

WE NEED AN ARMY OF:

~~SOLDIERS~~ PEACEBUILDERS

MoD recruitment
poster corrected by
our campaigners,
central London

conscience update

conscience TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR
30th birthday news, issue 137, summer 2009



conscience
TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR

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welcome

This year, thanks to members like you, **conscience** celebrates its 30th birthday.

This issue of **conscience update** looks back at the huge amount that we have achieved together over the last three decades, and also looks forward with news of our name change and new campaign strategy. We hope you enjoy seeing how the campaign has developed over the years and is still evolving to show that your taxes are for peace, not war! On page 13 you will also find details of how we spent your donations last year, along with a slip for your feedback.

about us

conscience campaigns for the legal right for those with a conscientious objection to war to have the military part of their taxes spent on peacebuilding initiatives.

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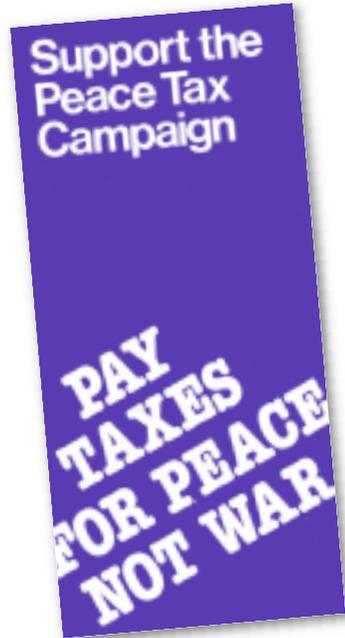
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taxes for peace not war

After two years of strategic thinking our Executive Committee, made up of members like you, has decided to alter the campaign's name from 'conscience The Peace Tax Campaign' to 'conscience Taxes for Peace not War'.

As you can see on the right and in photos in the following pages, this name has a very long history for the campaign. In different times and places, successive campaigners have independently settled on Taxes for Peace not War as a slogan, because in five words it shows that though we object to paying for war, we also have a positive vision of a world where taxes are used to nurture real peace.

Reactions to recent initiatives like the peacepays.org website prove that many of you are really keen for us to show that though you don't want to pay for war you do want to pay for more effective and cost effective ways of building lasting peace. Putting Taxes for Peace not War in our name makes this positive vision clear to potential supporters



One of our first leaflets, c.1981

at the outset, including MPs or officials. No more being asked if we are proposing an extra 'peace tax' on top of other taxes!

Hand in hand with our revised name comes a new campaign strategy, of which more in the coming months. For now, look out for the name change gradually rolling out across our materials.

peace tax seven hit the limits – for now

As some of you know, for the last five years seven **conscience** members have been systematically taking their case to pay taxes for peace not war through the courts. In the process they have thoroughly tested the law that forces everyone to pay for war.

Backed by **conscience**, the Peace Tax Seven initially asked UK judges to review the law. The High Court refused to do this three times in a row, but the Seven doggedly appealed at each rebuff. Their tenacity ensured that the full argument for a peacebuilding alternative to military taxation was eventually heard in the Court of Appeal. This was the first time that the arguments had been fully presented in a UK court, and was an important step in probing the weaknesses in the law.

After hearing the whole argument, the judges stated that the Seven had a point. However, they then refused to make a ruling and wouldn't let them appeal to the House of Lords



The Seven have been very active around the UK

– probably out of fear of creating a precedent that would put Britain out of step with the EU. The Seven's only recourse was therefore to take their case up with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

As they waited for a slot in Strasbourg, the Peace Tax Seven collected an impressive array of support from Quakers, Anglicans, Buddhists and others, continued their marathon speaking tours around the country, generated ever more media interest, and engaged the lawyer who helped the McLibel Two win their case against

McDonalds. They also addressed the UN Human Rights Committee, and played a key role in founding an international committee of legal experts on paying for peace not war. Their odyssey has inspired campaigners around the world, including a similar case in the USA.

However, the European court has a huge backlog of cases. It therefore rules many out at an early stage without hearing the evidence. This Spring the Peace Tax Seven heard that their case had fallen foul of this log jam and been ruled inadmissible.

Robin Brookes, who as well as being very active in the Seven is also a member of the **conscience** Executive Committee (see page 12), says ‘We are deeply disappointed that the Court has not even given a full explanation of its decision not to hear the arguments, and we are, of course, frustrated with the apparent lack of regard shown for twenty years of legal change and development on the issue.’ ‘What they are saying is that it’s not an interference with our rights to make us pay for war. They don’t accept it as a valid matter of conscientious objection’.

This European snarl up effectively ends the Peace Tax Seven’s current legal case. Yet the Seven plan to continue their struggle by other means, including looking at other international human rights review procedures. As Robin says, ‘to work towards a world in which taxpayers’ money is spent to address the underlying causes of war, rather than prolong cycles of violence.’

In the meantime, the Seven are asking their financial and moral supporters to put their weight behind **conscience**. As Nick Wilson, campaigner at **conscience**, sums up ‘The dedication the Peace Tax Seven has done us all a great service and opened up the next phase of the wider campaign. They have comprehensively tested UK law on the right to pay for peace, and even probed the current limitations of Euro law. Thanks to them, we now have an accurate picture of our legal environment. This will help us choose the right tactics from our bulging campaign toolkit for the next phase of the struggle to pay for peace not war.’

30 years of **conscience**

conscience began as the Peace Tax Campaign in 1979, run from home by Quaker Stanley Keeble.

It grew out of the 'Peace Tax Campaign of the Peace Pledge Union', formed in 1977. PPU was itself founded in 1934 by objectors to the First World War and those who pledged not to fight in the looming Second World War.

After 1945, Peace Pledge members and others realised that with nuclear war achievable by a handful of soldiers it was now essential to also cut off the money that paid for weapons.

Many individual actions followed, and in 1960 a 'tax refuser's declaration' was delivered to the Treasury. Supported by playwright John Arden, Arnold Wesker and Jazz singer George Melly, it demanded a **conscience** clause for people taxed on PAYE.



War tax resister Sybil Cookson in court, 1986

The early years

The Peace Tax Campaign drew on this history, and within a year of our independence from PPU we could count on 26 MPs, plus Bishops, Peers and other opinion leaders, several of whom signed a public letter in the *Guardian*. In 1981, even as we were recruiting our first staff, MP Alex Lyon tried to amend a Finance Bill to allow those with a 'conscientious objection to paying for expenditure on defence' to pay the military part of their taxes to the then Ministry of Overseas Development. He failed, but 7 more MPs backed us. Two more tries at a Bill followed in 1986 and 1999.

In 1982 we ran the first of 13 Early Day Motions. Akin to a Parliamentary petition, these let MPs express an opinion and canvass support among other MPs for one Parliamentary year. Thirty-one MPs signed our first EDM, asking for a 'peace fund' with independent trustees into which we could pay the military part of our taxes to alleviate 'poverty in the Third World'. At the same time, war tax resisters in the campaign started the Tax Diversion Network to support each other, and we got key backing from the Religious Society of Friends, who began to withhold the military part of taxes owed by staff at Friends House in London. The ensuing four-year legal case went all the way to the European Court.

In 1983 Plaid Cymru put Peace Tax legislation in its election manifesto – the start of strong support in Wales. The Green Party later did the same. And in 1984 our third Early Day Motion made clear that we want to pay for real security, demanding a 'peace-building fund which will promote security in a non-military manner.' Jim Callaghan MP reintroduced it later the same year.

A global movement

In 1986, the first International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns was held in Germany. There have been eleven



Roger Franklin's supporters at the High Court, 1986

since, with two entitled Taxes for Peace not War hosted by us in 1996 and 2008, by which time campaigns had sprouted around the world. Meanwhile, tax resisters fought on in the UK courts. In 1986 Arthur Windsor was the first to be imprisoned, and became the subject of BBC current affairs programme *Heart of the Matter* – just one of a filing-cabinet-full of media stories over the years.

By the end of the 80s, members had won us 86 supportive MPs and five Lords, plus the backing of all UK Quakers, who adopted the issue as a 'concern' and reaffirmed this in 1995.



War tax resister Roy Prockter in court, 1993



Peace Tax Seven outside the High Court, 2006

The second decade

In 1990 we became **conscience** The Peace Tax Campaign. Meanwhile, Newcastle baker and war tax resister Nigel Wild was imprisoned after the Inland Revenue refused 182 loaves as his unpaid war tax. The Revenue also descended on our office to collect the military part of the staff's taxes, which we withhold every year.

In 1993 we won a Quaker peaceworker to develop our work with young people, and the next year our second Bill tried to divert our military taxes to a peacebuilding fund to pay for the study of conflict, the conversion of the arms industry to non-military production, and support to democratic structures and human rights in areas of potential conflict. We also formed the Conscience and Peace Tax

International with foreign allies to raise the issue globally, including at the UN, where this now has consultative status.

Printing money

In 1995 our famous £10 Note recruitment leaflet appeared, and we have since distributed over a million. Meanwhile, vigorous lobbying by members won the support of 24 members of the European Parliament, and war tax resister Roger Franklin was imprisoned twice, eventually forcing him to legally secede from the UK.

The year 2000 ushered in even more energy. We deepened long links with Trade Unions by lobbying at Labour conferences, and used the equivalent of Early Day Motions to lobby representatives in the Scottish

Parliament and Welsh Assembly. We also published a manual for those withholding the military part of their taxes and a report on the Human Rights Act's implications for our issue.

Recent times

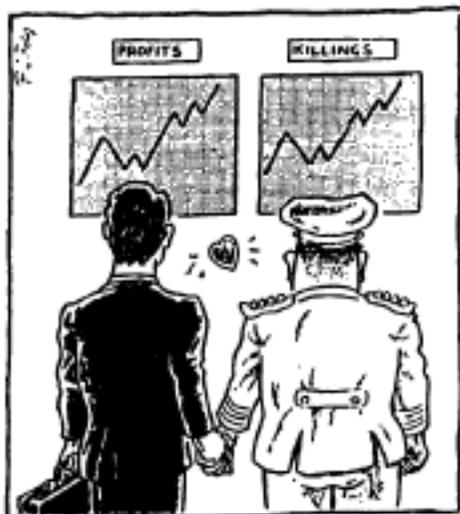
In 2004 alone we launched our website – a global resource on paying for peace – ran a national petition, recruited young people at festivals, and began both the marathon Peace Tax Seven legal challenge and our annual spoof

Peace Tax Return. All on top of Early Day Motions and Parliamentary Questions, which we use to root out official information. Even Tory Shadow Chancellor Oliver Letwin declared his support!

This decade also saw creative actions on the streets, with our Grim Reaper targetting the Treasury, the Peace Tax Seven taking their own missile to an Arms Fair, our Taxman with his briefcase of £10 Note leaflets, and our KitchenBlair poster,



It's the taxman – or is it? 2003



subverting the famous 1914 Lord Kitchener poster.

We also made a noise about the potential of non-military security, with an essay prize, our acclaimed peacepays.org website, and the ground-breaking Peace and Security Liaison Group to persuade officials to back peace not war. To round this off, last year Terry Waite chose us to win the prestigious Sheila McKechnie Foundation campaign award!

prize winners

Jane Tucker of Bridgetown, Somerset, was pulled out of this year's postbag of Peace Tax Returns to receive the novel *Guantanamo*.

Jo Fretwell of Cambridge was also drawn out of the bag, this time of those commenting on our new Executive Committee.

She received *Unarmed Heroes*, an inspiring compilation of testimonies from brave peacebuilders working in conflicts around the world.

Jo writes, 'Thank you for the fab book, I have barely put it down since it arrived!'



Global allies come together, 1996

This has been a lightning tour of thirty years of action. All of which couldn't have been done without the support of members like you. Thank you – and here's to the next 30 years!

work for **conscience!**

Campaigns and Communications Officer 21 hours per week

At this exciting time of strategic change, we are looking for a campaigner to carry **conscience** into its next phase.

You will need strong experience in campaign strategy and delivery, parliamentary lobbying or working with MPs, and administration and databases. Media work would be an advantage. Highly literate, you'll also edit and produce leaflets, website material and other publications.

Fundraising and Membership Officer 14 hours per week

We also need a fundraiser experienced in member appeals, trusts, legacies, and membership recruitment. You will develop a fundraising strategy to finance new initiatives as well as the campaign's regular core costs.

Both posts are paid £26,990 pro rata + 5% employer pension

Our team of four are based at Archway, London. There is some flexibility about hours and days worked. Application forms are available from Paula Hollings, info@conscienceonline.org.uk, and should be returned to the same address by email only.

Closing date for both posts : 5pm, 13 July. Interviews : 20/21 July

how we spent your money in 2008

membership and fundraising

In 2008 most of our income came from member donations to appeals and 2,096 member subscriptions. We continue to receive a small annual grant from Quaker Peace and Social Witness. In 2008 the Peace and Security Liaison Group also had generous ongoing funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation.

staff

Paula Hollings (Office Co-ordination and Membership), Sarah Graham-Brown (Peace and Security Liaison Group), Nick Wilson (Campaigns, Communications and Fundraising).

volunteers

Pauline Atkins, Irene Auerbach, Michael Curham, Pete Hall, Tony Lamb, Mary Lou Leavitt, Alun Morinan, Rosemary Norman and Nikki Packham all helped in the office. Thank you.

executive committee

This voluntary committee made up of **conscience** members decides how your money is spent. In 2008 it included Robin Brookes, Monica Frisch, Susan Turnbull and Bill Glassmire (both from July), Simon Heywood, Mary Lou Leavitt, Roy Prockter, Phil Rimmer, Christopher Sykesud (from November) and Liz Law (representative of Quaker Peace and Social Witness from July).

volunteer for the executive committee

The committee meets in London on four Saturdays a year. Anyone can serve after a simple recruitment process and we reimburse travel and accommodation. If you are interested, contact the office.

We also need a Quaker member to represent our loyal supporters Quaker Peace and Social Witness on the committee. If you are interested, contact Kat Barton on 020 7663 1067, disarm@quaker.org.uk.

statement of financial activities for the year to 31.12.08



conscience is not a charity, but we still produce transparent public accounts that meet charity law. You can get full accounts from the office, but here is a summary.

	2008 unrestricted £	2008 restricted £	2008 total £	2007 total £
incoming resources				
donations and legacies	49,299	-	49,299	47,977
grants	3,500	27,721	31,221	37,370
interest receivable	891	-	891	858
sundry	856	6,500	7,356	1,314
total incoming resources	54,546	34,221	88,767	87,519
outgoing resources				
membership support	(3,687)	(5,088)	(8,775)	(5,850)
office costs	(6,153)	(2,042)	(8,195)	(5,451)
premises costs	(3,687)	(1,000)	(4,687)	(4,421)
staffing costs	(45,912)	(25,965)	(71,877)	(57,955)
<i>costs in furtherance of objects</i>	<i>(59,439)</i>	<i>(34,095)</i>	<i>(93,534)</i>	<i>(73,677)</i>
fundraising costs	(827)	-	(827)	(685)
membership recruitment	(723)	-	(723)	(970)
governance costs	(3,732)	-	(3,732)	(5,445)
total outgoing resources	(64,721)	(34,095)	(98,816)	(80,777)
net incoming/(outgoing) funds	(10,175)	126	(10,049)	6,742
total funds brought forward	24,936	28,942	53,878	47,136
total funds carried forward	14,761	29,068	43,829	53,878

These figures will be reformatted to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005, then examined.

leave a legacy of peace

Stephen Thomas is Director of the Welsh Institute for International Affairs and a long time **conscience** member. A few years ago he decided to take this commitment further. He says: 'Much though we strive, and would like to believe otherwise, the campaign's goal may well not be achieved in my lifetime. It is to acknowledge this that I have left a modest legacy to the campaign in my Will.' Such bequests are hugely important. As our annual accounts show, our costs are kept low. So a sudden injection of funds has a big effect, allowing us to create a living memorial with lasting impact, such as our internet campaign peacepays.org.

A legacy can also help you avoid leaving a windfall for the military. Nothing is certain but death and taxes, and Inheritance Tax links the two. In the tax year 2009–2010, anyone who leaves assets over £325,000 to anyone except their legal partner has to pay 40% Inheritance Tax. A tenth of which goes straight to war. And even with

the credit crunch, many average UK houses are now worth well over £300,000. However, although the work of **conscience** is considered political, our research and education work is charitable. So whatever you leave to the campaign won't be taxed and won't go to war. And the more you leave to **conscience**, the more chance that the rest of your assets will fall below the Inheritance Tax threshold.

If you already have a Will and want to leave **conscience** a fixed sum, fill out the Codicil overleaf, cut it out and place it with your Will. However, fixed sums decline in value as inflation rises. So you may want to leave the campaign a percentage of your estate, a named asset such as land or property, or whatever is left after other bequests. Ask your solicitor for advice or call us. Whatever you do, please let us know if you plan to remember **conscience** in this way. Not only are we very grateful, but it helps us to plan ahead.

Thank you.

codicil to add conscience to an existing will

Simply fill this in and place it with your existing Will, but do not attach it to it.

I (your full name) _____

of (your full address) _____

_____ Postcode _____

declare this to be a (first, second, etc) _____ Codicil to my

existing Will, dated the (date of your Will, in words) _____

(date) day of _____ (month) Two thousand and _____ (year).

In addition to any legacies given by me by my said Will, I give, free of taxes, to the Lansbury House Trust Fund, or its successor in title, registered charity number 306139, 5 Caledonian Rd, NI 9DX, www.lansburyhouse.org.uk, for research and education into conscientious objection to military taxation by **conscience** – The Peace Tax Campaign, or its successor in title, of 1b Waterlow Rd, London N19 5NJ, www.conscienceonline.org.uk, the sum (in words first, then in figures) of _____ pounds, £ _____, and I direct that a receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised officer for the time being of the Charity shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors for the said gift. In all other respects I confirm my said Will and any previous Codicils thereto.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this (today's date, in words) _____

(date) day of _____ (month) Two thousand and _____ (year).

Signed by the said (your full name) _____ as a codicil

to his/her (delete as appropriate) last Will, in our joint presence and by us in his/her presence.

Your signature _____

First witness's signature

First witness's signature

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Occupation _____

Occupation _____

join **conscience** today

I/we want to join **conscience** I/we want to renew my/our membership

please PRINT your details below

first name/s _____ last name/s _____

address _____

_____ postcode _____

telephone _____ email _____

suggested annual membership donation £1 per £1,000 of annual income up to £15,000, plus £2 per £1,000 of annual income over £15,000

I enclose a cheque for £_____ (payable to **conscience**)

help us plan ahead – instead of writing a cheque, you could join with a standing order, which saves us time and money for campaigning. just £3 a month can make a huge difference. if you give £5 a month or more, we'll also send you a free copy of *Beyond Terror*, by our allies at conflict think tank the Oxford Research Group

standing order

please PRINT your details below

name of bank _____ address of bank _____

_____ postcode _____

account number

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 sort code

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please pay £10 £5 £3 other £_____ monthly until further notice, starting on _____ payable to **conscience** a/c 50452200 s/c 08-90-37,

Co-op Bank, Wood Green, London

please cancel any existing standing orders to **conscience**/the peace tax campaign

signature

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date

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please return to **conscience**, FREEPOST LON I8505, London N19 5BR NLI37

we treat all your information in confidence and do not share it with other organisations or individuals.

