

EDINBURGH PEACE & JUSTICE CENTRE

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Executive Summary

The Peace & Justice Centre has worked in Edinburgh and across Scotland since 1980 to create a culture of peace and to promote nonviolence, human rights, conflict resolution, and ecological sustainability.

The Centre is an independent charity working across all sectors of society. It was initiated by the churches at a time when many such centres were established in response to the nuclear arms race. Advocating for nuclear disarmament continues to be part of our core work. Based for many years at St John's Church, on Princes Street, we are now located just off the Royal Mile, in the heart of Edinburgh.

The Centre is an information and activity hub. We engage in advocacy, provide a calendar of community events on our website and via email, organise events and programmes, publish Peace & Justice News, and keep up an active social media presence.

We bring people and organisations together on a variety of projects and seek to influence decision makers, at local and national level, on issues related to our core values.

Based in Scotland's vibrant capital city, home to several Universities, we provide a positive experience that allows volunteers, interns and students on work based placements to put their existing skills to use and learn new skills as part of a small dynamic, active and engaged organisation.

Financial Management & Funding

Day to day financial operations are carried out by the Administrator. Accounts are maintained by our Treasurer in QuickBooks, with restricted funds allocated and reported by Class, and independently examined prior to submission to OSCR as required annually. Funding is through a mix of membership dues and other donations, grant funding, events income, and fundraising activities. The Centre has enjoyed steady growth over the past four years, with expansion to include several new projects and associated funding streams.

Values

Nonviolence

Human rights

Conflict resolution

Ecological sustainability

Creating a culture of peace across Scotland

Guiding Principles

The Peace & Justice Centre promotes nonviolence, human rights, conflict resolution, and ecological sustainability and works to create a culture of peace across Scotland.

AIMS

The Peace & Justice Centre aims to nurture a culture of peace and active citizenship. We seek to increase understanding and practices of engaged nonviolence. We develop programmes that empower communities to deepen capacities for conflict prevention and transformation. We promote human rights and the environmental and social conditions needed for a sustainability. We work in partnership with others who share our values and in a way which maintains ethnic, religious, gender and party political neutrality; and we strive to model the values of a just society through openness, inclusivity and an active commitment to equalities.

Our Partners

The EP&JC collaborates with local groups and national organisations which share our aims and promotes the events and activities of organisations in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland.

Some of our partners include: Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Iona Community, Quakers in Scotland, WILPF Scotland, Pax Christi, Workers Education Association and Churches Together, Afghan Peace Volunteers and Voices for Creative Nonviolence.

Network and Coalition Memberships: Cross Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament, Scrap Trident Coalition, Scottish Peace Network, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Scotland's for Peace.



Governance & Staffing Structure, Interns, Student Work placements & Volunteers

Management committee

The Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre is a Charity registered in Scotland. Our Management Committee is elected by the members at an Annual General Meeting. The Committee consists of a Convenor, Secretary, and Treasurer and up to six regular members. Members normally serve a term of three years. The Management Committee is responsible for governance and setting the strategic direction of the Centre.

Staff

The work of the Centre is carried out by two part time paid staff. The Coordinator is responsible for overall operations, oversees programmes and project development, and supervises staff and volunteers to carry these out. The Administrator works closely with the Coordinator to handle day to day financial operations, the running of the Centre, events organisation, and to develop our online presence and promotions.

Facilitators on our Cooperative Games programme are employed on a sessional basis. Our Facilitator Training Programme is delivered by experienced professional Trainers and offers certificates in Cooperative Games and in Conflict Resolution for Schools. Training includes theory and practice and work in schools alongside a professional Facilitator.

Interns and volunteers

Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre is run mostly by volunteers. We provide opportunities for students to volunteer, gain work experience, and to deepen their understanding and find meaningful ways to engage with the diversity of issues we work on. Students on work placements are supported through a mentoring programme to create briefings and other publications, engage in outreach, advocacy and programming in the community, and to do mainstream and social media work. Members are encouraged to be involved as volunteers, and to take part in our events and workshops. We rely upon the support and involvement of our members.

Strategic Plan & Objectives

The Peace and Justice Centre has worked in Edinburgh and across Scotland for 37 years. It was founded as an initiative of the churches at a time when many such centres were established in Scotland, the UK, and globally in response to the Cold War and the threat of nuclear war. Raising awareness and advocating for nuclear disarmament in Scotland continues to be core work.

The Centre seeks to provide a resource centre, open to the public, including a library and affordable meeting and desk space available to organisations and grassroots community groups that share our values.

We identify, initiate and carry out projects that fit with our values. We develop projects that carry our values into the community in Edinburgh and across Scotland.

We aim to make effective use of social media in order to support that programme and further promote our values.

We cultivate relationships with decision makers and continually work in partnership with a wide variety of community, national and international organisations and networks. We seek to ensure wider recognition of the Centre and awareness of our values and to advocate for social and political changes that reflect our core values.

Equalities and Diversity Policy

The Peace & Justice Centre believes that all persons should have equal rights to recognition of their human dignity, and to education, work, services and participation in society. Our Equalities and Diversity Policy is designed to ensure the promotion of equal opportunities within the Centre, and affiliated organisations.



Challenging Militarism

Fly Kites Not Drones Days. In solidarity with people living under threat of drones, we organise these festive family friendly events annually, with kite making and decorating, badge making and face painting. In 2017 about 300 people attended and 130 kites were made. It is traditional to fly kites every year on the 21st of March – Now Ruz – in Afghanistan.

Conscientious Objectors Day Vigils.

We organise the Edinburgh vigil annually to honour the memory of conscientious objectors to all wars (COs), and to raise awareness of contemporary COs. The vigils pay tribute to resisters with reading of the names of COs from Scotland and recollections by descendants of First World War COs.

Legacies of Resistance to the First World War.

We partner with Workers Education Association Scotland on this two year HLF funded adult education project, with learner groups in three cities exploring the impact of conscientious objectors on their communities.

Marking the Centenary of Conscription.

We organised this event with Quakers in the Scottish Parliament, with speakers Patrick Harvie MSP, Scottish Commemorations Panel members Trevor Royle (author of 'The Flowers of the Forest' a history of Scotland in the First World War) and Brigadier David Alfrey (Director of the Edinburgh Tattoo) and descendants of First World War conscientious objectors.

White Poppy Remembrance.

We organise an annual candlelit ceremony with poetry and reflections and lay a white poppy wreath at the War Memorial on the Royal Mile remembering all victims of war, military and civilians. We also distribute white poppies in November. In 2017 we arranged for 16 venues across Edinburgh to distribute over 600 white poppies.

Challenging Militarisation of Youth.

We convene this group to seek an end to military visits to schools and recruitment of individuals under the age of 18, the UK being the only European country to do so. At Armed Forces Days where children are encouraged to play with automatic weapons, we work with the Scottish Peace Network to organise a presence with the message: War is Not Family Entertainment.

Creating a Culture of Peace

140,000 Origami Cranes Workshops.

Workshops making Origami Peace Cranes take place at the Peace & Justice Centre every month and at libraries, churches, schools and community centres across Scotland. We aim to make 140,000 origami cranes in memory of Hiroshima. Individuals and groups are invited to pledge to make a set number of cranes and contribute to the overall project.

Planting the Peace Pole. The Centre planted a Peace Pole with "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages, one of thousands erected in towns and cities around the world that carry the same message in hundreds of languages.

Scottish Peace Covenant. With Scotland's for Peace we commissioned books with frontispiece by Alasdair Gray declaring "Scotland should be known for its international contribution to peace and justice rather than for waging war" and signed by the Bishop of Edinburgh, First Minister Alex Salmond, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland at the Scottish Parliament.

Teaching Peace and Conflict Resolution

Cooperative Games and Conflict Resolution Programme for Primary Schools.

The Peace & Justice Centre has run Cooperative Games sessions in schools across Edinburgh since 2015. Working through Cooperative games and activities the sessions develop a culture of peace. Further conflict resolution sessions build skills in class groups to prevent and resolve conflict and to put in place processes for restorative justice.

Facilitator Trainings & Workshops.

We regularly run Facilitator trainings at the University of Edinburgh. The trainings provide the foundation for becoming a Facilitator on our Cooperative Games and Conflict Resolution Programme. Trainings are open to parents, teachers, and people who work with children as well as those seeking to become facilitators on our programme.

Our Work & Achievements: A Selection



Global Day of Action Against Military Spending. Each year we work with Edinburgh Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) and others to organise public events raising awareness of global military spending.

Divestment from the Arms Trade.

We're working with Edinburgh CAAT to call on the Lothian Pensions Fund and the Scottish Parliament to divest from arms companies.

Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament

Love the Planet – Scrap Trident.

We worked with the Scrap Trident Coalition to coordinate demonstrations in 37 towns and cities across Scotland.

Scrap Trident Demonstrations. With the Scrap Trident Coalition we organised demonstrations in which thousands of people marched, facilitated the Steering Committee, liaised with Scottish Parliament, arranged First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Greens Convenor Patrick Harvie as speakers, and did mainstream and social media work. We also helped organise nonviolent action at the Faslane nuclear weapons base.

Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland. The Centre initiated a network in Scotland working on the Don't Bank on the Bomb campaign, based on work done by Pax in the Netherlands.

People and Parliament Against Trident

With Scotland's for Peace we were principal organisers of a major demonstration at which First Minister Alec Salmond spoke.

Book Talks, Speakers, Conferences.

The Centre has organised dozens of talks by a wide range of writers and activists. A full list is available on our website. Highlights include:

Trident and International Law: Scotland's Obligations Conference. Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. Keynote Speaker HE Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui, President of the International Court of Justice.

Scotland and International Law. Keynote Speaker: HE Judge Christopher Weeramantry, International Court of Justice. *Scottish Parliament.*

Publications. We publish briefings on war, peace and the environment. Our bi-monthly *Peace & Justice News* has feature articles, Book Reviews, Centre News and more.

Support and Advocacy for Refugees

Candlelit Vigil for Refugees. With the French government preparing to demolish the Calais refugee camp, we held a vigil and collected signatures on letters calling on the UK and French governments to protect the children.

Meeting the Needs of Refugees and Unaccompanied Refugee Children.

We published a briefing on this topic and disseminated it to decision makers and convened a panel of speakers from Scottish Refugee Council, Citizens UK, The Welcoming Group, East Lothian Aid to Refugees, and Oxfam to discuss how to advocate for the UK to admit its fair share of refugees, especially unaccompanied children. Attended by 200 people.

Working Through the Arts

The World is My Country Exhibition.

Held at the Scottish Storytelling Centre the exhibition celebrated the people and movements that opposed the First World War, featuring disobedient soldiers, feminist peace initiatives, a Maori princess, a famous Cambridge philosopher, and the graphic art of Emily Johns.

Light Against Darkness. An Exhibition of the Artwork of Syrian Refugee Children held at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Edinburgh University Chaplaincy and St John's Church featured 166 paintings and drawings created by Syrian refugee children during a therapeutic project at Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon. We raised over £1,600 to support the programme.

The Drones Quilt Exhibition

Held at the Craft Fair during the Edinburgh Festival the exhibition was seen by thousands of people. Each square in the 40 foot quilt was made by a different person to represent the humanity of those killed by drones.

New Scots Photo Exhibition.

We commissioned and organised an exhibition at Ocean Terminal of large format photographs by Indian photographer Herman Rodrigues of prominent people who migrated to Scotland.