

Mission

Conscience and Peace Tax International works to obtain recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military taxes.



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Keep in touch

To join our mailing list for occasional e-mail updates of CPTI activities please contact Derek Brett: news@cpti.ws, labelling your message "Friends of CPTI"

Local
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We assert the human right of conscientious objection to participation in war — whether that participation is physical or financial.



Conscience and Peace Tax International

"In the context of the right not to be complicit in killings, we call for full legal recognition of the rights of conscientious objectors."

*~Millennium Forum Declaration
and Agenda for Action, May 2000*

www.cpti.ws

The Human Right Not to Pay for War...

...and the Human Duty to Pay for Peace

History

Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) was founded in 1994 to achieve recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military taxation and redirection of military spending to peaceful nonmilitary purposes.

The United Nations recognizes conscientious objection to military service as a human right derived from "freedom of thought, conscience and religion" (Article 18, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948). CPTI works to have that recognition include conscientious objection to military taxation.

Some countries have national campaigns to obtain legal provisions protecting conscientious objection to military taxation. These campaigns meet biennially at the International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns.

Since 1986 hosting countries have been West Germany ('86), Netherlands ('88), Italy ('90), Belgium ('92 and '04), Spain ('94), United Kingdom ('96), India ('98), USA ('00), and Germany ('02 and '06).



Activities

CPTI is incorporated in Belgium as an international nonprofit organization with an international board. It holds its biennial General Assembly at the international conference.

CPTI offers programs on conscientious objection for nongovernmental organizations, UN agencies and other international organizations through collaboration and joint sponsorship.

CPTI has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It is a member of CONGO (the Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status) and of CONGO's Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and is a founder of the Working Group on Conscientious Objection, a sub-committee of the NGO Committee on Human Rights.

CPTI participated in the Millennium Forum and has played an active part in the UN Commission on Human Rights over several years, making oral and written statements and convening parallel meetings on the subject of conscientious objection.

CPTI has begun research on how various countries treat conscientious objectors to military taxes. To this end CPTI is documenting the experience of conscientious objectors to military taxation with tax authorities and the courts.

CPTI encouraged states and NGOs to respond to the request of the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights for examples of "best practices in relation to the recognition of the right of everyone to have conscientious objections" to military service. CPTI's own Thematic Global Survey of Military Recruitment and Conscientious Objection was published in May 2006.

Testimonies

"If I mention that I am a woman,.... it is exactly this fact which makes my conflict of conscience stronger. To be sure, I am not required to bear arms, - which I consider to be logical, because simultaneously to bring life into being and to be forced to kill is schizophrenic and makes one ill - but I substitute for this with my taxes, which I am forced to pay against my will."

~ Christa Voigt from oral argument before the Bundesfinanzhof, in Munich

"Now I am involved in propagating the idea of tax refusal against military expenditures in Japan on the basis of conscience. For me this idea is based on the reflection of my experience of the A-bomb. It is based on my meeting an American conscientious objector after the war, too. Today when fighters and bombers, nuclear and other weapons can be obtained by money...there are billions of people on the globe starving to death without being able to buy land to cultivate and food to fill their stomachs."

~ Susumu Ishitani, Survivor of Atomic Bomb, Nagasaki, Japan

"The peace churches as employers feel the pain of having our institutions serve as collectors of taxes for war and war-making purposes. We appeal to an end to what we consider to be the oppressive entanglement of the government in the practice of our faith."

~ Testimony of Quakers, Mennonite and Church of the Brethren to U.S. Congress, May 1992