

SEEKING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

Problems Addressed

In Afghanistan, civilian casualties, violence against women and massive human rights violations have been escalating despite increase in U.S. and NATO foreign troops. The status of women in Afghanistan remains an issue of the biggest concern for women’s groups and civil rights advocates. Ten years after the U.S. and NATO invasion, the United Nations continues to characterize Afghanistan as “the most dangerous place in the world to be a woman.” The resolution outlines advocacy needed regarding Afghanistan that is consistent with our belief that “war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ.”

- There is no “military solution” in Afghanistan. Even with the surge of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, the security situation on the ground has been deteriorating with the military action expanding to Pakistan.
- The majority of the public in the United States and NATO countries, as well as most Afghans, oppose the war.
- The continuing militarization of Afghan society has prolonged a cycle of militarism, violence and suffering in the country, and it has taken significant resources away from diplomatic and development work.
- In contrast to the military expenditures in Afghanistan (more than \$100 billion a year), United Methodists have been supporting local community-led development efforts for more than 45 years. United Methodists have also recognized the significant role that Afghan women play in calling and working for peace.

Actions Proposed

1. Prompt and complete withdrawal of foreign troops and immediate unilateral cease-fire in Afghanistan.
2. The immediate end to drone bombing strikes in both Afghanistan and Pakistan with full and independent investigations of all bombings.
3. Promote Afghan-led peace talks that include women at all stages.
4. End the militarization of Afghanistan by stopping all arms shipments and by not using foreign aid to train, equip or fund the Afghan military, Afghan police forces or private security contractors.
5. Empower Afghan women by reallocating resources to health and education efforts.
6. Redirect the \$100+ billion of taxpayer’s dollars that the U.S. government spends annually on the war in Afghanistan into improving the economy and providing social services that benefit women, children and communities in the United States and around the world.
7. Shift and unlink military spending to support impartial, nonpolitical and strictly humanitarian efforts.
8. Challenge corruption by cutting off the sources of foreign funds that are channeled for corrupt Afghan officials and/or warlords.
9. Support peace education, provision of counseling and alternative service education to vulnerable youth to prevent them from becoming easy targets for military recruitment.
10. Support veterans, their families, and Afghan civilians suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by raising awareness about PTSD’s destructive effects and advocating for full funding of related health care.
11. Stand with communities facing discrimination as a result of government measures that increase racial profiling and scapegoating.
12. Advocate for regional negotiations, diplomacy and cooperation that includes women’s leadership and participation in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.



United
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Women

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