



NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NWTRCC)

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Dear war tax resisters and friends,

As the United States military has carried out a messy withdrawal from the twenty-year war and occupation of Afghanistan that has affected millions of lives (and led to incalculable suffering and death), I have been thinking about my first foray into anti-war activism, and the things I've learned over the years since.

The war in Afghanistan was my first big anti-war awakening. I joined the anti-war coalition that formed at my university. When we were writing our coalition's platform, I wanted our opposition to the war to be targeted. I believed that we had to focus on ending this war. Other coalition members wanted our platform to include solidarity with Palestinians, Central Americans, and others affected by U.S. militarism. I didn't quite understand this at the time, but over the next few years, I realized that we need to clearly oppose each war in the context of U.S. militarism's broad scale of terror over generations.

That new understanding, in part, helped lead me to war tax resistance.

And over my years in NWTRCC, I've seen our work grow and change because we too have recognized the need for change—or have been pushed to change.

From 2013 to 2018, I was NWTRCC's social media consultant, and we took on the work of reaching out to new generations of resisters through the internet. We brought on Sam Koplinka-Loehr for a year-plus of field organizing and outreach work that helped deepen our understanding of racial and economic justice. And our current outreach consultant Chrissy Kirchhoeffler has been doing amazing outreach work before and during this strange pandemic time.



Erica Leigh speaking at
a People's Life Fund Event

We paid youth advisory group members to advise us on our outreach materials and message. We have reached out to racial justice, climate justice, and other activist communities.

During my time with NWTRCC there have been amazing coordinators, first Ruth Benn and now Lincoln Rice. They have kept our office and resources active and updated, steering the ship of this nationally dispersed network

As we build these connections, NWTRCC hasn't wavered in our opposition to spending money on war, no matter which president is at the helm of this war machine, no matter what excuses powerbrokers make for continued state violence.

Your generous donation this year will ensure NWTRCC can maintain our role as a national resource and community for war tax resisters. As new generations of resisters are ready to take the step, let's stay ready to learn from and grow with them—until every dollar is redirected, every war is ended, and every tank is dismantled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica Leigh". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Erica" and "Leigh" being capitalized and prominent.

Erica Leigh