

# Conscience and Peace Tax International

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Skiringssal Hostel and Folkschool near Sandefjord, Norway

## 13<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on WAR TAX RESISTANCE and PEACE TAX CAMPAIGNS



## Norway Peace Tax Alliance to host Conference

The 13th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns will take place at Skiringssal Folke-høyskole (Skiringssal Hostel and Folkschool) near Sandefjord, Norway from Friday July 2 through Sunday July 4, 2010. The conference is being organized by the Norway Peace Tax Alliance.

This international conference is a biennial event which draws together individuals and organizations from over a dozen countries active with war tax resistance and peace tax campaigns. Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) holds a Board meeting and a General Assembly gathering during the two days prior to the conference.

The purpose is to achieve recognition of the right of individual citizens of conscience to be free from coerced payment for war or the preparations for war. Participants meet for mutual support, exchange of ideas and experiences, and to coordinate campaigns at the international level.

Lodging at the conference site may be limited so please contact the organizers as soon as possible. Accommodations are also available in the nearby town of Sandefjord.

Please refer to the following website for additional information and to register for the conference:  
<http://www.peacetaxconference.org/>

Norway has a long history of citizens working to end war. In 1515 Norwegian peasants refused payment of tax increases levied by the Danish king to support his war against Sweden. In the 1630s there was another widespread movement against paying taxes. Then in 1764-65, as a protest to the high taxes and corruption, another major tax rebellion occurred. In some areas peasants absolutely refused to pay and drove tax collectors away.

Members of the the three so-called 'peace' churches immediately refused to obey when military conscription was first imposed in Norway and have continued to do so ever since. After many years, a conscientious objection law was passed. This creates a precedent, and since Norwegians already have a law that recognizes the rights of conscience they are working to modernize this and bring it up-to-date.

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The Norwegian organizers have included some excellent conference speakers.

The opening program, on Friday July 2 at 3:00 pm, will be open to the public. Per Ivar Haukeland, an eco-philosopher, author, educator and community activist, will speak at what the organizers hope will be a beautiful and cultural event.

Mr. Ingvar Haukeland worked with Arne Naess to develop the worldwide "deep ecology" movement. Per Ingvar and his colleagues work to revitalize the intimate reciprocity between culture and the living land by reviving place-based farming and forestry traditions, renewing traditional storytelling and traditional handicrafts like ski-making, and integrating the management of both private and collective goods. (See: [http://www.wildethics.org/per\\_ingvar\\_haukeland.html](http://www.wildethics.org/per_ingvar_haukeland.html))

The keynote speaker, Mr. Nils Butenschon, is a Professor of Law and International Politics, and directs the Norwegian Center for Human Rights. Mr. Butenschon has written numerous articles and books dealing with a wide range of human rights issues.

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The organizers hope that the conference participants will be inspired to find new ways to inform, convince, and spread the idea to others. More ways can be found to make the cause a clear and interesting challenge, and also more appealing to young people.

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CPTI wishes to thank the Norway Peace Tax Alliance and the following individuals for making this conference possible:

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