

# CODEPINK FAQs



## What is CODEPINK?

CODEPINK is a women-led and women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement dedicated to stopping the war in Iraq, preventing future wars and redirecting our country's resources into life-affirming activities: education, health care, veteran's benefits and social services. CODEPINK emerged out of a

desperate desire by a group of American women to stop the Bush administration from invading Iraq. We have given "PINK slips" to poor leaders, PINK badges of courage to good ones—we hold vigils and marches to pressure Congress. We now have over 250 local CODEPINK groups throughout the US and overseas, and a supporter list of more than 200,000 people.

## What does the name mean?

The name CODEPINK plays on the Bush Administration's color-coded homeland security alerts — yellow, orange, red — that signal terrorist threats. While Bush's color-coded alerts are based on fear and are used to justify violence, the CODEPINK alert is a feisty call for women and men to "wage peace."

## Who is a CODEPINK Member?

We do not ask for dues, nor do we have an official induction or secret handshakes to learn. We don't require official affiliation to speak, act, or protest with CODEPINK. Though initiated by women and composed primarily of women, CODEPINK does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sex, ethnicity, age, religion, or social-economic status.

## People who:

- » are committed to creative protest against militarism and injustice are CODEPINK.
- » want to influence a shift in the focus of world society and governments from militarism to life-affirming endeavors are CODEPINK.

- » are not ashamed to wear a big pink button, and thereby encourage conversation are CODEPINK.
- » are not afraid to be unreasonable or to be called un-patriotic in the name of peace and social justice are CODEPINK.
- » realize that you must be the change you want to see in this world are CODEPINK.

## Can men join CODEPINK?

Yes! There are many men in CODEPINK who are supportive and respectful of women taking on leadership roles.

## What does "Stop the Next War Now" mean?

CODEPINK started with the intention of stopping the invasion of Iraq before it started, but during our visit to Iraq, it became clear that war was imminent. Now, we are dedicated to creating a movement that is capable of stopping the next war, whether it is in Iran or anywhere else. We seek to educate ourselves, expose the truth to the public and create a culture of peace and compassion before we are saddled with another expensive, unjust war.

## Is CODEPINK a feminist organization?

CODEPINK is a women-led organization that seeks to empower women politically, creating space for women to speak out for justice and peace in their communities, the media and the halls of Congress. As an organization, we embrace many feminist values but we do not self-identify as feminist, though many members self-identify as such. Furthermore, women are not better or purer or more innately nurturing than men, but men have busied themselves making war — so we are taking the lead for peace.

## How are donations used?

Our program funding mostly comes from individual donors. CODEPINK National is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Each contribution helps us get the anti-war message out by unfurling pink slips, organizing marches to end the war in DC, collecting humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Iraq, rebuilding New Orleans, and working for peace.

## How do local CODEPINK chapters form?

Interested individuals sign up to be a local coordinator on our website and access our online organizing tools to inspire their communities into becoming peace activists.

### How many local chapters are there?

- » There are more than 200 local chapters nationwide and around the world, including Australia, Brazil, England, Japan, Canada, Liberia, Pakistan, Fiji, Bangladesh, Germany, New Zealand and Cameroon. See the complete list here: [www.codepinkalert.org/groups.php](http://www.codepinkalert.org/groups.php)
- » Sixty local chapters have their own web presence.

### What do local chapters do?

- » Local chapters create their own actions—inspired by a variety of campaign ideas, tools and conversations offered by the CODEPINK National group—to help end war and create peace nonviolently. Their upcoming activities are listed on our calendar: [www.codepinkalert.org/calendar](http://www.codepinkalert.org/calendar).
- » Between July 07–08, local chapters listed more than 200 actions with photos, stories, YouTube videos, and media links here: [www.codepinkalert.org/spotlight](http://www.codepinkalert.org/spotlight).

### How are local chapters and individual members involved in the DNC and RNC?

By August 1, more than 200 CODEPINK members nationwide had registered to attend the conventions, with more sign-ups coming each week. Local groups are busy preparing for the country's biggest parties by throwing their own Peace Room house parties or art parties to build props, galvanize their communities in local actions, and plan for an incredible two weeks of celebrating and spreading the message of peace alongside thousands of Americans!

### CODEPINK D.C. Activist House

- » CODEPINK activists and allies are welcome to stay our very own house in Washington, D.C., which opened in March 2007. By staying at the house, activists can easily attend Congressional hearings and other sessions on the Hill, as well as participate in actions, marches and other events to help stop the war and prevent future wars.

### What are your current campaigns?

- » **PeaceRoom2008:** initiated by CODEPINK's 501(c)(4) issue advocacy organization, CODEPINK Action Fund to include:
  - **Busting McCain:** to tell the truth about what John McCain is really selling (endless war, occupation, military spending, and conflict), and pressure McCain to move in the direction of diplomacy and de-escalation instead

of continued war and escalated international violence.

- **Moving Obama:** to push Obama to move into becoming a true peace candidate, to end the war, and to be worthy of his movement for real change in the White House.
- **Give Peace a Vote:** Encouraging people to pledge their vote for peace candidates, making visible a powerful political force that politicians cannot ignore.

### » CODEPINK National campaigns:

- **Don't Iraq Iran:** dedicated to preventing war with Iran.
- **War Is Not Green:** devoted to awareness-raising about the damaging effects of war on the environment, and promoting sustainable, life-fulfilling war-alternatives.
- **Counter-Recruitment:** supporting war resisters and raising awareness about military sexual trauma suffered by women in the military.
- **Women Say NO to War:** raising awareness about the plight of Iraqi women, children and refugees, and creating actions to support peace in countries around the world.

### How many websites does CODEPINK have?

CODEPINK has two main award-winning websites and several special campaign microsites:

- » **[www.codepinkalert.org](http://www.codepinkalert.org):** for CODEPINK national campaigns and local groups resources.
- » **[www.codepinkaction.org](http://www.codepinkaction.org):** for Congressional pressure and elections-related work.

CODEPINK won the 2008 Progressive Source Awards Judges' Choice for "Best Microsite" in 2008, and in 2007, we won their "Best Homepage" award.

### What does the CODEPINK Store offer?

Supporters can order CODEPINK yoga pants, t-shirts, hats, and more at the online store, [www.codepinkalert.org/catalog/](http://www.codepinkalert.org/catalog/). The mission of the store is two-fold: to support sustainable and socially responsibly products, services and businesses and to promote the idea of creating and living in a peaceful world. All proceeds support our causes. We also sell delicious fair-trade, organic coffee, grown and harvested through Las Hermanas, a women-initiated project of the Soppexcca Cooperative of Nicaragua, and roasted by the artisan coffee roaster the Thanksgiving Coffee Company. The company was recently profiled in the August issue of "O: The Oprah Magazine"!