

Can We Stand Idly By?



Increasing numbers of young Americans are convinced that U.S. military intervention in Vietnam is an atrocity against the people of Vietnam. They are refusing to participate in what they regard to be criminal policy of the U.S. government.

By insisting upon the responsibility of each citizen to refuse to obey what he considers to be immoral orders of his government (a principle accepted by the U.S. at the Nuremberg Trials), thousands of young men are presently subjecting themselves to the risk of 5 years imprisonment, severe disruption of their personal lives and denunciation by the government.

With the proliferation of Draft Resistance Unions and We Won't Go groups on campuses and in communities throughout the nation, the adult community is confronted with a moral and political challenge. Are we to leave the burdens of conscience and risks involved in resisting the draft solely to those young men who happen to be of draft age?

We who are mothers, teachers, clergymen, sisters, wives and the entire adult community must assume direct, personal and collective responsibility for draft resistance.

What Can Adults Do?

There are presently draft resistance movements organized in 20 to 25 cities across the country. Adults can organize vitally important support programs that could encompass any or all of the following suggested actions:

- * Set up picket lines at the Induction Centers where a draft resister is planning to refuse induction. (Upon his request or approval.)
- * Attend the court proceedings of draft resisters facing trial - this is important for moral support.
- * Organize civil disobedience actions at the time draft resisters are being arrested and in the jails if they are imprisoned. (Some people are preparing to handcuff themselves to resisters facing arrest.)
- * Sign public advocacy and complicity statements urging draft refusal.
- * Organize "adult cluster groups" of 3 to 5 people who will "adopt" individual draft resisters. Those young men who are new to the anti-war movement will be in particular need of all kinds of human support; housing, counseling, legal advice, financial assistance, etc.
- * Locate full & part time jobs from sympathetic businessmen, movement organizations, unions, etc. for resisters (particularly from ghetto & poverty areas) who must be employed while their cases are under litigation - which often takes 2 years or more.
- * Locate parents of 18-20 year olds who would be interested in filing an injunction against the government on the grounds that they are legally responsible for their sons and refuse to let them be drafted.
- * Organize mass parent correspondence with local draft boards. Parents should state their unwillingness to allow their sons to be drafted and inform draft boards that they (1) refuse to allow their sons to register and/or be drafted, (2) refuse to turn over any communication from the draft board to their sons, and (3) are assuming full responsibility for their actions.
- * Organize sit-in protests at draft boards and induction centers and engage in other forms of direct resistance to the draft system.
- * Seek out sympathetic clergy who will allow their churches to be used as sanctuaries by resisters facing arrest.
- * Organize parent action projects to end high school complicity with the draft. File injunctions against high schools, local school boards, boards of education, to stop them from supplying draft boards with the names and addresses of high school seniors and dropouts. Organize student boycotts (with parental approval) in support of this demand.

- * Organize parent action projects around military recruiting assemblies in the high schools. Insist that assemblies provide equal time for speakers presenting the conscientious objector and selective objector alternatives to participation in the military.
- * Raise funds for draft resistance organizers, legal defense, etc.

National Mobilization Committee Draft Resistance Program

The Mobilization's program is geared toward organizing adults to directly aid draft resisters. We are attempting to establish adult support programs (similar to New York City's Support in Action) on a national level by:

- * Organizing adult support groups in cities where draft resistance groups are already operating without such support -- and wherever draft resistance develops. Each local group will develop its own program.
- * Endorsing and circulating the statement advocating draft refusal signed by prominent Americans.
- * Maintaining liaison with all draft resistance groups and circulating a newsletter that will keep other segments of the peace movement informed of the developments in draft resistance and adult support actions across the country.
- * Circulating pledge cards geared toward adults, which would parallel the draft resistance pledge cards being circulated among pre-draft and draft age youth.
- * Seeking out women's peace organizations and other interested groups to organize a mothers' and women's draft resistance project.
- * Raising funds to finance the foregoing as well as for subsidizing draft resistance organizers.
- * Seeking out interested lawyers and lawyers groups to discuss ways of organizing a national legal defense network.

For additional information -

National Organizations working on various aspects of draft resistance:

American Friends Service Committee
15 Rutherford Pl.
New York City

Resist
166 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Catholic Peace Fellowship
5 Beekman St.
New York City

Students for a Democratic Society
1608 West Madison St.
Chicago, Illinois

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO)
2006 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Student Mobilization
17 East 17 St.
New York City

Clergy & Laymen Concerned About Vietnam
475 Riverside Dr.
New York City

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
360 Nelson St. SW
Atlanta, Georgia

Committee for Nonviolent Action
5 Beekman St.
New York City

The Resistance
224 West 4 St.
New York City

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
200 West 135 St.
New York City

War Resisters League
5 Beekman St.
New York City

Episcopal Peace Fellowship
229 East 59th St.
New York City

W.E.B. DuBois Clubs
862 Sixth Ave.
New York City

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Box 271
Nyack, N.Y.

Youth Against War & Fascism
58 West 25 St.
New York City

DRAFT RESISTANCE PROJECT
National Mobilization Committee
857 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10003

- I am interested in working in an adult support program in my area.
- I would like a speaker to address an interested group in my area.
- Please send me additional information.
- Enclosed is \$ _____ to help organize draft resistance.

NAME.....PHONE.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....ZIP.....