

**The Advisory Council
of the Center on Conscience & War**

American Baptist Churches/National Ministries
American Ethical Union
American Friends Service Committee
American Humanist Association
American Muslim Council
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Baptist Peace Fellowship
Bible Students National Committee
for Religious Objection
Bruderhof Communities
Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Catholic Peace Fellowship
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Christ's Sanctified Holy Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Church of God (Anderson, IN)
Church of God (Seventh Day) General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day) Salem, WV
Church of the Brethren
Disciples Peace Fellowship
Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Free Methodist Church of North America
Friends United Meeting
Jewish Peace Fellowship
Lutheran Peace Fellowship
Mennonite Central Committee
Moravian Church (Northern Province)
Pax Christi, USA
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Protestant Episcopal Church (USA)
Reformed Church in America
Sojourners Community
Symphony of Life Church
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ, Board
for Homeland Ministries
United Methodist Church, Board
of Church and Society
United Pentacostal Church, Inc.
U.S. Catholic Conferences, Division
of International Justice and Peace



**To Extend and
Defend
the Rights of
Conscientious
Objectors**

**Center on
Conscience & War**

1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: (202) 483-2220
Fax: (202) 483-1246
ccw@centeronconscience.org
www.CenterOnConscience.org

The Center on Conscience & War

The Center on Conscience & War (CCW), formerly the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors (NISBCO), was formed in 1940 by an association of religious bodies. CCW works to defend and extend the rights of conscientious objectors. The Center is committed to supporting all those who question participation in war, whether they are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, documented or undocumented immigrants--or citizens in other countries.

Located in Washington, DC, CCW is governed by a Board of Directors and employs a staff to serve its national constituency. All Services are provided to the public at no charge. CCW participates in the G. I. Rights Hotline, a national referral and counseling service for military personnel. In the event of a military draft, CCW will assist in the placement of conscientious objectors in alternative service programs. The Center is opposed to all forms of conscription.

**“Everyone has the right
to Freedom of Thought,
Conscience and
Religion.”**

--Article 18:
The Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

--Article 12:
The American Convention
on Human Rights

THEY
SHALL
BEAT
THEIR
SWORDS
INTO
PLOWSHARES
AND THEIR
SPEARS
INTO
PRUNING
HOOKS...
NEITHER
SHALL
THEY
STUDY
WAR
ANY MORE.

MICAH 4:3

THE CCW PROGRAM

The CCW program implements the concerns of CCW's Advisory Council Organizations and individual supporters. In brief, these concerns are the defense and promotion of the rights of conscientious objection, with a strong emphasis on the protection of individual conscientious objectors. The CCW program roughly divides into four areas: Governmental Advocacy, Counseling, Public Education, and Grassroots Development.

Currently, the primary context in which conscientious objector concerns arise in the United States is within the military, for those applying to be discharged as conscientious objectors. A second concern is Selective Service registration and government policy on conscription. A third area of concern is within the naturalization of immigrants and immigration law for those persons seeking political asylum.

GOVERNMENTAL ADVOCACY

CCW advocates for changes in national and international law to protect conscientious objectors. Current efforts include: opposing attempts to reinstitute a military draft in the U.S., eliminating the draft registration requirements and state penalties of non-registrants, monitoring state legislatures on registration penalties, and codifying conscientious objector rights and corresponding discharge procedures for military personnel. CCW also works to provide an alternative for conscientious objectors to paying for war.

CCW's governmental advocacy program is designed to promote dialogue on issues of conscientious objection and military conscription,

to monitor government policy on the issues, and to denounce and seek remedies for human rights violations involving conscientious objectors and military personnel. Advocacy is aimed towards governmental agencies such as:

- ◆ United States Congress
- ◆ Department of Defense
- ◆ Selective Service System
- ◆ Citizenship and Immigration Services
- ◆ Department of State

COUNSELING AND LEGAL SUPPORT

CCW provides direct counseling and legal support to conscientious objectors and members of the military, and supports attorneys and others who advise conscientious objectors and help military members in search of discharge information through the G. I. Rights Hotline. CCW provides counseling to those who:

- ◆ Face draft registration and the penalties for non-registration
- ◆ Seek separation or discharge from the U. S. Armed Forces, including the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)
- ◆ Wish to be naturalized as U.S. citizens without promising to take up arms
- ◆ Seek political asylum in the United States and other countries
- ◆ Experience political, social and/or religious persecution because of their CO beliefs
- ◆ Seek student financial aid through the Fund for Education and Training

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

CCW's public education efforts are directed towards religious institutions, schools and the general public of the United States. CCW is committed to:

- ◆ providing information on the theological, historical and legal dimensions of conscientious objection and military conscription
- ◆ providing information on how to document one's convictions as a conscientious objector
- ◆ providing draft and military counselor trainings
- ◆ alerting the public to proposed changes in regulations and legislation affecting conscientious objectors
- ◆ serving as an international resource center for documents relating to military conscription and conscientious objection
- ◆ assisting youth in deciding what they believe about participation in war and military service
- ◆ documenting and reporting human rights violations arising from military service and conscientious objection

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

CCW is committed to developing grassroots support to defend and extend the rights of conscientious objectors. The primary sources of grassroots development are:

- ◆ *The CCW Website.* The CCW website (www.CenterOnConscience.org) provides current information about CCW's many programs. Literature can be ordered and donations made on the secure site. Training dates and Action Alerts are available as well.
- ◆ *The Action Alert Network.* Hundreds of individual supporters respond to email Urgent Action Alerts concerning legislative initiatives and individual CO cases. Sign up to receive the Urgent Action Alerts on our website: www.CenterOnConscience.org.
- ◆ CCW encourages supporters to engage in local efforts to educate youth about conscientious objection and to address issues of violence and militarism in their home communities. CCW staff are available to help. Email us at ccw@CenterOnConscience.org or call.
- ◆ *The Reporter for Conscience's Sake.* CCW's quarterly newsletter informs CCW's constituency about national and international developments in the areas of conscientious objection, militarism and human rights.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or to get involved, please contact the Center on Conscience & War using the address and phone number listed on this brochure.

