

War Resisters Support Campaign

A growing number of people are leaving the U.S. military, refusing to fight in Iraq. Some of them are seeking sanctuary in Canada.

Dozens of U.S. war resisters have applied for refuge in Canada. More are coming every month.

Canada has a history of welcoming war resisters. During the Vietnam war, between 50,000 and 80,000 Americans came here. But today, war resisters face new challenges. Changes in immigration laws have made it more difficult for them to gain asylum.

The War Resisters Support Campaign is calling on the Canadian government to make a provision for U.S. war resisters to have sanctuary in this country. A majority of Canadians regardless of political or religious affiliation oppose the Iraq war, and across the country there has been broad support for resisters.

Major national organizations including the United Church of Canada, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Council of Canadians support the campaign, as do prominent Canadians including Bruce Cockburn, Shirley Douglas, David Cronenberg, Ann-Marie MacDonald.

We call on Canadians to send a message to our politicians that U.S. war resisters are welcome here! If they are returned to the US they face punishment for refusing to participate in this illegal war. Due to public outcry Canada did not participate in this war. Your voice can make a difference – together we can win sanctuary for US war resisters.



U.S. war resisters attend a press conference in Toronto, March 2007.
photo: John Bonnar

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How can I help?

There are many ways you can get involved in the War Resisters Support Campaign:

- **Volunteer for the campaign!** We have bi-weekly meetings of resisters and supporters, call the office for the next meeting date.
- Circulate our petition in your workplace, school, neighbourhood, or organization (a downloadable petition is available at www.resisters.ca).
- **Write or call your local MP** expressing your support for Canada providing a refuge for US war resisters.
- **Organize a meeting** and invite a war resister and/or a representative of the War Resisters Support Campaign to speak about the campaign at your local church, synagogue, mosque, library, etc.
- **Make a donation to the campaign.** Donations go towards sustaining resisters until they are able to work, legal costs, and political organizing. Donations can be made online or cheques can be sent to the address below (cheques payable to "War Resisters Support Campaign").
- **Offer housing and friendship.** We're in urgent need of housing, but also social support to help alleviate the burden resisters face in leaving their country and their families. If you can offer temporary accommodation, please contact us at 416.598.1222.

War Resisters Support Campaign
427 Bloor Street West, Box 13
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1X7
resisters@sympatico.ca
www.resisters.ca
416-598-1222



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