



CODEPINK Background

CODEPINK is a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the war in Iraq, stop new wars, and redirect our energies and resources into healthcare, education and other life-affirming activities!

CODEPINK rejects fear-based politics that justify violence, and instead calls for policies based on compassion, kindness and a commitment to international law.

With an emphasis on joy and humor, CODEPINK women and men seek to activate, amplify and inspire a community of peacemakers through creative campaigns and a commitment to non-violence.

The CODEPINK Story: How it all started

On November 14, 2002, about 100 women gathered in front of the White House for a vigil, standing up for peace. Through the next four months, on each cold, somber day, they held their ground. Their vigil, led by Medea Benjamin, a longtime peace activist, Jodie Evans, a community, social and political organizer for the last 30 years, Diane Wilson, a Texan environmentalist, Starhawk, writer and ecofeminist, inspired people from all walks of life, and from all over the country to stand for the same message. Many organizations joined them, including Greenpeace, WILPF, WAND, Public Citizen, National Organization of Women, Women for Women International and Neighbors for Peace and Justice.

The vigil culminated on March 8, International Women's Day, when we celebrated women as global peacemakers with a week of activities, rallies and a march to encircle the White House in pink. More than 10,000 people participated, and a group of 25 women, including acclaimed author Alice Walker, poets Maxine Hong Kingston and Susan Griffin, Starhawk, Evans and Benjamin, were arrested for taking our peaceful protest right up to the White House gate.

Since then CODEPINK has become a worldwide network of women and men committed to working for peace and

social justice. We have become famous for confronting the warmongers, whether in the halls of Congress, the national conventions of both the Republicans and Democrats, George Bush's fundraisers, Donald Rumsfeld and Nancy Pelosi's house. We have supported countless women in their courageous fight to mobilize and bring peace to the forefront of their communities. Today, there are more than 250 local CODEPINK groups in the U.S. and around the world!

We've also built global ties. We sent our own peacemaking delegations to Iran in 2005, attended the international war tribunal in Turkey and Britain's Stop the War assembly, and participated in the World Social Forum in 2005 in Brazil. CODEPINK is one of the only international groups getting aid to the war-terrorized people of Iraq. We delivered over \$600,000 in humanitarian aid to Iraqi civilians after the destruction of Fallujah.

» In 2007, we led a 15-person delegation to Guantanamo to call for the closing of the infamous prison. We mobilized members for the United for Peace & Justice March and Lobby Day in Washington DC, kicked off with a Women's Convergence featuring Jane Fonda, Sean Penn, Eve Ensler and 3,000 of our closest friends! We coordinated a series

of actions around the country, including Congressional Phone-a-thons, bi-coastal “Camp Pelosi”, a national Bird-Dog Hillary campaign, and more. We traveled to Pakistan to support an ongoing presence of U.S. human rights observers. Last year we also set up a headquarters in D.C., a rented “Pink House” blocks from the Capitol Hill, allowing CodePinkers nationwide to be a daily presence in the Halls of Congress. The house has been the subject of dozens of articles, news broadcasts and documentaries around the world. It is also home to summer activist training camps.

- » In 2008, we hosted “Kiss Ins” for peace on Valentine’s Day at military recruiting centers across the country. We convinced 41 mayors to sign on to the “Mayors For Peace” resolution, which asks Congress to prohibit the use of funds to carry out military action against Iran without explicit Congressional authorization. We are currently working to pressure Congress to withdraw House Resolution 362, which calls for sanctions on Iran and a naval blockade of its ports, with many creative teach-ins and actions, including the staging of a pink “peace blockade” around the Washington, D.C. houseboat of Congressman Gary Ackerman.
- » At the Democratic and Republican National Conventions this year, we also plan to launch the beginning of our newest campaign, “War Is Not Green,” which encourages Americans who support peace and sustainability to fight war; the U.S. military is the single largest consumer of oil in the world and the world’s larger polluter, generating 750,000 tons of toxic waste annually. It maintains over 700 bases worldwide, contaminating local communities and causing increased rates of cancer, kidney disease, birth defects and miscarriages.



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