Final report

Highlights of the Global Days 2018

Compiled by the International Peace Bureau for the Global Campaign on Military Spending
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The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau. GCOMS also incorporates the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). The **overall goal of the GCOMS Campaign** is to push governments to achieve major re-allocations of military expenditures (especially in high-spending countries) to 5 broad alternative areas:

- **Peace**: disarmament, conflict prevention and resolution, human security;
- **Sustainable development** and anti-poverty programs;
- **Climate change** and biodiversity loss – for their mitigation and adaptation;
- **Public services/social justice**, human rights, gender equality and green job-creation;
- **Humanitarian programs** to support the most vulnerable groups.

All the above are parts of a wide global transformation towards a Culture of Peace.

Given that the political situation varies among countries, and given the lack of intergovernmental agreements and treaties to limit Military Spending, national-level action is vital. Each campaigning centre should define its own targets and approach. GCOMS and IPB’s role is to provide an overall framework and give assistance in a variety of ways.
Every year the International Peace Bureau coordinates the Global Day(s) of Action on Military Spending, the annual highlight of the Global Campaign. This year’s Global Day/GDAMS was held from April 14th to 3rd May. GDAMS 2018 started just before the Tax Day in the U.S. on April 17th: a traditional moment in the calendar for civil society to challenge the uses of U.S. public money. On May 2nd, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published the global military expenditure figures for 2017, together with an analysis of its trends. On this occasion, five joint press conferences were organised in Sydney, Tokyo, Helsinki, Berlin and Barcelona studying this data and underlining the urgency to reduce 10% of military expenditure.

This year’s Global Day/GDAMS took place in a particular context. The topic of militarization, arms trade and denuclearization have been mentioned much more in the media in the past months.

In fact, this year the international community has been shaped and more of a concern to the public, especially in the topic of nuclear armament for different reasons: Leaders of the world statement to invest more in the military industry and intend to become leaders in arms trade; the Saudi Arabia Prince’s trip for arm trade negotiation; the President of the United States stepping away from the Iran Deal; Kim Jung Hun demilitarization of nuclear.

In this context, the IPB issued, once again and for the 8th year running, its Call for a cut in military spending, so that the World can move towards a human security approach that would better serve humanity.
During 20 days, **134 GDAMS events took place in 26 countries** all around the world. These events varied in shape and size depending on countries and partners. As in previous years, a whole range of actions where organized, including: street protests/demonstrations, seminars, press conferences, media releases, videos, petitions, peace vigils, penny polls and photos. These various actions highlighted the unacceptable global military expenditure of $1.74 trillion in 2017, and linked it to regional, national and local issues like the European Union implementation of the Defence Fund and cooperation, the U.S. President intention to invest even more in militarization, the increase of power of various regimes in America-Latina and the rebuilding of its military on Japan etc.

This report includes all actions organized during GDAMS 2018 with a selection of photos. Please visit [our website](#) to see the full collection of reports/photos/videos.

We wish to convey our sincere gratitude to the GDAMS 2018 organizers, participants and supporters. All of their actions express the global movement’s commitment to persuade governments to reallocate the global military spending and move the money to urgent human needs!

As in the previous years, the preparatory work was undertaken by convening an International Steering Committee (ISC) in which 25 people from different parts of the world participated. Most of the members of the ISC are local actors in the disarmament and peace movements and were organizers of previous GDAMS actions. The planning, political messaging, and outreach were discussed through online meetings. Constantly maintenance and updates of the GDAMS International website, Facebook and Twitter were performed to reach out old partners and to approach new ones. Planned actions were shared; background materials to support the actions were uploaded in the website and distributed through the various mailing lists and social media.
GDAMS 2018 Actions

GDAMS Press Conferences

As a new and big closure to this year’s campaign, on May 2nd, five coordinated press conferences were organized in Sydney, Tokyo, Helsinki, Berlin and Barcelona. Coinciding with the [publication of 2017 SIPRI data on military spending](#), the [GDAMS final statement](#) was as well presented on the urgency to reduce a 10% military expenditure and to redirection this money to social and development goals.

The press conference in **Tokyo** was hosted in the Peace Boat Center which expressed the deep concerns about this year high increase of military expenditure in East Asia shown in the SIPRI’s Data.

The NSW Parliament House in **Sydney** had the venue that hosted the Australian press conference, offered by Kellie Tranter, founder of the Sydney Peace Foundation.
GDAMS 2018 Actions

GDAMS Press Conferences

Activists from Rauhanliitto and Sadan Komitea organized their press conference in Helsinki.

Barcelona’s press conference, hosted by La Fede.cat, gathered representatives of several peace organizations, such as the Delàs Center for Peace Studies, which was also coordinating the global campaign, Fundipau, Justicia i Pau and NOVACT.

Lastly, the Berlin press conference was held in the IPB headquarters. It involved the co-president of the IPB, Reiner Braun, who also presented the appeal Disarm! Don’t Arm, to draw attention to excessive global military expenditure.

Press Releases were also available in Italy and New Zealand.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: The Interactive Map

All GDAMS events 2018 were incorporated in our website interactive map:

Africa: 2 countries, 3 actions

Kenya: 1 action

14th – 30th April: This year, the campaign slowed down due to obvious challenges including state criminalization of matters security and military and unfortunately, the Regional meeting has to be cancelled due to this fact. However, they still participated sending us some selfies to consolidate 2018 activities in their country.

Cameroon: 3 actions

Members of Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme Cameroun elaborated and disseminated a national declaration about Cameroon’s military spending.

They took part in the selfie campaign 2018 in which they expressed their idea to reallocate military expenditure and produce a 3 minutes video for the campaign. The 2018 selfie campaign was marked by the active participation of Cameroonian citizens, who seized the opportunity to speak about public policies and their situation.

Additionally, the NDH-Cameroon final Report on GDAMS 2018 have been published.
Brisbane
April 19th: A small rally was organized claiming the waste of $140 million being spent raining down missiles onto Syria illegally. They had their red T-shirts (NO Billions for Bombs etc.). They created their own placards to bring attention to Australia’s military spending, and to Australia’s support for the illegal bombing of Syria by the USA, UK and France. You can download their media release and look at the photo of the rally in our official website.

May 2nd: Organised by the Independent and peaceful Australia Network, there was a IPAN Media Release about our campaign and the SIPRI data underlined the relation to the Australian situation in this matter by Annette Brownlie, Chair of the organization.

Canberra
April 14th: A new Video on military sales by the Australian government was spread with various different communication methods.

May 8th: There was an Action on the lawns of the National Parliament.
May 2\textsuperscript{nd}: A media conference at Sydney Parliament, coinciding with the GCOMS conferences, was held: the discussion focused on the publication of 2017 SIPRI data and the fact that the Australian government wanted to become one of the largest arms exporters in the world.

The same day, there was an action at a bus station near central Railway performing an ‘Most Improved Merchant of Death’ Award and distributing leaflets in one of the most busiest part of the city.
April 15th – May 3rd: The Rural Development & Youth Training Institute organized three Workshops, three village Rallies, and village meetings in Kota on the occasion of the Global Days of action on Military Spending. During these activities three budget experts actively participated.

Detailed discussions took place about India Military Spending on Huge Forces, Missiles, Aircraft, Guns and others. It was noted that India budget on poverty alleviation activities (Millennium Development Goals for instance) is very low and therefore, there is no need to have this heavy expenditure on Military activities in India.

Their GDAMS Campaign 2018 and workshop news were also published in News papers, creating a very good environment in their region to continue thin international discussion.
Beirut

The UPP Peace Civil Corps in Lebanon participated to our annual selfie campaign in which they expressed they would like to move 10% of global military expenditure to: education and nuclear disarmament, a reduction of social inequality, policies respecting refugees’ dignity, freedom of choices of oppressed people, and freedom for people, the environment and animals.
Manila
April 21st: There was a poem lecture and street dance in Tondo, declaring their government prioritization on militarism rather than human needs.

April 22nd: A mural action took place to reclaim people’s health.

May 2nd: Stop the War Coalition this year again send us selfies for the Selfie Campaign 2018.
Asia and Pacific: 8 countries, 30 actions

**Japan: 3 actions**

**Tokyo**

May 2nd: A press conference was organized covering a number of topics relevant to the Japanese/Northeast Asian contexts and Peace Boat work, with SIPRI data and GDAMS message at the center. Speakers were Kawasaki Akira (Peace Boat Executive Committee Member, Member of ICAN International Steering Group), Tanaka Terumi (Committe Member of Hidankyo) and Yoshioka Tatsuya (Peace Boat Executive Committee Member). They reported on the current state of global military spending, on the plans for taking the Nobel Prize certificate and medal around the world, and on the meaning of this GDAMS project in the context of Constitution Day.

The final GDAMS 2018 statement was translated to Japanese and can be found in our official website.

Group photos with the GDAMS banner were also taken.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: ASIA and PACIFIC

Asia and Pacific: 8 countries, 30 actions

New Zealand: 12 actions

Kaikohe
April 24th: A Commemoration, Peace Embassy and Film was hosted by Hokianga Catholic Workers on ANZAC Day Commemoration to remember world wars, and all past and present wars – the tragedy of people killed, maimed, raped, orphaned or lost children, lost homes and lost hope.

Auckland
April 25th: Peace Action organized an ANZAC Day Picnic for Peace: 100 years of resistance to war to commemorate conscientious objectors who resisted war and created a peace mural.
Furthermore, an Honor the War Dead by Ending War, ANZAC Day peace vigil took place the same day, organized by WILPF Tamaki Makaurau, to remember all the casualties of war, to remember all who resisted war, to call for an end to war, and to promote peace.

Takaka
April 25th: Golden Bay Quakers meetings on ANZAC was held to lay our white poppy wreath “to remember all the casualties of war and to promote peace”. Peace poems and the Quaker Peace Testimony were read and ‘Dona Nobis Pacem’ was sang.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: ASIA and PACIFIC

Asia and Pacific: 8 countries, 30 actions

New Zealand: 12 actions

Nelson
April 25th: Another Honor the War Dead by Ending War event was organized by Nelson Quakers.

Dunedin
April 25th: ANZAC peace ceremony to ‘never forget’ the full cost of war and ‘never again’ engage in violence to settle our differences. The event has been organized by members of the Dunedin community to give people an opportunity to remember all the casualties of war – civilian and military on all sides of past and current conflicts hoping to peacefully challenge the beliefs, values and institutions that make war inevitable by providing a space for people to gather on ANZAC day and make a commitment towards peace.
On the same day, Ormond Burton was remembered and poems were shared at the Quaker meeting house.

May 2nd: There was an Action Project Challenging militarism and building peace, by the World War One Centenary Peace Aotearoa New Zealand.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: ASIA and PACIFIC

Asia and Pacific: 8 countries, 30 actions

New Zealand: 12 actions

Wellington

April 25th: Two events were organized that day.

ANZAC Day Citizens’ Wreath-laying was organized by Peace Action Wellington to lay a wreath for civilian victims of war along with other groups who will be laying wreaths for the Afghan civilian casualties of Operation Burnham, the Surafend massacre and conscientious objectors. The aim was to highlight the senselessness of war and challenge war glorification.

Secondly, Organized by Peace Movement Aotearoa, an ANZAC Day peace vigil took place to remember all the casualties of war, all who resisted war and to call for an end to war, and promotion peace.

May 2-3rd, There was a public session on “Welfare or warfare?”: a pre-Budget lunchtime forum on government spending priorities and a media release on Global military spending increases with a focus on New Zealand’s budget issued by the Peace Movement Aotearoa.
Asia and Pacific: 8 countries, 30 actions

South Korea: 1 action

May 2\textsuperscript{nd}: An open forum about the 2018 inter-Korean Summit was organized and a joint statement was released on May 2 by PSPD. This Panmunjom Declaration based on building military trust, without using force, shall divert the military spending to welfare and peace settlement.

Vietnam: 1 action

April 14-16\textsuperscript{th}: There was a workshop in Quang Ninh International Thematic Workshop “Peace and Security in Asia and Europe: Challenges Ahead and People’s Vision”. The conference draw an overview of the recent evolution of peace and security in the Asia-Europe region, addressing issues such as disputes over territorial sovereignty, migration, terrorism, nuclear weapons, arms trade and budget spending in defense, the strengthening of the cooperation network for peace movements and civil societies in Asia and Europe. During the conference, the GDAMS campaign was presented by Jordi Calvo (IPB vice-president) and a public debate on military spending was held.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions
Finland: 3 actions

Helsinki
A Press Conference Organized by Peace Union Finland. Plus, Rauhanliitto presented the GCOMS Statement on global military spending, with SIPRI data and GDAMS message at the center. Rauhanliitto and Sadankomitea also participated to our selfie campaign.

Norway: 1 action

Bergen
Organized by Women international League for Peace and Freedom, The author of a book about Norwegian arms industry (Nammo) and export, Dag Hoel, talked about his book, titled ‘Peace is not the best, on the inside of the arms industry’.
Berlin

April 14th, Kathrin Vogler, Member of German Bundestag (The Left Party) and Spokeswoman for Peace Policy and Non-violent Conflict Resolutions, support the “Global Day(s) of Action on Military Spending.

May 1st: During GDAMS, the German peace tax group (Netzwerk Friedenssteuer e.V.) encouraged to write letters to their respective tax offices, in which they explain why they are sending €4.30. They link this symbolic payment with a heartfelt plea to the tax office to find a way in which they can maintain their freedom of conscience when paying taxes, and also asking the tax office to support the political struggle towards legislation allowing tax payers to elect to have their money used for civilian purposes only.

May 2nd: A Press Conference at the IPB Conference Room was coordinated, presenting the GCOMS Statement on global military spending, with SIPRI data and GDAMS message at the center. The Berlin press conference was held in the IPB headquarter and involved the co-president of the IPB Reiner Braun, who also presented the appeal Disarm! Don’t arm!

May 2nd: We received selfies from the Center of Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP). https://twitter.com/feministfp
Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions

Greece: 3 actions

Athens
April 16th, Panel at the “Union of the Lowers” in Athens with speakers: a lawyer, an economist, and Panos Trigazis from PADOP (who spoke about chemical weapons with the occasion of the bombing in Syria concluding that the International Community and NOT some states should decide and act in use of ALL prohibited weapons). There was discussion among the audience with representatives from Colombia, Turkey, Syria, Union of Arabic Countries, and a parliamentarian (Giorgos Dimaras) who has signed the ICAN declaration.

April 17th, In the Cultural Center of “Ionian Union” there was a meeting about Peace and the tragic situation in Afrin. Panos Trigazis from PADOP spoke about Peace and another Physician from Syria explained the situation in Afrin and asked for help.

Byron
April 19th: Meeting in the City Hall of the Municipality of Byron. Karen Hallows from Peace Boat spoke.
April 14th: We receive selfies made in Italy for this year selfie Campaign.

Rome
April 14th: Rete Disarmo has translated the GCOMS Statement on reducing military spending to Italian.

Furthermore, there was an action in the city with US Citizens for Peace and Justice as well as ReteNoWarRoma, BDS Italia and BDS Roma, Diem25, others and with the participation of young students from international high schools and universities in Rome.

May 2nd: A Press release on military spending SIPRI data and a presentation of the final GDAMS 2018 statement was coordinated coinciding with the others international conferences. The final GDAMS 2018 statement was translated to Italian as well.

Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions
Italy: 4 actions

Switzerland: 2 actions

Geneva
April 27-28th: Abolition campaigners from around the world joined in Geneva on April 27-28 for the Annual General Meeting and Global Council dinner of Abolition 2000, the global network to eliminate nuclear weapons. Organized by Unfold Zero.

May 2nd: Press Conference presenting the GCOMS Statement on global military spending, with SIPRI data and GDAMS message at the center. Organized by the International Peace Bureau.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions
Belgium: 2 actions

Brussels
April 25th: There was a session at the European Parliament and Jordi Calvo from Centro Delàs with Escola de Pau presented their 2 reports analyzing the 2015 EU arms exports to countries in conflicts and to countries mired in tension. The COARM chair Caroline Cliff and the Belgian research group GRIP also took part in this exchange of views (reported by Laetitia Sedou – ENAAT).

April 22nd: A symbolic action was organized by Vrede Organization against Fighter Aircraft.
Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions

France: 3 actions

Arras
April 19-22\textsuperscript{nd}: On the occasion of its 2018 Annual General Meeting “Faites la Paix”, Pax Christi International has contributed to the GDAMS social media campaign.

Paris
Stop Fueling War joined our Selfie Campaign 2018 as well!

May 2\textsuperscript{nd}: The final GDAMS 2018 statement was translated to French.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions
Spain: 12 actions

Bilbao
April 14th: Tax Objection in Action in favor of Tax Objection at the Bizkaia Foral Government ("Diputacion Foral"). “Don’t pay wars with your taxes”.

April 21st: Tax Objection Panel in Informative panel on Tax Objection at Unamuno Square. “Not even one euro for wars”.

Barcelona
May 2nd: A Press Conference at La Fede (Catalan Federation of Organizations for Global Justice) presenting the GCOMS Statement on global military spending, with SIPRI data and GDAMS message at the center with the cooperation of Delàs Centre for Peace Studies, Novact, Fundipau, Unipau, Justícia & Pau and Escola Cultura de Pau.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: EUROPE

Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions

Spain: 12 actions

Barcelona
April 18-28th: The selfie campaign 2018 took place in the Centre Delàs of Peace Studies. Many selfies were received.

Canary Islands
April 23rd: Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Peace News on the radio, Canary Islands: Discussion on Military Spending and on GDAMS during a “slow coffee” in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.


May 2nd: MOC Tenerife, Alternativa Antimilitarista, Canary Islands: Move military funds to health, education and human needs.
Euskadi:
Three Tax Objection Talks were held:
April 18th: In Durango with Ongi Etorri errefuxiatuak.
April 21st: In Arrasate with Arrasateko Gaztetxea.
April 25th: In Donosti, Yayo Herrero spoke on “Don’t follow the rules, and build a new world with your taxes money”.

Madrid
April 24th: GDAMS Meetings with Spanish Deputies at the Spanish Parliament regarding the 2018 discussion of the Spanish Annual Budget. Due to the increase in the Spanish military budget, the meeting was held to discuss about the Spanish Annual Budget between Jordi Calvo from GCOMS and Spanish parliamentarians, to suggest amendments and to advocate for a reduction in the national annual military spending.
Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions

United Kingdom: 10 actions

April 14-3rd May: There have been a New postcard campaign 2018

April 16-22nd: There was an online vote to show “what it would take to make the world safer” that help to create a Twitter storm by tweeting what you would spend £48 billion on to @hmtreasury with #GCOMS #RethinkSecurity e.g. @hmtreasury “If I had £48 billion a year I would prefer to spend it on #NHS. I prefer. #GCOMS #RethinkSecurity”

London
April 18th and April 25th there a Vigil was organized by Women in Black London and many selfies were taken to support this year selfie campaign.
Europe: 10 countries, 44 actions

United Kingdom: 10 actions

West Yorkshire
April 14th: Leeds, Their mock-Trident trailer pushed through the streets of Leeds again as part of the NHS not Trident block of the regional ‘March for the NHS’. Demanding the UK Government for an immediate ceasefire in Syria; a support to the investigations of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); and provide aid for the civilian population as well as refugee for those fleeing the crisis.

April 15th: Another street protest took place against war and the Syrian Bombing with the theme of “They got money for wars but they can’t feed the poor.

April 25th: Leeds Beckett city center campus, West York’s Campaign Against the Arms Trade (WYCAAT) held a showing of the award-winning film Shadow World, based on the book by South African whistleblower Andrew Feinstein, followed by discussion with the author. A report by Colin Archer can be found in our official website.
April 29th: Saltaire, During the Day of Dance, organized by Yorkshire CND was held a GDAMS stall. This consisted of a table giving a series of options as to how people would spend £200 billion on the replacement of the Trident Nuclear Submarine fleet. The options were grouped as Health, Climate Change, Education, Other, i.e. housing, Arts etc. and Nuclear Weapons.

Liverpool
April 19th: There was a all day street stall to spread awareness about military expenditure.
Ontario
April 18th: Waterloo, A call was issued during the AGM of Conscience Canada to the Canadian government, that recently sold a new consignment of arms to Saudi Arabia, to reallocate military spending to urgent social and environmental needs.

Halifax
May 2nd: Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace, a chapter of Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, produced a video to support GDAMs, claiming to stop the Wars and to stop the Warming.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 47 actions

United States: 45 actions

Arizona, Tucson
April 16th: Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom & Tucson Raging Grannies handled out War Resisters League “Where Your Tax Money Really Goes” Pie charts in front of the Wilmot Library. They talked to people as they were coming and going from the library, and the Raging Grannies singed a few songs.

April 17th: There was an Tax Day vigil at Raytheon Missile Systems by Raytheon Peacemakers demonstrating against war and those who profit from it. Signs were provided as well.

California
April 15th: Berkeley, A People’s Life Fund public potluck and awards ceremony at the BFUU Fellowship Hall was organized to express their desire to redirect a record breaking $65,000 in resisted war taxes to local peace and justice organizations this year.

April 17th: San Diego, “A Bake Sale for the Air Force?” was hosted by the Peace Resource Center of San Diego envisioning a time when schools have all the money they need and the air force needs to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber or the Border Patrol a border wall.

Colorado, Boulder
April 13-14th: Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center were flyering on the downtown mall with war tax resistance materials.
Connecticut, Greenwich
April 14th: The Greenwich Rally & Teach-In for Peace and Economic Justice will be held on Greenwich Common. “Stop the Wars, Invest in Peace” is the theme, and in this community that is home to 10 multi-billionaires, our 12 speakers will address ways in which war overseas and violence by police in the U.S. undergird the capture and exploitation of material and human resources. Medea Benjamin, human rights activist, author and Co-Director of CODEPINK, will speak about moving money out of the war industry and into peaceful, regenerative work.

Illinois, Chicago
April 16th: Pay No War Tax Demonstration with speakers and leafleting at Federal Plaza, Dearborn + Adams Streets. in downtown Chicago. Participate in the “penny” poll using “democracy dollars” to show where you want your money to go.

Indiana, South Bend
April 16th: Vigil to catch folks leaving work outside the Federal Building in downtown South Bend.

Louisiana, New Orleans
April 17th: A Leafleting with the “where your income tax really goes” pie chart on a busy corner was held by Pax Christi New Orleans.
Massachusetts
April 14th: Boston, There was a rally to underline the fact that President Trump’s tax bill is ensuring billions of dollars in profits to large corporations, leading to more wars and peanuts to working people cutting essential human need programs. New England War Tax Resistance had a table, penny poll, and announce grants from resisted taxes alternative fund. It was sponsored by Massachusetts People’s Budget Campaign Veterans For Peace, Boston, Smedley D. Butler Brigade, Massachusetts Peace Action American Friends Service Committee. Also, Joseph Gerson of AFSC Peace and Economic Security Program exposed hypocrisy underlying justifications of the US attack on Syria Friday evening. A video was made and can be found in our official website.

April 14th: Walpole, the Walpole Peace and Justice Group held a Tax Day Rally as well, asking for Peace and Economic Justice. Rally speakers addressed the destructive consequences of exorbitant military spending at the expense of human needs. A 40-foot budget banner was displayed, showing where the Federal discretionary budget is spent. The Poor People’s Campaign was a National Call for Moral Revival challenging our country on the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation. The Campaign started on Mother’s Day and continued for six weeks of direct action and nonviolent civil disobedience.
Massachusetts
April 14th: **Greenfield**, Local groups planned a Tax Day Rally and Speak-out on Federal budget highlighting the need to “starve the Pentagon and feed the people.” The public event will feature a ‘speak-out’ on the budget from people and organizations working on the many issues affected by current budget priorities – and cuts. Local groups responded to the recent tax overhaul bill that benefits the most wealthy, and the FY 2019 federal budget with its record-setting $700+ billion allocation for the military.

**Minneapolis, Minneapolis**
April 15th: A Rally and a March for “A Call to End Endless U.S. Wars” was initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition with many co-sponsors including Minnesota War Tax Resisters.

**North Carolina, Asheville,**
April 15th: Leaflets were passed out downtown.

**Wisconsin, Milwaukee**
April 17th: There was a Tax Day Vigil War Tax Resistance & Casa Maria Catholic Worker.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 47 actions

United States: 45 actions

New York City
April 15th: “End the Wars at Home and Abroad!” Planning is underway for this rally and march as part of the Spring 2018 Actions, endorsed and being planned by many groups around the country.

April 17th: There was a Vigil and leafleting outside the IRS office to express their thoughts about redirecting War Taxes. It was sponsored by NYC War Resisters League.

April 17th: Coordinated by Citizens Action of NY for the global day of action against military spending., Tin Horn Uprising played to protest the fact that money is more spent for war than for people.

New York
April 17th: Kingston, ’Cut War Spending, Fund Human Needs’ Vigil and flyering was held during lunch hour with Tin Horn Uprising marching band sponsored by Rise Up Hudson Valley.

May 2nd: Albany, Two new billboards outside Albany challenged Washington to change the way it uses our valuable tax dollars. It was put up by Women Against War, who point out that ending the desperation of starving families could do much more for preserving peace than increasing the size of US forces, already “larger than the next 8 countries’ combined.”
Ohio, Bangor
April 17th: There was an leafleting at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor: Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (gzcenter.org). This year, they focused their attention on military/nuclear weapons spending and supported our campaign in their monthly leafleting at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, home of eight of the U.S. Navy’s OHIO Class “Trident” ballistic missile submarines as well as the Strategic [nuclear] Weapons Facility, Pacific.

Oregon
April 15th: Eugene, A rally, tabling and march to the old and new Federal Building was organized. There was speakers, music, Spanish and sign language interpreters, penny poll, and a “bar graph” along the march route showing folks how much of their tax dollars goes to military versus education, environment, etc. Sponsors included Eugene Taxes for Peace, Community Alliance of Lane County, Indivisible Eugene, and more.

April 14th: Portland, Annual “Burma Shave” style signs on the bridges demanding no taxes for war. Sponsored by War Resisters League of Portland/Oregon Community of War Tax Resisters.
North America: 2 countries, 47 actions

United States: 45 actions

Pennsylvania
April 17th: Philadelphia, It was a Tax Day Demonstration day organized by the Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia and WILPF. They polled passers-by regarding how to spend the U.S. tax money. GPBP sent the poll results to local leaders. Also, people could do a photo Uncle Sam and it was cosponsored by Brandywine Peace Community.

April 17th: Lehigh Valley, There was a distribute of “Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes” flyers from the War Resisters League. It was All day and took place in various locations.

Tennessee, Knoxville
April 17th: A Vote for spending priorities was organized by Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance: Uncle Sam asked passers-by to take their tax dollars and “vote” for their spending priorities. Then, their tax monies will be swept up by “Senator Alexander” and used to fuel his UPF Bomb Plant Express. They wanted passers-by to ask themselves why is the U.S. government spending the tax dollars on a bomb plant when raises for teachers, housing for the homeless, affordable health insurance for hundreds of thousands of uninsured Tennesseans, protections for the environment etc...is more needed.
Texas, Austin
April 14th: There was an Bridge Action by Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation. Passersby were invited to give their opinion on what they’d rather buy than war “I’d Rather Buy ______ than War!”.

Vermont, Brattleboro
April 17th: An interesting peaceful War tax resistance literature and a counseling was held. Some music was played too.

Virginia, Lynchburg
April 17th: The screening of The Pacifist, a feature-length documentary film about Larry Bassett and his massive war tax resistance journey was projected. The film follows his personal progress, reasons and decisions about refusing to pay for war, but the greater themes and messages of the war tax resister movement are front and center. On that day, Larry’s tax resistance total came to almost $200,000.

Washington, Seattle
April 17th: Another tax Day Action was held in Seattle this time at the Federal Building.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: NORTH AMERICA

North America: 2 countries, 47 actions
United States: 45 actions

Actions in Maine
(see http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2018/)

Again this year, many events were organized by The Maine War Tax Resistance (WTR) Resource Center:

April 14-16th: Rome WTR table and workshop on Organizing Against Militarism in your Community at Resources for Organizing Social Change’s Youth Activism Gathering.
April 14th: Bethel at Bethel post office.
April 14th: Damariscotta Damariscotta post office (PO).
April 14th: Blue Hill Blue Hill coop.
April 17th: Damariscotta Damariscotta post office (PO)
April 17th: Portland Table Downeast band Fire in the Commons and speakers, Lobsterman Park
April 17th: Farmington, UMaine, Farmington, student union.
April 17th: Unity, Unity College student union lobby.
April 17th: Brunswick, Brunswick PO sponsored by PeaceWorks
April 17th Bowdoin, Bowdoin College TBA.
April 17th: Orono, UMaine, Orono, student union.
April 17th: Machias both days at UMaine, Machias, Torrey Hall next to the library.
April 17th: Ellsworth, From 11am to 2pm, action at Main St., Ellsworth.
April 18th: Machias, both days at UMaine, Machias, Torrey Hall next to the library.
April 21st: Bangor, Bangor Earth Day (Location TBA).

Other actions in College of the Atlantic; Ellsworth, ME; Norway coop, USM, Lewiston; Augusta.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: SOUTH AMERICA

South America: 4 countries, 8 actions

Colombia: 4 actions

Medellín

April 14th: Military Spending in Emilio Arranz writes on violence, military spending, and objection actions in Colombia.

April 24th: There was a concentration/action of Women in Black against war and violence in general. In this sit-in there was a banner against military expenses. An informative flyer on the subject was distributed and explained through a public microphone.

April 25-26-27th: The second International Conference on Science and Education for Peace and Development was held. The aim of the Conference was to promote a national and international debate with analysis and discussions, to consolidate a National Agreement for the establishment of public policies for education and science. This National Agreement should guarantee social justice and human development in the framework of the present post-conflict situation was presented to the candidates to the Presidency of the Colombian Republic.

April 27th: There was an Peace Congress and final Declaration with Latin American Youth Congress for Peace. This Congress assumed the roll of pre-conference towards the World Congress “TRANSFORM” of the International Peace Bureau Youth Network, to be held in Berlin, September, 2019.
South America: 4 countries, 8 actions

Uruguay: 2 actions

Montevideo

April 14-30th: There was a Campaign against arms, military spending, wars and conflicts and a dissemination of Infographic material against military spending which focus on Peace and military spending during demonstrations on May 1st. Organized by the Movement of Peace Educators together with the Workers Organization “Central de Trabajadores”, support to the II International Congress of Science and Education for Peace and Development, to the First IPB Meeting of Latin American Youth for Peace in Medellin and to the London HUFUD meeting on April 7th.

May 1st: During demonstrations on May 1st, special activities were organized by the Movement of Peace Educators together with the Workers Organization “Central de Trabajadores”. The declaration concluded with four mentions:
1) Truth, Justice and Never again
2) Against gender violence and all kinds of violence.
3) In defense of Democracy in the Region and against neoliberalism.
4) In favor of World Peace.
GDAMS 2018 Actions: SOUTH AMERICA

**South America: 4 countries, 8 actions**

**Mexico: 1 action**

**Monterrey**

April 14th: Closing of the Days of Peace Conference - Education for Peace in Times of Catastrophe, Technological Institute of Monterrey.

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**Paraguay: 1 action**

**Asuncion**

April 17th: The Peace and Justice Service Paraguay (Serpaj) issued a declaration against military expenditure in Paraguay and in favor of redirecting military funds to the real threats that endanger Paraguay: poverty, poor distribution of wealth and lack of social policies for the most vulnerable sectors.
Among other actions of the GDAMS campaign, a selfie campaign was also organized in 2018 under the theme “Reducing 10% of Military assets could save the planet. Take Action! #MOVETHEMONEY! To: …” The selfie campaign was aimed at creating public awareness about what the money currently invested in the military sector could be used for, instead.

We were delighted to receive all these selfies and to view many post and hashtags in relation to the selfie campaign this year, especially from Instagram and Facebook.
We received many picture especially via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. More than 114 pictures were posted, collecting more than 650 likes and followers. Among these followers there are NGOs such as SadanKomitea, Unponteper, Women in Black UK, Spain and Colombia, Center of Feminist Foreign Policy, SETEM, Pax Christi International, Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme and many more. We even have the support of Masters students this year, and a few selfie of citizens that found out about our campaign in the web.
The aim of the GCOMS campaign is to push the government to invest money in the sector of health, education, employment and climate change rather than military. Through GCOMS, the IPB calls for an annual, minimum reallocation of 10% from the military budgets of all states; and advocates the reduction of arms production and international weapons trade. The GCOMS also incorporates into its program the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) which has been now in its 8th year running.

Actions can be done in many ways and each activist or group may have a different focus. The GCOMS campaign aims to help its participants move step by step, each time into a higher gear.

You will find a rich treasure trove of campaign tools from 8 editions of the Global Day: reports, posters, banners, logos, flyers – even special masks! Remember to check out the GDAMS U.S and GDAMS-UK pages as well. All of these can be adapted to local circumstances and styles. In 2018, GCOMS material for action organizers has included a number of banners and logos.

In the GCOMS webpage: http://demilitarize.org/organizers-packet/
The new GCOMS 2018 Infographics show the amount of the Global Military Expenditure, and expose the military priorities of the world leaders today, against the possible funding of some Key Sustainable Development Goals that could have been addressed with just 10% global reduction.

This year, we wanted to our infographics to be more original and interesting for everyone. So, we decided to create infographics that gave the opportunity to adapt to different countries from different continents.
Again, the SIPRI’S Infographics were also used showing the annual increase of the military spending expenditure to back up our reason why we urgently ask governments to move the military money to other sectors.

The facts clearly are:
- A cut of 100 billion dollars per year would allow addressing the needs of developing countries in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2020.
- Only 10% could save the planet drastically.
**GCOMS Handbook**

The GCOMS Handbook was presented during the Webinar on February 2018 and today, it is not completely up to date. However, there is no other better document that explains exactly what we do, how we do, why we do it, and how anybody can participate. Governments are and will invest more and more money in the military industry for the next years. This document explains in more details how much we spend on the military and the importance of measuring Milex, giving all the arguments needed to understand the urgency of the situation and why we are campaigning for the reduction of only 10% of the military expenditure.

SIPRI has shown that with a reallocation of these 10% of worldwide military expenditure, we could achieve some key Sustainable Development Goals.

Our handbook, in our opinion, is our best source for helping campaigners to take action on these same values. We added a full chapter on developing strategies for the GCOMS campaign underlining its key components: it presents our campaign and how anyone can participate from little actions like taking a selfie, organizing actual events (conferences, rallies, speeches, gathering ect.) to advocating against military spending.

It includes presentations from Rete Disarmo and the GCOMS coordination Team.

We hope you found it very useful or your own campaign.
GDAMS 2018 extended over 20 days. GCOMS coordinators decided to optimize its presence on social media to ensure the success of the 8th GDAMS. We change our dissemination strategy as well and or that purpose, the following tools were used:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

The Table below shows the number of followers and total social reach of GDAMS 2018 in our social Networks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCOMS 2018 In Total</th>
<th>Pages Likes</th>
<th>Followers</th>
<th>Posts/Tweets</th>
<th>Social Reach/ Impressions</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Facebook</td>
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<td>1835</td>
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<td>Twitter 2018</td>
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<td>174900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCOMS from 1st January to 31st of May 2018</th>
<th>Pages New Likes</th>
<th>New Followers</th>
<th>Posts/Tweets</th>
<th>Social Reach/ Impressions</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>GCOMS During GDAMS 2018</th>
<th>Pages New Likes</th>
<th>New Followers</th>
<th>Posts/Tweets</th>
<th>Social Reach/ Impressions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>93038</td>
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</table>

*Twitter and Instagram doesn’t show this information

This new strategy helps us to understand how the event went compare to last year and what can be done to make it even more a success the next.
Again, there are plenty of new reasons to renew our call for a cut on military spending and to get close to the human security approach that many would prefer to see. We need to involve even more citizens and organisations in an open and robust debate on the counter-productive results of military expenditure. More than ever, we need new partners to work on the ongoing Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), with the objective of making the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) a great success. With this in mind, the International GCOMS Steering Committee held three Skype meetings in January, March and April 2018 to coordinate the actions and to plan the five coordinated conferences. The GCOMS Statement is available here in different languages:


According to updated 2017 military spending data, published today by SIPRI, world military expenditure has increased in 2017 by 1.1% in real terms, and is now estimated at roughly $1739 trillion (a raise from the 1686 trillion last year). This year interactive SIPRI World Map on Military Spending can be found on SIPRIs official website here:

http://visuals.sipri.org/

The top 10 spenders in 2017 according to SIPRI were the USA, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, France, UK, Japan, Germany and South Korea. This reflects a constant increase over the last six consecutive years. This is discussed in more details in the final GDAMS Statement available here: http://demilitarize.org/final-gdams-press-conferences/

We need to persist for a cut in Military Spending, so that the world can move a little closer to the human security approach that would better serve humanity.
As part of the GCOMS campaign coordination, the GCOMS website [http://demilitarize.org/](http://demilitarize.org/) has been updated and new sections have been included:

1) The “About us” includes specific sections detailing the material and actions from several partners: U.K., U.S. and New Zealand. The updated U.S. webpages contain articles, campaign actions, and some very interesting infographics. Just have a look into [http://demilitarize.org/gdams-usa/](http://demilitarize.org/gdams-usa/)

2) The News page under the Media menu ([http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2018-news/](http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2018-news/)) includes links to the most relevant documents, including the Press Conferences that presented the final GDAMS 2018 statement, the GDAMS Statements on Disarm, no arm and the new scientists Statement on Military Spending and Climate Change, the GCOMS Handbook, campaign material and Infographics, the "You owe us" and Selfie campaigns, and many other information.

3) Web sections on “The Facts”, “Get Involved”, "Our History", "What we do" and "How to plan your campaign" ([http://demilitarize.org/plan-gcoms-campaign/](http://demilitarize.org/plan-gcoms-campaign/)) have also been updated and contain links to the GCOMS Handbook.

4) The GCOMS website also contains many other posts and news:
- information on the IPB Sean MacBride Peace Prize 2017 that was awarded to Noam Chomsky, Jeremy Corbyn and the All Okinawa Coalition to Prevent Construction of a New Base in Henoko
- the GCOMS 2018 Statement and the final 2018 GDAMS Statement available in several languages
- articles on the SIPRI data on global military spending during 2017 (presented in a very visual way)
- information on the world’s 100 largest arms-producing, and other information.

5) To have a complete view of the 134 actions that took place during GDAMS 2018 in 26 countries, two new pages have been created. One is dedicated to GDAMS 2018 events with a list of actions by countries [http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2018/]; the second one is a photo gallery page of GDAMS events including plenty of photos from most of the actions: [http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2018-gallery/], The interactive world map of 2018 actions can also be found in our website: [http://demilitarize.org/maps/fullscreen/layer/4/]

6) The Partners sections have been updated with information and the new organisations that joined us this year.
This year, we dedicated two newsletters announcing the start of the 2018 Selfie Campaign and GDAMS.

These newsletters were a way for anyone who reads it to understand what we do, why we do it, to show that anyone can help and to make it easy for anyone interested to contact us anytime.

Firstly, the GCOMS march 2018 newsletter encouraged to be part of the campaign by doing selfies and by using our material for organizing events. It underlines as well where to find the GCOMS statements.

The GCOMS April newsletter 2018, as well as recapitulating March Newsletter, it most importantly announced the beginning of GDAMS and the GCOMS joint press conferences.

The interactive map was incorporated to make it easier for anyone who reads it to find out where, what and how our work is done.
International Steering Committee
2018

- Abjata Khalif, Kenya, Kenya Pastoralist Journalist Network
- Alicia Cabezudo, America-Latina, International Peace Bureau
- Albert Caramés, Spain, FundiPau
- Alexander Harang, Norway, Norges Fredslag
- Annette Brownlie, Australia, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
- Amela Skiljan, International Peace Bureau
- Arielle Denis, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Celin Nahory, Japan, Peace Boat
- Corazon Fabros, Philippines, Stop the War! Coalition
- Cyrille Rolande, Cameroon, Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme Cameroun
- Dave Webb, UK, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- David Calleb Otieno, Kenya, Coalition for Constitution Implementation (CCI)
- Denis Doherty, Australia, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
- Edwina Hughes, New Zeeland, Peace Movement Aotearoa
- Francesco Vignarca, Italy, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo
- Holly Spencer, France, Stop Fuelling War
- Jerome Peraya, Belgium, Agir pour la Paix
- Jordi Calvo, Spain, Delàs Center for Peace Studies
- Joseph Gerson, U.S.A., American Friends Service Committee
- Lisa Clark, Italy, Beati I Construttori di Pace
- Luke Addison, UK, Peace Activist
- Moses Adedeji, Nigeria, Trees on earth Nigeria
- Nathalie Gauchet, France, Mouvement de la Paix
- Panos Trigazis, Greece, Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP)
- Reiner Braun, Germany, International Peace Bureau
Partners GDAMS 2018

Africa
- Cameroon, Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme
- Kenya, Coalition for Constitution Implementation (CCI)

Asia & Pacific
- Australia, New Zealand, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- Australia, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
- Australia, PeaceBus
- India, Rural Development and Youth Training Institute (Jambu Kumar Jain)
- Japan, Peace Boat
- New Zealand, Peace Movement Aotearoa
- Philippines, Stop the War! Coalition
- Vietnam, Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation

Europe
- Belgium, Agir pour la Paix
- Belgium, Vrede
- France, Mouvement de la Paix
- France, Stop Fuelling War
- Finland, Peace Union of Finland, Rauhanliitto
- Finland, Sadankomitea
- Germany, Netzwerk Friedenssteuer
- Greece, Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP)
- Italy, Beati I Construttori di Pace
- Italy, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo
- Norway, Grandmothers for Peace
- Norway, Norges Fredslag
- Norway, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- Spain, Delàs Center for Peace Studies
- Spain, FundiPau
- Spain, LaFede
- Spain, AAMOC Las Palmas
- Switzerland, Reaching Critical Will
- UK, Better World Links
- UK, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
• UK, West Yorkshire Campaign Against Arms Trade (Colin Archer)
• UK, Women in Black

North America
• USA, American Friends Service Committee
• USA, Code Pink
• USA, Granny Peace Brigade
• USA, Peace Action
• USA, People Life’s Fund
• USA, Taxes for Peace Not War
• USA, United for Peace and Justice, Military Families Speak Out
• USA, Veteran for Peace
• USA, Walpole Peace and Justice Group
• USA, War Resisters League
• USA, War Tax Resisters
• USA, Win Without War
• USA, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
• USA, World Beyond Wars

South America
• Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay Youth Network America Latina
• Paraguay, SERPAJ
Collaborators GDAMS 2018

Asia & Pacific
- **Australia**, Just Peace
- **Australia**, Marrickville Peace Group
- **Lebanon**, UPP Peace Civil Corps
- **South Korea**, People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy
- **New Zealand**, Auckland Peace Action
- **New Zealand**, Peace Action Wellington
- **New Zealand**, Quakers in Nelson
- **New Zealand**, Golden Bay Quackers
- **New Zealand**, Dunedin Community
- **New Zealand**, World War One Centenary Peace Project

Europe
- **France**, Pax Christi International
- **Germany**, Center of Feminist Foreign Policy
- **Germany**, German Bundestag and spokeswoman for Peace and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution (Kathrin Vogler)
- **Spain**, Lleida Coordination Group
- **Spain**, Madrid Anti-Militarists Assembly
- **Spain**, Ongi Etorri Errefuxiatuak
- **Spain**, Red Canarias en defensa del Sistema público de Servicios Sociales (Koldobi Velasco)
- **Spain**, SETEM Catalonia
- **Spain**, Women in Black
- **Switzerland**, Unfold Zero
- **UK**, Liverpool Pax
- **UK**, Merseyside CND
- **UK**, Tipping Point North South

North America
- **Canada**, Conscience Canada
- **Canada**, Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace
- **USA**, Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation
- **USA**, Brandywine Peace Community
- **USA**, Casa Maria Catholic Worker
Collaborators GDAMS 2018

- USA, Citizens Action of NY
- USA, Community Alliance of Lane County
- USA, Eugene Taxes for Peace
- USA, Environmentalists Against War
- USA, Franklin County Continuing Political Revolution
- USA, Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia
- USA, Groups of the Spring Action 2018
- USA, Ground Zero Center Ohio
- USA, Indivisible Eugene
- USA, Just Peace
- USA, Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center
- USA, Milwaukee War Tax Resistance
- USA, Massachusetts Peace Action
- USA, Massachusetts People’s Budget Campaign
- USA, Massachusetts Poor People’s Campaign
- USA, Minnesota Peace Action Coalition
- USA, Minnesota War Tax Resisters
- USA, New England War Tax Resistance
- USA, Nuclear Resister
- USA, Oregon Community of War Tax Resisters
- USA, Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
- USA, Pax Christi New Orleans
- USA, Peace Women WILPF
- USA, Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance
- USA, Peace Resource Center of San Diego
- USA, Raytheon Peacemakers
- USA, Rise Up Hudson Valley
- USA, Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center
- USA, Tucson Raging Grannies
- USA, U.S. Labor Against War
- USA, War Resisters League of Portland
- USA, War Tax Resisters League NYC
- USA, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
- USA, Women Against War
Collaborators GDAMS 2018

South America
- Colombia, Women in Black
- Uruguay, Central de Trabajadores
- Uruguay, Movement of Peace Educators

International
- AEPF’s International Organizing Committee
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Peace and Security Cluster
- Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Again, Thank you to all partners, collaborators and campaigners for participating and being active to reduce Military Spending.

GCOMS Coordinators.