

# Proposal 1

Title: Commemorate 1918 "Bond Slackers"

**From:** David Gross, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Proposal:** To commemorate the persecution in 1918 of Americans who refused to buy war bonds, NWTRCC will print its newsletter on yellow paper throughout 2018, and will include a small information box in each issue explaining the anniversary and how the color of the newsletter commemorates it.

**Background:** The United States financed its war spending for World War I largely by the sale of "Liberty Bonds" to the public. There was enormous pressure to buy these bonds, and those who refused -- largely pacifist Mennonites, Jehovah's Witnesses, and left-wing radicals -- were hounded and persecuted in many ways. Some lost their jobs, some were assaulted by mobs, some had their property stolen, some were arrested and charged under the infamous Espionage Act. A signature tactic of the vigilante groups who attacked "bond slackers" was to paint them, and/or their homes, businesses, or property, yellow. Refusal to buy war bonds was the primary tactic of war tax resisters in the United States during World War I.

# Proposal 2

**Proposal: \$2000 To Support Increased War Tax Education & Outreach by the Peace Resource Center of San Diego**

By Anne Barron, San Diego, CA

Summary:

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego requests \$2000 to support our 2018 War Redirection to Community Needs Campaign in the San Diego region.

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego is an affiliate of NWTRCC and had engaged in outreach and public education on War Tax Resistance and Redirection since 2014. This year, we did direct education around war, military spending, impact on oppressed communities and redirection in collaboration with other progressive groups in San Diego. Most notably, we co-sponsored a hugely successful Tax Day March that featured war tax redirection by local resister Anne Barron and had as keynote speaker Marjorie Cohn to over 3000 participants. WTR 101 workshops followed the rally.

We now have a list of over 100 local people interested in redirection, resistance and divestment. The PRC is requesting \$2000 to support expansion of war tax redirection efforts in Southern California. The funding will help expand the Campaign to local colleges and provide capacity to support NWTRCC's 2018 divestment and redirection campaigns here in our region.

Most of the WTR work will be integrated into the ongoing PRC PRISMSS Project. PRISMSS looks at the intersections of Poverty, Racism, Immigration, Sex & gender, Militarism,

Sustainability, and Spirituality, especially at how these “isms” are compounded within communities under attack, and for solutions. Our membership and board have chosen to focus our main efforts on the criminal injustice system and allying with grassroots groups challenging these injustices in oppressed neighborhoods. War tax redirection and conscientious objection education will be the fundamental components in the “actions” part of the Campaign.

This past year, the PRC has:

- hosted three community PRISMSS dialogues that convened a number of grassroots groups representing a larger cross-section of San Diego than the typical (mainly older caucasian) peace gatherings of the past. (<http://www.prcsd.org/prisms-3/>)
- built stronger collaborations with People Over Profits - San Diego, Activist San Diego, Pillars of the Community, CAST (Community Assistance Support Team), SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), the Olango Foundation, United Against Police Terror, Raices Sin Fronteras, CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations), SD Veterans For Peace, Indivisible chapters, and the ACLU.
- finalized a partnership with the local chapter of 350.org for a series of workshops that look at the connections and for solutions.

#### **2018 activities will include:**

- a November Campaign Kick-off with Sam Koplinka-Loehr!! This mixer will take place at San Diego City College, a campus which is truly revolutionary in its focus on Chicano Studies, Queer Liberation, with professors strongly engaged in progressive activism.
- Divest From War media project: use of local progressive radio and media to build awareness of WTR & Redirection as a personal solution to the militarization of the border and local law enforcement. Two of our allies operate radio stations in our area- KNSJ and Union Del Barrio. Commentary provided to small neighborhood newspapers and online news sources (San Diego Free Press and East County Magazine).
- Tabling and Penny Polls at popular San Diego events, including Earth Day in Balboa Park, the MLK Breakfast in January, at farmers’ markets, and during Peace Week San Diego.
- Grow and support a local WTR active group, using the growing list of interested people as the seed.
- Provide networking & WTR counseling events for the local WTR folks, and war tax workshops in February and March.
- Sponsor 2018 Tax Day events and redirection with the PRC network of peace and justice allies.
- Create a WTR page on PRC website and social media that links people here in San Diego as well as to our national war tax resistance pages.

#### Budget

The Peace Resource Center operates on a shoe-string budget, depending on the donations and membership fees and on an active Board working with part-time staff. The 2016 and 2017 war tax effort was mainly supported through the efforts of a dedicated volunteer and Board member. The 2018 Campaign will be overseen and managed by PRC Board Member Anne Barron. Staff includes a part-time Program Director and an intern.

The \$2000 will support (based on last year’s expenses)

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| ● 60 staff/consultant hours (60x15)                           | \$900         |
| ● materials and supplies for NWTRCC Redirection Campaign 2018 | \$300         |
| ● online presence & website updates - consultant stipend      | \$200         |
| ● travel costs/mileage for PRC staff & members                | \$75          |
| ● 3 college event costs (rent & refreshments)                 | \$275         |
| ● Tax Day action -supplies                                    | \$200         |
| ● utilities (campaign share of PRC expenses)                  | <u>\$50</u>   |
|   | <u>\$2000</u> |

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### Background

The Peace Resource Center was established in 1980 to provide a clearinghouse of peace and social justice resources, issues and activities; to promote networking among peace-related organizations; to offer nonviolent alternatives in conflict resolution; and to carry on an expanding program of peace education in San Diego County. The Center provides an ongoing presence throughout San Diego County to counter and alter violent approaches to problem solving—interpersonally, nationally and internationally and works to point out the links among issues of peace, social justice and a safe, sustainable environment. The PRC is a membership-based organization whose work is guided by membership consultation. It is the local affiliate of NWTRCC. Our Board members are active in a wide number of groups, including RiseUp Industries, NAACP, Women Occupy San Diego, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, 350.org, and local churches. One Board member, Anne Barron, has participated in NWTRCC gatherings since 2014, has been active in NWTRCC committees and is now an alternative Administrative Committee member.

San Diego is both a military town and a border town. Previously predominately conservative and pro-military, the region’s demographics have gone a dramatic shift towards progressive values with many grassroots groups working towards social justice. The militarization of our schools and police is now front and center as the county struggles with officer-involved shootings and expanded police actions at our schools. This shift offers the peace movement a huge opportunity to engage more with the public, and bring out issues around war resistance and direct action.

## **Proposal 3**

### **Join the International League of Peoples Struggle**

*Proposal by Sam Koplinka-Loehr, Field Organizer & Outreach Consultant for NWTRCC*

### Background

The [International League of Peoples Struggle](#) is an anti-imperialist and democratic formation that brings together organizations from around the world. It was founded in 2001 by 218 grassroots organizations seeking to connect and align their work. It’s goals are to promote, support and develop the anti-imperialist and democratic struggles of the peoples of the world against imperialism and state violence. The League has hundreds of participating organizations in dozens of countries, all focused on direct action and community organizing for anti-imperialism and justice.

We were invited to join by League organizers that I met while at two different conferences. One of the conferences was the Solidarity & Fightback, Building Resistance to US-led War and Militarism conference in Toronto earlier this year. The other was the People’s Congress of Resistance in Washington, DC. At both conferences, I was surprised to find such a large group of radical people from around the US and the world who had never heard of tax resistance but who were also very excited about it as a tactic and wanting to learn more. I think there is tremendous potential here for building strong relationships that value and increase the presence of tax resistance in new communities while also building stronger solidarity with grassroots organizing against fascism, imperialism, and US-led war around the world.

### **League Charter**

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| According to <a href="#">the League charter</a> , it shall stand and fight for the following: |
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| 1. The cause of national liberation, democracy and social liberation against imperialism and all reaction;  |
| 2. Socio-economic development for oppressed and exploited countries and nations and social equity for all working people;   |
| 3. Human rights in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields against state violence, national oppression, class exploitation and oppression, gender oppression, fascism, casteism, racism and religious bigotry; and justice and indemnification for the victims of illegal arrest and detention (especially political prisoners), violations of due process, torture, extra-judicial executions, disappearances, mass displacement, and other blatant forms of human rights violations. |
| 4. The cause of just peace and struggles against wars of counterrevolution and aggression and against nuclear, biological, chemical, missile and other weapons of mass destruction;   |
| 5. Promotion of trade union and other democratic rights of the working class, improvement of wage and living conditions against all forms of intensifying exploitation of labor and the destruction of working class organizations in their pursuit of the historic mission of fighting for social liberation;  |
| 6. Agrarian reform and rights of peasants, farm workers and fisherfolk against feudal, semifeudal and capitalist exploitation and oppression;   |
| 7. The cause of women’s liberation and rights against all forms of sexual discrimination, exploitation and violence;  |
| 8. Rights of the youth to education and employment;   |
| 9. Children’s rights against child labor, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation;   |
| 10. Rights of indigenous peoples, national minorities, and nationalities for self-determination and decolonization against discrimination, racism, and national oppression by imperialism and local reaction;   |
| 11. The rights of teachers, researchers and other educational personnel and struggle against ideas and researches directed against the people;  |
| 12. The right of the people to health and the rights of health workers;   |

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| 13. Science and technology for the people and development, environmental protection against plunder and pollution and the destruction of the foundations of human life, the right to safe and healthy food and water and opposition to manipulation of genetic technology for imperialist profit; |
| 14. Arts and culture and free flow of information in the service of the people and the rights of artists, creative writers, journalists and other cultural workers against imperialist and reactionary propaganda and oppression;   |
| 15. Rights and welfare of homeless persons, refugees and migrant workers displaced by imperialism and local reactionaries;  |
| 16. Rights of elderly and other differently-abled people to a life of dignity and secure existence;   |
| 17. Rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people against discrimination, intolerance and homophobia.  |

**What Membership Involves**

Having the option to participate in ILPS international assemblies every three years, ability to network and organize with other member organizations. We definitely won't all agree on all of the principles of the League and the work of all of the member organizations. That said, I think this is a powerful chance to build strong relationships with radical organizations fighting US-led imperialism around the world and increase the presence of tax resistance as an internationally recognized tactic for change.

**Current Members**

There are hundreds of members but some of the current ILPS members in the US and around the world are:

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| ● Anakbayan                             |
| ● BAYAN                                 |
| ● Black Alliance for Just Immigration   |
| ● Chelsea Uniting Against the War       |
| ● Filipino Migrant Center               |
| ● Frente Unido Inmigrantes Ecuatorianos |
| ● GABRIELA                              |
| ● Habi ng Kalinangan (Habi Arts)        |
| ● Indigenous Drum                       |
| ● International Action Center           |
| ● JFMMLN Sur De California              |

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| ● Land is Life  |
| ● National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON)                    |
| ● One Billion Rising  |
| ● Palestinian Youth Movement  |
| ● PUSO/ No to WTO   |
| ● Red Guards Los Angeles  |
| ● United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC)                            |
| ● La Unidad Popular Revolucionara Anti-imperialista                   |
| ● Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal                 |
| ● 350.Org Philippines   |
| ● All Nepal Women's Association                                       |
| ● Lawyers Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples |
| ● Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU) Macau                       |
| ● Tamil Nadu Women's Forum  |
| ● Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union Federation (BIGUF)     |
| ● Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network                               |
| ● Consider The Trouble Hong Kong                                      |

To view the full list of all member organizations, visit <http://www.ilps.info/en/organizations/>

## **Proposal 4: Continue and Expand on the Divest/Invest Theme - Tax Day 2018**

From: Erica Weiland, NWTRCC Social Media Consultant

Proposal: To continue the "Divest from War, Invest in People" theme for NWTRCC's work around Tax Day 2018. Specific elements of continuing this theme:

- Develop a consistent look for "divest" theme materials, including fonts, colors, and design - reprint existing literature as needed with new design. Redesign Peace Tax Return booklet to fit in with this campaign (but also to stand alone). - Who: NWTRCC consultants plus design volunteers
- Recruit NWTRCC network members and other people to write divestment themed blog posts on a variety of issues, relating them back to war and militarism - Who: NWTRCC consultant managing the blog, volunteers writing posts
- Create a uniquely-designed landing page with a new domain name (divestfromwar.org is taken - divestingfromwar.org? wardinvestment.org?), to tie together our divestment themed literature and outreach. This would be

similar to those separate websites/landing pages developed for the Hang Up On War and War Tax Boycott campaigns. Incorporate the existing War Tax Boycott page and materials into the new Divest from War, Invest in People page. Develop the site using a basic but customized WordPress theme to keep things simple. - Who: NWTRCC consultants and/or volunteers to develop, depending on interest and abilities

- Specifically encourage NWTRCC affiliates and network members to connect with divestment campaigns in their communities, using existing organizing guide and other literature. - Who: NWTRCC consultants and volunteers

Budget for literature design and printing, and domain purchase and development of new landing page: \$500 plus necessary consultant time.

Additional potential elements of this proposal:

- (up to \$300) Retain an artist (perhaps one of the comic artists originally identified by the comic book committee) to create a banner or graphic for the webpage and/or for new literature
- (no additional upfront cost, but 10-20 hours of consultant time to create, edit, release) Create a podcast on divestment with guests from different divestment movements

Background: In November 2015, the CC first approved a proposal to focus around the theme "Divest from the Pentagon, Invest in People" for the upcoming Tax Day, with funds to be made available to affiliates who were organizing events and activities around this theme during tax season. Over the past two years, NWTRCC consultants and network members have developed a variety of literature on the divestment theme, with more to come (Sam is completing designs for a new palm card and flyer).

At the same time, divestment continues to be a highly popular theme among many other social movements. The recent solidarity protests against banks invested in the Dakota Access Pipeline called for people to divest personally from those banks and to pressure local governments and universities to also divest from those banks. CodePink has just launched a "Divest from the war machine" campaign that encourages people to work for institutional divestment from the military-industrial complex. The Movement for Black Lives' Vision for Black Lives includes an Invest-Divest platform that calls for a 50% reduction in the military budget and redirection of that money.

And longer-term movements for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against the Israeli government and for divestment from fossil fuels all continue.

All things considered, NWTRCC can use this common divest messaging to emphasize, as we have been for 2 years already, that divesting from militarism means not paying taxes for it. And investing in people means redirecting those taxes to better causes.