

10 Things you can do to help prevent the next war!

1. Educate yourself on the issues.

Make a commitment to learning more about a part of the world or a country that has an antagonistic relationship w/ the US gov't. The more we humanize people we are taught to see as enemies, the harder it is for our gov't to persuade us to fight them.

2. Demand truthful media.

The media is the voice of democracy. Pressure the mainstream media to cover events fairly & to be an outlet for a variety of voices. Give your local media a list of peace "experts" they should turn to. Complain, call, write, or organize a protest when the coverage is skewed toward war.

Support indy news outlets that provide critical info & alternative viewpoints.

3. Communicate!

After you educate yourself, don't be afraid to speak out. Talk w/ your friends, neighbors, relatives, coworkers, classmates. Talk to people outside the choir and learn from people you disagree with. Call radio & TV talk shows, including the conservative ones. Write letters to the editor.

4. Hold your leaders accountable.

Elected officials are civil servants who are supposed to represent you- so pressure them to do so. Develop a relationship w/ your local reps, setting up regular meetings between them & your allies in the community. When they take bad positions, make sure they hear from you loud and clear.

5. Help the United States kick our oil addiction.

U.S. policy in the Mid East & other regions is conditioned by our dependence on foreign oil. Use public transport, ride a bike, drive a fuel-efficient car & make your home & workplace more energy efficient. Volunteer w/ a group in your community that's promoting local and state initiatives to decrease oil consumption, and join nat'l campaigns like the Apollo Alliance.

6. Build the peace movement.

The massive outpouring of antiwar sentiment before the U.S. invasion of Iraq showed that there is a wellspring of support for our cause. Join a local group that speaks to you. Go to teach-ins, speak-outs, and marches. Learn from them & help organize new ones that reach to broader sectors of the community. Make sure you're connected to *United for Peace and Justice*.

7. Support members of the military who are speaking out.

Support military families who are speaking out against the war, & soldiers who are speaking out and refusing to fight. We need to support counter-recruitment efforts that provide youth w/ a truthful picture of risks & other options. Check out *Military Families Speak Out* (mfso.org) Vets against the Iraq War (www.vaiw.net) and (www.objector.org) for a list of CR & support groups.

8. Protect our civil liberties & oppose backlash against immigrants

Be a community watchdog ready to speak out against repressive measures. Oppose bills such as the Patriot Act that erode our basic rights. Join civil liberties groups such as the ACLU (aclu.org) and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

9. Support the creation of a Department of Peace

Thanks to U.S. rep Dennis Kucinich, there is a piece of legislation in Congress that would create a Department of Peace. Domestically, the dept would address issues such as domestic violence, child abuse, and mistreatment of the elderly. Internationally, it would advise the president on addressing the root causes of war & interventions that can be taken before violence begins (www.dopcampaign.org).

10. Teach Peace

Encourage your public schools and libraries to carry peace curricula and create "peace places" in schools. For ideas contact Educators for Social Responsibility (www.esrnational.org), the Nat'l Peace Foundation (nationalpeace.org), or the Alliance for Childhood (allianceforchildhood.net).

www.codepinkalert.org

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