

NATIONAL OPT-OUT DAY

**Across the nation, students and activists are taking action,
saying NO to increased militarization of our schools.**

Tuesday, 09/23/2003

Peace! We hope you will find this Activist Toolkit to be a useful tool for participants of the first National Opt-Out Day; a day devoted to demilitarizing our schools and educating students and parents on how to keep student contact information out of the hands of military recruiters. In this Activist Toolkit, you will find the following information to help you plan an exciting and successful action:

1. A sample press release that you can use as a template for a more localized press release that will reflect the action you and your group are taking. Please remember to include contact information for your local group, and send it out immediately to your local newspapers, television and radio stations, and any other news media you know of in your area.
2. A resource guide to counter-recruitment groups, both national and regional, filled with great information on the No Child Left Behind Act, Opt-Out policies, military recruitment practices, and great ideas for public actions that will really get people in your community interested in our message.
3. A flier to advertise your action, and/or to distribute during your action, that explains the reason we need to have this national day of action, and why it's so important to raise awareness of opt- out policies and practices in schools across the country.
4. If you are planning an action, please share it with the rest of us! Write to national_opt_out_day@hotmail.com to describe the who, what, when, where, and how of your particular action plan. These descriptions will then be shared on the www.youthandthemilitary.org website.
5. Check out www.youthandthemilitary.org for more information; this site contains contact information for people in your region who are willing to be press contacts, or who can offer advice to groups just starting out. There are also great links to other counter- recruitment groups across the country.

We hope you can find here everything you need to make a big impact on September 23!

In Peace,

National Opt-Out Day Coordinators:

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SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE:

September 16, 2003

NATIONAL "OPT OUT" DAY FOCUSES ATTENTION ON CONTROVERSIAL *No Child Left Behind Act*

PHILADELPHIA, PA [or insert your own city and state]- On September 23, a coalition of peace, social justice, and counter-recruitment groups across the country are sponsoring National "Opt-Out" Day to call greater attention to the military recruitment provision of the controversial No Child Left Behind Act that was enacted last year. Attendees of the Stopping War Where It Begins: Organizing Against Militarism in Our Schools conference held in June of 2003 in Philadelphia join together to help educate and inform parents, teachers, and school administrators of the little known fact that, although the Act requires school districts to share students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers with military recruiters, parents and students also have the right to "opt out" of having their private information released.

Many school districts around the country are either not aware of the Act and their legal obligations, or have chosen to not fulfill their mandate to allow "opting-out". As a result, many students and parents don't know about the provision or are discovering after the fact that military recruiters are in possession of their information.

Local actions by peace group include leafleting, demonstrations, and teach-ins. [this is where you can include your local activity information]

National "Opt-Out" Day also highlights such related issues as recruitment fraud, the true costs of JROTC and its recruitment connections, misinformation about the Delayed Enlistment Program, and the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery in public schools, which also provides the military with families' personal, private information.

National "Opt-Out" Day is an opportunity for both education regarding the law and a chance to help counter the growing, misleading portrayal of the U.S. military as a safe, beneficial and alternative jobs program.

There are many national, regional, and local organizations endorsing this day, including: the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); LEPOCO (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) Peace Center, Madison Area Peace Coalition, Young Adult Program: Not in Our Name; Pax Christi USA; Student Peace Action Network, United for Peace and Justice, and Voices in the Wilderness. For a full list of organizations that attended the Stopping War conference, please visit the conference website at: www.youthandthemilitary.org.

For more information or questions on National "Opt-Out" Day, contact the AFSC National Youth & Militarism Program at 215-241-7046, or the Madison Area Peace Coalition at 608-215-5605. Parents and high school students who wish to learn more about how to 'opt out' of having personal information given to military recruiters can also visit the AFSC web site at www.youth4peace.org. [include YOUR contact info here]

OPT-OUT RESOURCE GUIDE

A) National and regional counter-recruitment organizations.

Compiled and provided by Janine Schwab, National Youth & Militarism Program,
American Friends Service Committee (www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm)

STOPPING WAR WHERE IT BEGINS CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) National Youth and Militarism Program - <http://www.youth4peace.org>

AFSC Washington D.C. - <http://www.afsc.org/midatlantic/dc.htm>

AFSC San Francisco - <http://www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/sanfrancisco.htm>

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) - <http://www.objector.org>

Center on Conscience and War - <http://www.nisbco.org>

CHOICES

San Diego groups Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD) and Project on Youth and Non-Military

Opportunities (Project YANO) - <http://www.comdsd.org>

Revolution Out Of Truth and Struggle (ROOTS)- <http://www.warresisters.org/Roots/newsite5.html>

War Resisters League - <http://www.warresisters.org>

STARC Alliance - <http://www.starcalliance.org>

Teen Peace Project of Port Townsend, Washington - <http://www.teenpeace.org>

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COUNTER-RECRUITMENT ORGANIZATIONS:

ARIZONA

Pima Peace And Justice (local)

Tucson, AZ

Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

CALIFORNIA

Resource Center for Nonviolence (local)

Santa Cruz, CA

<http://www.rcnv.org/rcnv/co.htm>

Guerrero Azteca (national)

Escondido, CA

Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft - San Diego/Project YANO

(local with some generic resources)

San Diego, CA

<http://www.comdsd.org>

United Teachers of Los Angeles Human Rights Committee (local) Los Angeles, CA <http://www.utla.net>

Not in Our Name Bay Area (local)

Oakland/San Francisco, CA

<http://www.nionbayarea.net>

American Friends Service Committee Pacific Mountain Region (local) San Francisco, CA [http://](http://www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/sanfrancisco.htm)

www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/sanfrancisco.htm

COLORADO

Ft. Collins Peace and Justice Strength Through Peace Committee (local) Fort Collins, CO <http://www.fcpj.blogspot.com>

CONNECTICUT

War Resister's League - New England (regional)

Norwich, CT
<http://www.warresisters.org>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

STARC Alliance (national)
Washington, DC
<http://www.starcalliance.org>

Friends Committee on National Legislation Young Adult Program (national)
Washington, DC
<http://www.fcnl.org>

Center on Conscience and War (national)
Washington, DC
<http://www.nisbco.org>

FLORIDA

University of Central Florida Campus Peace Action (local) Longwood, FL <http://www.campuspeaceaction.org>

IDAHO

Idaho Peace Coalition (local)
Boise, ID
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/idahopeacecoalition/>

INDIANA

Catholic Peace Fellowship (national)
Notre Dame, IN
<http://www.catholicpeacefellowship.org>

KENTUCKY

Citizens Standing Against War (C-SAW) (local)
Louisville, KY
<http://www.louisvillepeace.org/c-saw/>

MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester Peaceworks (local)
Worcester, MA
<http://www.WorcesterPeaceWorks.org>

MARYLAND

Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) (national)
Silver Springs, MD
<http://www.studentpeaceaction.org>

MAINE

Waterville Area Bridges for Peace & Justice (local)
Skowhegan, ME
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

MASSACHUSETTS

American Friends Service Committee - Western Massachusetts (local) Florence, MA <http://www.WesternMassAFSC.org>

MINNESOTA

Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 (local)
Minneapolis, MN
<http://www.TwinCitiesvfp.org>

MISSOURI

Veterans For Peace Headquarters (national)
St. Louis, MO
<http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

NEW JERSEY

Montclair Coalition for Peace (local)
Montclair, NJ
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

NEW YORK

New York Collective of Radical Educators (NYCORE) (local)
New York, NY
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

Citizen Soldier (national)
New York, NY
<http://www.citizen-soldier.org>

American Friends Service Committee Syracuse Office (local) Syracuse, NY <http://www.afsc.org/midatlantic/syracuse.htm>

Support Network for An Armed Forces Union (SNAFU) (national) New York, NY <http://www.join-snafu.org/>

Pax Christi USA - Long Island (local)
Greenlawn, NY
<http://www.paxchristiusa.org>

United For Peace and Justice (national)
New York, NY
<http://www.unitedforpeace.org>

Ya-Ya Network (local)
New York, NY
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

Not in Our Name Youth Headquarters (national)
New York, NY
<http://www.notinourname.net>

Not in Our Name Youth - New York City Chapter (local)
New York, NY
<http://www.notinourname.net/~newyork/>

YouthPeace (WRL) (national)
New York, NY
<http://www.warresisters.org/y-index.htm>

OHIO

STAAAMP, Inc. (national)
Fairborn, OH
<http://www.staaamp.org>

OREGON

Peace House (local)
Ashland, OR
<http://www.peacehouse.net>

Eugene Peaceworks Committee for Countering Military Recruitment
(local)
Eugene, OR
<http://www.eugenepeaceworks.org>

PENNSYLVANIA

American Friends Service Committee Youth & Militarism Program (national)
Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.youth4peace.org>

Not In Our Name Philadelphia Chapter (local)
Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.phillynotinourname.org>

Swarthmore Progressive Action Committee (local)
Swarthmore, PA
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

LEPOCO (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) Peace Center (local) Bethlehem, PA <http://www.lepoco.org>

Pax Christi USA Headquarters (national)
Erie, PA
<http://www.paxchristiusa.org>

Youth Philadelphia Area War Resistance (YouthPAWR) (local) Philadelphia, PA <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/youthpawr>

Every Mother is A Working Mother Network - Philadelphia (local) Philadelphia, PA Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) (national) Philadelphia, PA <http://www.objector.org>

Student Environmental Action Coalition (national)
Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.seac.org/militarism/>

Pennsylvania Lesbian Bisexual Gay Taskforce (local) Philadelphia, PA <http://www.plgtf.org>

CO Task Group (local)
Lewisburg, PA
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

PUERTO RICO

Proyecto Caribeno de Justicia y Paz (local)
Rio Piedras, PR
Write to youthmil@afsc.org for contact information.

TEXAS

Non-Military Options for Youth (local)
Austin, TX
<http://www.progressiveaustin.org/nmofy>

VERMONT

Brattleboro Area Peace and Justice (local)
Brattleboro, VT
<http://www.brattleboropeaceandjustice.org>

Veterans for Peace Chapter 88 (Southern Vermont) (local) Bennington, VT <http://www.vtvfp.org/>

American Friends Service Committee - Vermont Office (local) Montpelier, VT <http://www.afscvt.org>

WASHINGTON

Teen Peace Project (local)
Port Townsend, WA
<http://www.teenpeace.org>

WISCONSIN

Madison Area Peace Coalition (local)
Madison, WI
<http://www.madpeace.org>

**B) Background on the No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB text and analysis
from the Resource Center for Non-Violence (www.rcnv.org)**

Text of the “No Child Left Behind” Military Recruitment Provisions:

This text is from section 9528 on pages 559 and 560 of the 670-page reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001:

SEC. 9528. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.

(a) POLICY-

(1) ACCESS TO STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION- Notwithstanding section 444(a)(5)(B) of the General Education Provisions Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), each local educational agency receiving

assistance under this Act shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students names, addresses, and telephone listings.

(2) CONSENT- A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student’s name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.

(3) SAME ACCESS TO STUDENTS- Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students.

(b) NOTIFICATION- The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, notify principals, school administrators, and other educators about the requirements of this section.

(c) EXCEPTION- The requirements of this section do not apply to a private secondary school that maintains a religious objection to service in the Armed Forces if the objection is verifiable through the corporate or other organizational documents or materials of that school.

(d) SPECIAL RULE- A local educational agency prohibited by Connecticut State law (either explicitly by statute or through statutory interpretation by the State Supreme Court or State Attorney General) from providing military recruiters with information or access as required by this section shall have until May 31, 2002, to comply with that requirement. Special amendment voting record

C) Opt-Out and Opt-in Policies. From the Resource Center for Non- Violence (www.rcnv.org): Overview - Opt Out & Opt In:

Most schools administer this Act using an OPT OUT procedure: It is presumed the school that student contact information will be given to recruiters unless parents take the initiative to opt out. Notification of parents about their consent option ranges from total neglect to a form letter. If, as is often the case, a parent does not receive or respond to notification, contact information for their child will be given to recruiters...and their student will have to deal with recruiter marketing at school and at home!

If your school is using Opt Out —

- 1) Be sure the Opt Out notice is aggressively advertised and circulated to all families. This is a school administration job, but some peace action communities are actively leafleting students and parents with Opt Out letters which parents can complete and return to school administrators.
- 2) Be sure the notification letter is translated into a language used by parents, and
- 3) written so that people can understand it.

A few schools are adopting a more proactive OPT IN procedure which is sometimes called a “privacy & truth” resolution — information is released to recruiters ONLY when the parents Opt In by giving written permission for recruiter contact. This procedure conforms to a customary school practice of requiring written consent from parents before their children can participate in classes presenting controversial materials or before students can take off campus excursions. Most opt in resolutions also mandate that all students be given information about the realities of military service and options to military service.

D) Action ideas for Sept. 23:

From Arlene Inouye, Human Rights Committee Co-Chair, United Teachers Los Angeles:

In L.A. opt-out letters are being mailed home to Juniors and Seniors by the school district on Sept. 15th. They have until Oct. 1st to return them to their schools, which will then input them into the computer system. We are starting our education campaign with the organizations/students/individuals/teachers who are part of our coalition and asking them to spread the word. I am attaching the informational flyer we are distributing along with a duplication of the opt-out form. We (HRC) is co-sponsoring the GI Resisters' forum which is being organized by NION on Sept 24th. This opt-out day will help draw publicity to the window of opportunity students and parents have to opt-out.

Action ideas for September 23:

*flyering on the day at or near schools, shopping centers, the board of education, etc. *press conference with students, parents, teachers and allies to announce the day's activism against the NCLB *rally/demonstration *wearing armbands/ribbons/signs in school calling for students to Opt-out *cultural events (musical performances, peace art, etc.) *political street theater *teach-ins, “town hall” community forums on the NCLB *tabling with factsheets, sample Opt-out letters, counter-recruitment resources *non-violent civil disobedience (lockdowns in front of recruiter offices, the board of ed., etc.)

E) Other resources:

KEY WEB RESOURCES. Compiled and provided by Arlene Inouye, Human Rights Committee Co-Chair, United Teachers Los Angeles

National counter-recruitment listserv: counter-recruitment-subscribe@yahoo.com -for any questions, join this list serve.

AFSC Youth & Militarism Online News - <http://www.afsc.org/militarismnews.htm> - monthly magazine on youth, war and peace and many resources

Latin@s Against War - <http://www.latinoscontralaguerra.org>

***"CHOICES" SOFTWARE FROM PROJECT YANO.** Software for educating young people about the realities of military enlistment and introducing them to nonmilitary alternatives for skills training, community service and college financial aid:
<HTTP://WWW.COMDSD.ORG/YANO.HTM>

***Download Youth and Militarism Resources from the AFSC Youth and Militarism Program -**

<http://www.youth4peace.org>

We have PDF printer-friendly versions of some of our most popular resources. You will need Acrobat Reader to view them. To download a free version of Reader, go to the Adobe website.

10 Points to Consider Before You Sign a Military Enlistment Agreement (html version)

Two-page flier with points to think about.

Do You Know Enough to Enlist? (html version)

Double-sided brochure that examines the realities of military service and offers tips for dealing with military recruiters, in a question and answer format.

Making Soldiers in the Public Schools (summary available online) Examines the rapidly growing military presence in US high schools and analyzes the JROTC curriculum. 40 pages.

SAMPLE OPT-OUT/OPT-IN LETTERS AVAILABLE FROM THE NCRV AT

<http://www.rcnv.org/rcnv/archives/2003/optin.htm>

SAMPLE FLYER TEXT (provided by Arlene Inouye, Human Rights Committee Co- Chair, United Teachers Los Angeles):

YO - L.A. STUDENTS - LISTEN UP! Do you want the military down your neck?

A new Bush administration law gives MILITARY RECRUITERS access to YOUR INFORMATION (the names, addresses and telephone numbers of juniors and seniors in high school), UNLESS YOU OPT-OUT!

What is OPT-OUT? It is your legal right to notify your school that you DO NOT want the military to receive your personal information.

IT IS YOUR CHOICE to keep your information private, while letting your name, address, and telephone number to be given to colleges, universities, and employers.

When do you OPT-OUT? Opting out must be done EVERY school year. This year the window of time is between SEPT. 15th and SEPT. 24th. It is important that you tell your school you want to OPT-OUT within this time frame. Juniors and seniors should be mailed the form in English and Spanish. If you need other languages - tell your school.

WHY SHOULD YOU OPT-OUT? Military recruiters do not give a balanced picture about what it means to join the military. They are salesmen - They make \$\$\$ off you. Do not let them hassle you! Get the facts about what it means to join the military before you have recruiters down your neck.

HELP GET THE WORD OUT- Parents and students should know of their rights to privacy from military recruiters. Tell them about opting out!

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Human Rights Committee, UTLA Andy Griggs (310) 704-3217 Andyca6@aol.com or Arlene Inouye (626) 799-9157 -aginouye@aol.com, and we will connect you with organizations/students in your area.

NATIONAL OPT-OUT DAY

Across the nation, students and activists are taking action, saying **NO** to increased militarization of our schools.

Tuesday, 09/23/2003

The No Child Left Behind Act

is a sweeping reform of public education signed into law by President G. W. Bush January 2002. One provision of this act requires that public schools hand over student contact lists to military recruiters, **so the military recruiters can reach you at your home.**



Your school is required to notify you in writing that you can **Say NO and Opt Out** of having your name given to military recruiters.

National Opt-Out Day

is a reminder to

Schools: students have the right to privacy and protection from harassment by military recruiters.

Students: you need to write to your school officials and tell them you do not want your contact information handed out to military recruiters, or it will be.

Parents: you need to be aware that military recruiters are as relentless as any other telemarketer and will use YOUR private information to contact your child.

If you want to do something about it, this is your local group.

This is the action they are taking.

This is the time and the place.

If you have questions, please contact:

SAMPLE BI-LINGUAL FORMS FOR OPTING OUT

Act to Protect Your Privacy from Military Recruiters

You may be harassed at home by military recruiters because your name, address and phone number will be given to them by your school — unless you tell your school to not give out the information. To exercise your legal right to have this information kept private, you should notify your school office as soon as possible. Some school districts may provide their own forms for this, but they must obey your request no matter how you submit it. You can write your own letter or use the one below. Use a letter or form for each individual student and keep a copy. It is not required by law, but we recommend having a parent or guardian also sign:

Date: _____

Dear administrator of _____

(Name of high school)

We are exercising our right under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**, and hereby request that the name, address, and telephone listing of:

(Print name of student)

who is a current student at your school, **not** be released to military recruiters without prior written parental consent. We do, however, consent to the disclosure of such information to colleges and universities other than military schools.

Print name of parent or legal guardian above

Signature of parent or guardian

Signature of student

***Note to school administrators:** Once this request is given to you, it is a serious violation of federal law to disregard it and release the name, address and phone number of this student to any military recruiter without prior written consent. Section 9528(a) of Public Law 107-110 states:

(2) CONSENT- A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) [i.e., the paragraph requiring schools receiving federal aid to release information to military recruiters] not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.

This flier was produced by the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice, www.sdcpij.org. For more information on military recruiting and student lists, contact the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities, 760-634-3604, projano@aol.com or the local organization below: 9/15/03

Proteja Ud. Sus Datos Personales de los Reclutadores Militares

Los reclutadores militares pueden molestarle a Ud. porque la administración de su escuela les ha dado su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono. Para evitarlo, hay que asegurar tan pronto posible que la escuela no comparta sus datos personales. ES SU DERECHO LEGAL. LOS DISTRITOS TIENEN QUE CUMPLIR. Algunos distritos tienen su propia forma o se puede escribir una carta o se puede usar ésta. Hace falta una forma para cada alumno. Se recomienda que la forma esté firmada o por los padres o por un guardián legal.

Fecha/Date: _____

Dear administrator of _____

(Nombre de la escuela/Name of high school)

We are exercising our right under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**, and hereby request that the name, address, and telephone listing of:

(Nombre del estudiante/Print name of student)

who is a current student at your school, **not** be released to military recruiters without prior written parental consent. We do, however, consent to the disclosure of such information to colleges and universities other than military schools.

Nombre del padre, madre o guardián/Print name of parent or legal guardian above

Firma del padre, madre o guardián/Signature of parent or guardian

Firma del estudiante/Signature of student

***Note to school administrators:** Once this request is given to you, it is a serious violation of federal law to disregard it and release the name, address and phone number of this student to any military recruiter without prior written consent. Section 9528(a) of Public Law 107-110 states:

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