



# A People's Budget for Peace

## What is the Cost of War ?

At the start of the Iraq War it was envisioned that the total cost of both the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars would not exceed much more than £1 Billion in total. Yet recent reports suggest that the total costs will reach nearly £12 Billion by the end of this year and Joseph Stiglitz, former chief economist for the World Bank, estimates that the total costs will reach £20 billion by 2010.

The yearly costs of the wars is now reaching over £1 billion per war —expected to reach over £1.5 billion by the end of this year. This makes the total yearly cost between £2 and £3 billion. This will rise to £4 billion a year if the current estimates are correct.

The UK Defence Committee has already criticized the MOD of over spending; between November 2007 and February 2008 there was an increase of 50% between estimated spending and actual spending. The defence budget has risen to £32 billion this year and is expected to grow above inflation for at least the next two years. Despite this the UK's contingency reserve is still being spent on the devastating overseas Wars.

**Scotland's for Peace** is a joint initiative by a range of organizations in civic Scotland. The aim is that Scotland should be known for its contribution to peace and justice rather than for waging war.



## What is the Cost of Nuclear Weapons ?

In March 2007 the House of Commons agreed to the first stages of a plan to replace the Trident nuclear weapon system. The Government said the procurement costs of the new system would be £15-20 billion. But to this has to be added the costs of keeping this new system in service for 30 years, around £45 billion. Giving a total of over £60 billion.

The annual cost of the British nuclear weapons programme was £1.1 billion in 2003/04. It is planned to be £2.1 billion in 2010/11.

At a time of looming recession the Government plan to double their expenditure on Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Find out more:  
<http://www.banthebomb.org/newbombs/TriRepl0808.pdf>

### Special points of interest:

- \* Since 2001 117 British Personnel have lost their lives in the Afghan conflict.
- \* Since 2003 176 British Personnel have lost their lives in the Iraq conflict.
- \* The annual cost of British nuclear weapons has doubled and is now £2 billion
- \* Replacing Trident would cost over £60 billion

## People's Budget for Peace

As well as spending upwards of £2 billion per year on overseas wars the UK government is committed to spending a further £2 billion a year on its Nuclear Weapons Program—Trident. Scotland's contribution to this is £340 million per year. Yet in the current economic climate could this money not be better spent elsewhere?

A People's Budget For Peace is a campaign set up to highlight the growing inequalities between the spending on wars and destructive weaponry and the shortfalls elsewhere. The Budget will highlight ways

in which the money could be used to build real security, meet peoples needs and build a culture of peace.

It is a joint initiative supported by the Church and Society Council of Scotland, Church in Society Committee of the Scotland Episcopal Church, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, Edinburgh CAAT, Iona Community, Justice and Peace Scotland, Northern Friends Peace Board, Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland), Scottish CND, Scottish Islamic Foundation, Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament, Scottish Quaker General Meet-

ing, STUC, Trident Ploughshares, UNA Scotland and UNISON Scotland.

The People's Budget for Peace will take place on Saturday the 25th of October at 12 noon in George Square Glasgow.



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## Alternatives

What else could the money be spent on?

### HEALTH

The new Southern General Hospital in Glasgow will cost £842 million. Instead of spending £2bn a year on wars or Trident the government could spend it on building two new hospitals a year. If they were to stop both Trident and the Wars they could build 4 new hospitals.

Recently the NHS were told to cut costs to pay off their £512 million deficit—the cost of either Trident or



the Wars would have covered this.

### HIGHER EDUCATION.

If Scotland did not have to pay their contribution they could change all students loans to bursaries.

The UK could halve all student debt.

The cost of Trident alone would mean that 635 000 students could have their tuition fees paid each year.



### PENSIONERS

The UK is faced with an ever increasing ageing population, it is estimated that by 2031 the number of people of pensionable age will have increased from 11.4m (2006) to 15.3m, the £2bn that is unnecessarily spent on Trident each year could be used to fund 67000 care home places at the current cost of £30,000pa. This would aid in the financial implications on both the elderly and their families

if they need to go into care, especially as the costs are meant to double within the next 10 years.



## Alternatives cont...

### UK CHILDREN IN POVERTY

The Labour government advised that they were going to cut the number of UK children living in poverty in half by 2010. Yet there has been no significant drop in the numbers since 2000 and between 2007 and 2008 there was an actual increase of 100 000 children living in poverty. The 2008 March budget promised £1bn to reach this target yet this is only half of what is being spent on Trident and only a quarter of what is being spent on Trident plus Wars, leaving Children's charities to ask for a much needed £3bn cash injection.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the biggest issues facing the Global Population is that of Climate Change.

Instead of spending £2bn a year on



weaponry the UK government could

### OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

Currently unsafe drinking water kills 5000 people each day yet the UK government is only committed to spending £200m a year by 2011 to help eradicate this. In the same time they will spend £2bn a year on the renewal of Trident and a further £2bn fighting wars.



One of the Millennium Development Goals was universal primary educa-

tion - to achieve this goal and extra 15m teachers are required. It costs only £40 to train one teacher. Giving up Trident for just one year would help train 50m teachers - nearly three times the required amount.

£2 billion would increase the UK governments overseas aid by 40%.

pay for 500000 1Kw wind turbines which cost £4000. Each Turbine can produce up to 3200 W of energy so 500000 could produce up to 1600000000 W. Reducing the UK's dependency on fossil fuels.

Deforestation of the world's rainforests and major forests accounts for 30% of carbon



emissions, the World Bank estimates that to reduce deforestation by 10% it would cost up to £0.9bn per year.



£2 billion a year would also help insulate 2 million homes a year, which would not only be beneficial to the environment but would also help with the increasing energy fuel bills.

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## Given the choice is this really the way to spend £4 Billion a year?

