

GLOBAL TERRORISM

The Peace Movement Response

Date & Time

Venue

Saturday
25 March 2017
AGM - 10:30 - 11:45
Conference - 12:00 - 17:00

Wesley's Chapel
49 City Road
London EC1Y 1AU
Nearest Tube Station: Old Street

Speakers

[CHAIR] RITA PAYNE, President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association

AMBASSADOR CLAUS GRUBE, Danish Ambassador to the UK

HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY, Author, Foreign Correspondent, BBC

PETER PRICE, Chair of Conciliation Resources, a former Bishop of Bath

FIONA MACAULAY, Director, PeaceJam UK, Senior Lecturer, University of Bradford

MAKRAM KHOURY-MACHOOL, Founding Director, European Centre for the Study of Extremism, Cambridge

VIJAY MEHTA, Author, Chair, Uniting for Peace

for more information:

Uniting for Peace - www.unitingforpeace.com

Vijay Mehta - vijay@vmpeace.org - 0207 791 1717

Brian Cooper - 0131 446 9545

PeaceJam - www.peacejam.org.uk

Caroline Millman - unitedkingdom@peacejam.org - 07760 160906

Global Terrorism: The Peace Movement Response

Terrorism today is a major global menace. The world is best by terrorism: terrorist attacks and threats are becoming a regular event occurring almost every week somewhere around the world with dire consequences of death, destruction and fear. A broad definition of terrorism is violent actions against civilians for the purpose of advancing a political agenda or expressing revenge. The contemporary phenomenon of terrorism has been largely neglected by the peace movement. Uniting for Peace and PeaceJam consider it is high time, peace activists face this stark reality and reflect on responses and solutions.

Broadly, there are two kinds of terrorism: that conducted by non-state actors, and that resulting from actions by states. The activities of the IRA and Protestant Paramilitaries during the Northern Ireland Crisis are an obvious historic example of the former. Currently, self styled Muslim fundamentalist jihadists, supremely but not exclusively, those of ISIS and Al-Qaeda, constitutes the major source of terrorist acts. Western military interventions in Muslim societies; economic exploitation, desperation caused by poverty, unemployment and injustice; Shia-Sunni rivalry, violent interpretations of faith traditions – are key motivations for such terrorisms. But extremists racists – nationalists and religious groups engage in terrorism from USA to Caucasus and from Europe and West Africa to South Asia.

The impact of globalisation, gross economic inequality, competition of great powers for natural resources, and the reaction to the “War on Terror” are some other causes to be considered. Actions by states can be deemed as terrorism when causing terror and fear among civilian populations. Bombings conducted with scant or no regards for civilian casualties are in this category; drone attacks causing many civilian deaths likewise. US “shock and awe” warfare in Iraq was certainly a form of terrorism.

What are the causes of terrorism? What causes young Muslims to be so radicalise they embrace ideologies like ISIS. What faith and political initiatives can best counter such radicalisation. What is “religious fundamentalism” and its relationship, if any, to violence? Are there any distinctive Peace Movements insights which can help tackle the challenge of terrorism. Can terrorism be overcome by nurturing a Culture of Peace, bridge-building between hostile communities, conflict prevention diplomacy, economic and social aid and by inspiring young citizens via education to be peace leaders? What is the role of Police and intelligence agencies in preventing terrorism, and what are its implications for civil liberties?

Expert speakers from Uniting for Peace and PeaceJam will examine the dangerous consequences of ongoing terrorism, how to tackle its root causes and propose solutions and way forward to tackle this complex phenomenon in cooperation with United Nations.

Free Public Event | Donations Welcome. Please make chques payable to Uniting for Peace and post to the address - Uniting for Peace, 14 Cavell Street, London E1 2HP | unitingforpeace.com
To contact PeaceJam: winchester@peacejam.org | www.peacejam.org.uk