



# TODAY'S CHALLENGES ON THE ROAD TO PEACE

## Arms Trade

*"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."*

- President Eisenhower of USA 1953-1961  
(Supreme Commander Allied forces in Europe 1944-45)



Annual **US** development aid budget is **\$32 billion**.  
Annual **US Military's** budget is **\$530 billion**.



The international arms trade, aided by the British Government, supports many corrupt regimes (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nigeria) with poor human rights records.  
The trade often supplies **opposing sides**.

**What can be done to control the armaments industry?**

## Boy/Girl Soldiers

**A Child soldier:** *"any child - boy or girl - under 18 years old who is part of any kind of armed force in any capacity"*  
- defined by the United Nations

Great Britain has the youngest recruitment age in Europe - 16 years old.



Great Britain has blocked attempts by the United Nations to make 18 years old the minimum age for recruitment.  
**Should our children be trained to fight or should they train to mediate and resolve conflict?**

**1914**

Minimum age of recruitment to the Armed forces = **18**  
Minimum age for service overseas = **19**

**2014**

Minimum age of recruitment to the Armed forces = **16**  
Minimum age for service overseas = **18**

**Is this progress?**

## Drones for Peace or War?

### Civilian Drones

Drones are useful for observing traffic on the motorway, inspecting buildings or power lines and policing borders.



### Military Drones

Military drones are used to kill terrorist suspects in foreign countries without declaring war.



**Is this legal?**

200 children have been killed by American drones in Pakistan.

Children have also died in drone attacks in Yemen by the United States and in Gaza by Israel.

British drones are operated from the UK base RAF Waddington to kill people in countries miles away.

## Trident Nuclear Missiles

Each new Trident Submarine will carry up to 40 nuclear bombs.  
Each bomb is able to destroy a city.



Is it acceptable to threaten to kill millions of children, women and men in this way?

Why do some retired military leaders say they can never be used?

Should Great Britain spend £100 billion on such a missile system?

Two thirds of the British people are against the renewal of Trident.

Modernisation of the British nuclear missiles proceeds without adequate Parliamentary scrutiny.

**What does this say about our democracy?**

**A (moral) question.**

John Kerry, the American Secretary of State, described the 2013 gas attack in Damascus as *"moral obscenity"*, *"It defies any code of morality"*, *"...use of the world's most heinous weapon..."*

**Is our threatened or actual use of nuclear weapons in self defence against "any code of morality"?**