

## NATO is the largest nuclear armed war machine in the world

We are women from across the world, who deeply love our planet. We cherish the universal principles of equality, justice and peace enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We fight for the rights of women and peoples of the world against all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination.

NATO is not a democratic institution. It is an elite club of the world's major nuclear armed militaries. NATO views war and the threat of war as the solutions to all problems. There are no preparations for peace and dialogue. There are only preparations for war.

NATO interference in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Libya and Ukraine have been disastrous. Countries have been decimated. Millions slaughtered.

The war in Ukraine could not have happened without breaking promises to Russia and expanding NATO eastwards. The vicious cycle of threats, violence, and militarization between NATO and Russia risks nuclear devastation for us all.

Nuclear weapons and nuclear energy are two sides of the same coin. This slow, expensive and dangerous nuclear energy creates horrifying toxic waste which stays poisonous for hundreds of generations. Every nuclear reactor is a catastrophe waiting to happen.

Militarism is getting worse under NATO, and shareholders in the Military Industrial Complex - the weapons makers - are getting richer.

As the US leads NATO countries towards hot wars in China, Russia and the Middle East, the cost to the environment will become irretrievable. We need a world without NATO to live in harmony with our environment; to eliminate poverty, hunger, illness and homelessness; and where we resolve conflict with mature diplomacy through the only organization that represents the whole world – the United Nations.

## You can join Global Women United for Peace Against NATO by going to our website <a href="www.womenagainstnato.org">www.womenagainstnato.org</a> and signing our Declaration for Peace

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principles of equality, justice and peace affirmed by the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; we fight for the affirmation of the rights of women and peoples, against all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination.

For decades, we have been engaged in the search for global peace, for a world system that abolishes war. We recognise the role that capitalism plays in generating militarism and war, and we want a new, non-militarized security, to ensure the life and health of present and future generations of all on this planet – and of the planet itself.

Our aspiration for peace is today threatened by the escalating arms race and the risk of nuclear war and the militarisation of international relations. Humanity is being led to catastrophe. NATO's decisions since 1991 have been responsible for developing global confrontation. The latest stage in this policy process is the so-called New Strategic Concept, agreed at the NATO heads of state summit in Madrid in 2022 which established roles and tasks that go far beyond NATO's original 'defensive' purposes, replacing functions which have been the sole responsibility of the United Nations.

The increasingly global NATO, acting in the interests of the wealthy nations of the 'West', has extended its activities to the rest of the world. NATO seeks to impose a 'model of civilization' well beyond the Euro-Atlantic area of the original Treaty. The New Strategic Concept is completely at odds with the 'Helsinki spirit' that seeks peaceful cooperation between states and the rejection of threat or use of force. This offensive reconfiguration of NATO is in stark contrast with the constitutional principles of many of the member states and often approved without the consent of national parliaments. It is also at odds with the manifest desire for peace of so many of the citizens of the NATO states.

While many face a cost of living crisis, governments are required by NATO to raise military spending beyond 2% of GDP to meet the ongoing frenzied rearmament. This is often accompanied by increasing authoritarianism, and the re-emergence of neo-fascist, nationalist, xenophobic and sexist ideologies.

We want to work with all those who share these goals with us – to speak out for peace, life and liberation. Please support our Declaration and get involved with our network.

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