

# PEACE TAX RETURN Tax Year 202

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 to state a conscientious objection to the use of your taxes on war, whether you are refusing to pay all or some of your war taxes, you make below the taxable amount, or you 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 if you 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 ethically opposed to the amount of my tax dollars being used for war and its harmful effects.

- More than 3 million people have been killed during the U.S. wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Millions of families have been displaced during these wars over oil.
- The Pentagon is the largest user of oil in the world, 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.
- The militarized Custom and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) terrorize our immigrant communities with raids which inhumanely separate families.
- The Department of Defense has transferred \$4.3 billion in military equipment to local law agencies. Militarized police are deployed more in Black, brown, and indigenous neighborhoods and often act like an occupying army.

Each year about half of our tax dollars are used to pay for current and past wars, and for 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 the 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!**

# 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?

No. 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. 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; however, 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?

Yes. 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 (e.g., funds from bank accounts or salaries). **There are legal ways to lower the taxes you owe.** 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 (\$12,400 for a single person in 2020) is also legal.

NWTRCC was founded in 1982 as a coalition of local, regional, and national groups supportive of war tax resistance. Through the redirection of our tax dollars, NWTRCC members contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all.

NWTRCC will put you in touch with groups in your area if you contact us at the address below.

Contributions from individuals sustain our efforts. Your financial support will help us continue our work.

## 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

### 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 taxes 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](http://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

Local Contact:

