

Proposal 2: Peace Tax Return Update

Link to current version: <https://nwtrcc.org/PDFs/PeaceTaxReturn.pdf>

The below proposal

- shortens the return to one standard sheet of paper (instead of legal size) so that it can be easily printed at home.
- adds connections to climate crisis, border militarization, and police militarization

Peace Tax Return Tax Year 20__

Produced by: National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC), PO Box 5616, Milwaukee, WI 53205, www.nwtrcc.org Note: This is not an official IRS form. Use it to divest from war while demanding investment in people and the earth.

This form can be used by anyone, whether you are refusing to pay all or some of your war taxes, make below the taxable amount, or pay your war taxes under protest. There are two parts to this form. Please read the Instructions on the reverse. If you do not file or file online and want to send a protest, mail Part A to Office of the Commissioner, IRS, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20224 and to elected officials.

Part A: Form to be sent to the IRS and/or elected officials.

To the IRS and Elected Officials:

I am appalled by the amount of my tax dollars being used for war and its harmful effects.

- More than \$6 trillion has been spent on the U.S. wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The Pentagon is the largest user of oil in the world, burning, burning 240,000 barrels of oil per day in 2014.
- The U.S. now spends over \$1 trillion a year on the military compared to about \$13.2 billion (in 2017) to address the climate emergency.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids on immigrant communities separate families and are inhumane.
- Between 1997 to 2014, the Department of Defense transferred \$4.3 billion in military equipment to local law agencies. Militarized police units are more likely to be deployed in black neighborhoods.

Each year about half of our tax dollars are used to pay for current and past wars and the weapons of future wars. If instead, this money were invested for humanitarian purposes, we could truly build a better and more secure world.

I am paying my federal income taxes, but request that part of my taxes used for military purposes be diverted to non-military purposes.

I do not owe taxes this year, but still hope that the IRS will join me and divest from war, invest in people!

I feel so strongly about this that I am refusing to pay _____% or \$_____ of my taxes owed to the IRS. I will either set this money aside to pay at a time when it will not be used for war, or I will give this amount to programs that help build true peace and security. I understand that the IRS may use its enforcement procedures to collect this money from me, but I hope that you will instead join me and divest from war, invest in people!

Signature _____ Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Part B – Please help us to track the use of this form by filling out this section and returning it to our office at the address below.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please check all that apply:

- I completed Part A and sent it to the IRS
- I sent a copy of Part A to my elected officials.
- If you refused to pay some or all of your taxes, what amount was refused \$_____.
- Please add me to your mailing list.
- Please send me ___ copies of this flyer.
- Enclosed is a contribution for the work of NWTRCC

Return this section to: National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC), PO Box 5616, Milwaukee, WI 53205

Thank you!

[Other side of form]

PEACE TAX RETURN

Use this form to divest from war taxes.

A thief says, "Your money or your life." The Pentagon says, "Your money and your life." Refuse to give either one. -Maurice McCrackin

Instructions for Peace Tax Return

Who should use this form?

This form is for people who want to register a protest to paying taxes for war.

Is this form illegal?

You have the right to protest actions by the government with which you do not agree. Using this form is an exercise of your freedom of speech. (See the next section regarding refusal to pay taxes.) The IRS regulations state that you should not write messages on their official forms, such as the 1040 form, but enclosing a note or letter of protest with your mailed in return is allowed. The IRS may send a warning letter about "frivolous returns" in response, but that letter can usually be ignored. War tax resisters have many years of experience with this, but to avoid any worry you might choose to send your Peace Tax Return or protest letter in a separate envelope to the IRS Commissioner's address at the top of the form.

Is it illegal to refuse to pay taxes?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes "freedom of conscience" as a human right. Many who refuse to pay war taxes believe our government should recognize a conscientious objector status for war tax refusers (see peacetaxfund.org). However, under current tax laws in the U.S., there is no legal option to send tax dollars to an organization of one's choice rather than to the IRS to prevent taxes being used for war. The IRS has full power to enforce collection of taxes not paid to the government. This is usually done through letters demanding payment, but can involve seizures, such as of funds from bank accounts or salaries. Making charitable contributions and seeking out all options for deductions and credits may help to legally reduce taxes if you file. Living below the taxable income (approximately \$12,000 for a single person in 2019) is also legal. If you choose either of these options to lower your complicity with war, register your protest by using Part A of this form. Protesting war taxes involves risks. Feminist/peace activist Barbara Deming put it well: "Think first about the action that is right to take, and think later about coping with one's fears."

Instructions

(Please read through the above first.)

Part A

This section is for 1) people who are getting a refund from the IRS because taxes have already been paid through payroll withholding; 2) people who are paying their taxes in full but under protest; 3) people who do not owe tax on April 15 because they have used legal methods to reduce their tax bill; 4) people who refuse to pay some or all of their federal taxes because they do not want to pay for war.

If you are in group 1 or 2, please check the first box in Part A.

If you are in group 3, please check the second box in Part A.

If you are in group 4, please check the third box in Part A. This last act is an act of civil disobedience. Fill in the percentage and/or amount you are refusing. (Example: 50% of \$1,500 tax due is \$750, or refuse a small amount as a protest, such as \$1 or \$10.)

For all groups, feel free to add your own thoughts on this form and enclose it when you file your IRS return, or send it with a separate letter if you choose. Send copies to elected officials, and join our public resisters list at wartaxdivestment.org.

Part B

Please fill out and return this form to NWTRCC (anonymously if you prefer)

- to let us know that you have used the Peace Tax Return
- to request more information
- to be added to our mailing list

[Bottom right hand corner]

NWTRCC Logo

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee

PO Box 5616, Milwaukee, WI 53205

Office/War Tax Resistance Hotline: 1.800.269.7464 nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org

nwtrcc.org · wartaxdivestment.org

Local Contact: