

# WORLD BEYOND WAR

*Whatever purpose the war system might once have served, it has now become incompatible with human survival.*

## WHILE THE WORLD FACES AN UNPRECEDENTED ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

- War and the preparations for war degrade and destroy ecosystems, and create and release tons of toxic chemicals.
- Nuclear weapons factories have contaminated ground and water with radioactive waste that will be toxic for thousands of years.
- War fighting leaves thousands of square miles of land useless and dangerous because of landmines, depleted uranium weapons and bomb craters that fill with water and become malaria infested.
- Chemical weapons destroy rainforest and mangrove swamps.
- The military is the largest single consumer of oil in the world.
- Military aircraft consume about one quarter of the world's jet fuel.
- The United States Department of Defense uses more fuel per day than the whole of Sweden.

## INCREASING POWER TO DESTROY

- The tools of war are becoming ever more destructive .
- In today's wars, more civilians than soldiers die and are injured .
- Nuclear weapons, if used, could end human societies and even life on the planet.

## THE FINANCIAL COST

- In 2016 the total cost of military violence was **\$14.3 trillion or \$1953** for every human on the planet (Global Peace Index 2017).
- The United States has just increased its military budget to **\$700 Billion** for 2017

## THE HUMAN COST

- The human suffering occasioned by war includes: mass migrations, starvation, maimed children, psychological damage, disease, and death for civilians and soldiers.
- In 2014 the U.N. estimated that it would cost about \$30 billion to end world hunger.

As for the mitigation of climate change, Hannah Ritchie of the University of Edinburgh writes:

*"If we aggressively pursue all of the low cost abatement opportunities now available, the total economic cost would be about \$361 billion a year by 2030. This is less than 1% of the forecasted global GDP by 2030"*

It is also less than half what the United States spends on its military every year.

And health care, education and housing at home and abroad ?

## PEACE IS POSSIBLE

- Humans lived without large-scale violence for over 100,000 years before the social invention of war about 10,000 years ago.
- Human societies have abolished repellent institutions that were widely considered permanent. These include human sacrifice, blood feuds, dueling, slavery, the death penalty, and many others.
- In the 1950s and 1960s more than a hundred nations freed themselves from colonial rule that had lasted centuries.
- In 1993 European nations created the European Union after fighting each other for over a thousand years.
- Since 1993 the general incidence of interstate warfare has been declining.
- In 1994 apartheid ended in South Africa.
- The social system of patriarchy (power hierarchies, reliance on authoritarianism and competition ) fosters wars, the manufacture and stockpiling of weapons, creates enemies and spawns alliances to protect the status quo. But the improving status of women in the West in the last hun-