

# PEACE MANIFESTO

The Fellowship of Reconciliation wants to see a Wales which is fair and equal for all of our nation's people. This is our peace manifesto for the 2021 Senedd Elections. We call upon candidates, and the new Welsh Government, to consider the role of peace in our society and the way in which working for peace could strengthen our communities. In order to work in accordance with the Future Generations Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2015 we call upon the political parties to adopt our action points in order to create a Wales which works for peace:

## EDUCATION

### 1. MILITARISM IN OUR SCHOOLS

Wales, along with the United Kingdom, is the only country in Europe which still recruits people between 16 and 18 years of age into the army. It is therefore possible for a young person in Wales to be recruited into the army while still at school. A recent joint report by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Peace Pledge Union reveals the obvious dangers which follow from this and we call upon the next Welsh Government:

**-> To prohibit the army from recruiting young Welsh people under age 18 into its ranks**

### 2. THE NEW CURRICULUM

Pacifism has played an important part in Welsh history and the launch of the new curriculum is an opportunity to reflect this. The Fellowship of Reconciliation strongly believes that a non-violent culture should be nurtured in our schools and colleges. We welcome the recent launch of the Peace Academy in Wales and look forward to its going from strength to strength, occupying a prominent and central position in reflecting and developing pacifism in Wales. By placing pacifism at the heart of our schools' and colleges' culture, we believe that the four purposes of the new curriculum will be greatly facilitated. The far-reaching effect of this will be

**-> To teach the young people of Wales how to conduct themselves and treat others with respect and kindness and how to resolve problems and disagreements by peaceful means, thus laying good foundations for the future**

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## WELLBEING

### 3. PROMOTING PEACE

We recognise the role of the Welsh Government leading the way in bringing about social changes. Action for peace is as important as utilizing it as a symbol. By collaborating with movements such as the Fellowship of Reconciliation the government should

**-> Target peace-promotion in the workplace and invest in methods of doing so.**

## 4. DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ARMS INDUSTRY

In order to accord with the requirements of the Future Generations Wellbeing Act, the Welsh Government should look to the creation of a prosperous Wales which "recognises the limits of the global environment, and which consequently utilizes resources effectively and proportionately". The population of Wales pays £572.40 per head towards the arms industry. Are there not more sustainable means of spending these scarce resources? A green recovery is essential if Wales is to create an economy that is sustainable and relevant to its people's future.

**-> The Government should target, create and invest in green jobs rather than the arms industry which causes violent environmental destruction across the globe.**

## 5. MILITARY MUSEUM / PEACEFUL CITY

Recent plans supported by Cardiff Council to build a Military Academy on a greenfield site in Butetown undermine the heritage of the docklands and the history of pacifism which exists in our capital city. We call upon the Welsh Government to

**-> Listen to the opposition of the people of Butetown and Cardiff and commit to rejecting plans which celebrate war and violence and instead invest in celebrating the culture and heritage of all of Wales's diverse communities.**

## 6. WALES AND THE WORLD

We call upon the new government to consider seriously the role of the Welsh Government and its international policy in "contributing positively to global wellbeing". Wales was the world's first Fair Trade nation and we should

**-> Ensure that all institutions in Wales adhere to those standards**

**-> Be open and honest about the link between the arms industry in Wales and how this contributes to suffering all over the world.**

**-> Include the message of pacifism as part of Wales's inheritance to the world, placing it at the heart of all our government's international communications and strategy.**

## 7. PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The danger from nuclear arms is just as great to Wales as it is to any other nation. The pandemic has exposed the fact that weapons cannot protect us from the most dangerous sicknesses of our planet or the fact that no benefit either to people or planet can come from using nuclear weapons. Here is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with two-thirds of the world's governments and call upon those countries that still have nuclear weapons to dispose of them safely.

**-> We call upon the Welsh Government to support in principle The United Nations Nuclear Arms Prohibition Treaty**

## 8. DEMILITARISING OUR LAND

In nearly every corner of Wales our land is used to train people to kill in wars all over the world. In order to create a Wales of cohesive communities, these areas should be owned by nature and the local population. It is high time for us to diversify and offer their land back to the communities of Epynt and Castlemartin. Here we have a golden opportunity to create dozens of publicly-owned farms that could be let to a new generation of young farmers who cannot get their feet on the lowest rung of the ladder.

**-> We call upon the Welsh Government to work for the relocation of the army from Welsh lands.**