence and love of enemies</i>

In place of a process which trusts technology and mistrusts humanity, we must learn and live out a process that builds trust between people and their institutions... From the earliest days of Friends, we have known that safety cannot be defended in our own strength, but only in God's... And we don't have to do it with tools of our own fashioning, ever more elaborate technological juggling acts, ever more devastatingly destructive bombs... [We can] learn to lay down carnal weapons, practising with weapons of the spirit: love, truthsaying, nonviolence, the good news of God's birth and rebirth among us, imagination, vision, and laughter.

No one ever said it would be easy, no one promised it wouldn't hurt... It's messy, muddled and sometimes painful - but the other way, the search for some kind of mechanical invulnerability, for some kind of scientific guarantee against physical death, that way I am sure lies the death of the Spirit. We know the choice I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live (Deut 30:19).'

**Mary Lou Leavitt, 1987**

The concept of human security is rooted in some of the most basic principles of our faith tradition: that every person has intrinsic dignity and is of equal value before God: we are called into right relationships with each other and with all of creation. The security of one person or nation cannot be guaranteed while ignoring or undermining the security and well-being of other people in the global community

**Marie Dennis, President of Pax Christi International 2010**

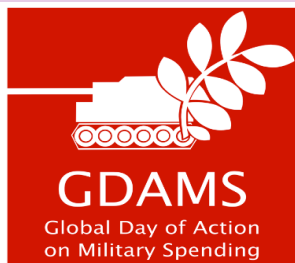
Churches should be prepared, more than so far has been the case, to promote a civilian and nonviolent understanding of security; in their exercise of public responsibility and in dialogue with political partners they should condemn the growing militarization of international politics and the proliferation of small arms. Every attempt to use violence and fear as legitimate tools in politics needs to be rejected.

**World Council of Churches, Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace, 2006**

#### Useful websites/sources

FoR / NFPB / Pax Christi / CAAT Christian Network

The Poverty and Justice Bible / See here photographs from previous GDAMS events that may inspire you.....



## Cut Military Spending - Fund Human Needs!

[www.gdams.org](http://www.gdams.org)