

## Statements on Afghanistan by Other Anti-War Organizations

### 1) Stop the War Coalition UK

<https://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

The disaster now unfolding in Afghanistan is the consequence of a twenty-year long failed military intervention. The responsibility rests with the US, British and other NATO governments which plunged into a war that was always doomed to fail. The starting of the conflict, not the manner of the ending of it, was the problem.

Twenty years ago, at the moment of its foundation, the Stop the War Coalition, representing a broad range of political and social movements and organisations, warned against the rush to war and urged other ways of responding to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In particular, we argued that military occupation of Afghanistan could not lead to stable governance, and would be rejected as a foreign imposition by many Afghans.

We asserted then and believe now that democracy and human rights can rarely be imposed externally, and must be the product of the efforts of the peoples themselves if it is to prove durable.

The defeat of the US and British militaries in Afghanistan means that this intervention joins those in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen as a calamity that has cost tens of thousands of lives and vast resources to no purpose. It is time that the “war on terror”, the pretext for these interventions, is declared over.

The British government should take a lead in offering a refugee programme and reparations to rebuild Afghanistan, an act which would go a great deal further in advancing the rights of the Afghan people, women in particular, than continued military or economic intervention in the fate of the Afghanistan.

We urge politicians of all parties to learn the lessons of the failed wars of intervention and turn to international cooperation as the means of resolving disputes and tackling problems of poverty and underdevelopment.

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### 2) Brooklyn for Peace on Biden’s Decision to Pull the Ground Troops

<https://brooklynpeace.org/>

**We support President Biden's decision to pull all the ground troops out of Afghanistan**, as soon as all Americans in the country, and all Afghans who have supported the USA over the years whose lives are now in danger, have been brought to safety. There is no reason to continue a 20-year war of invasion that has been repeatedly proven to have been a tragic error from the beginning.

**The best way to support Afghans, especially women, at this time is to STOP BOMBING them and their families.**

### **We call on our government and military to:**

- End the air assaults, including drones, on provincial capitals.
- Evacuate all Americans, and all Afghans who supported the U.S. military.
- Bring all our troops home.
- Recognize and provide services for all our deployed troops, including the National Guard, when they get home.
- End endless wars!

### **Resources to inform yourself:**

[Who's to Blame? What's Next?](#) CodePink webinar hosted by Medea Benjamin, with Phyllis Bennis, Matthew Hoh, Ann Wright, and Zaher Wahab, See [YouTube livestream](#) (full length, includes Biden's address to the nation)

### **[Taliban's Sweeping Offensive in Afghanistan Was "Inevitable" and Stems from Brutal U.S. War:](#)**

Phyllis Bennis and Ro Khanna on [Democracy Now! \(8/11/2021\)](#)

[Barbara Lee's speech to Congress 9/14/2001](#), explaining her vote as the only Member of Congress to vote against the Authorization for Use of Military Force

[Cost of Afghanistan War \(money spent and lives lost\), 2001--2021](#), Cost of War Project, Watson Institute, Brown University

[BFP Statement 4/19/2021: Is Afghanistan War Really Over?](#)

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### **[3\) Brooklyn for Peace on Biden's decision to adhere to the Feb. 2020 agreement](#)**

<https://brooklynpeace.org/>

Brooklyn For Peace welcomes the decision of President Biden to adhere to the agreement the U.S. signed with the Taliban in February 2020 to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan, although we acknowledge that his September 11, 2021 date is in violation of the May 1, 2021 deadline under the agreement. We hope that in the months ahead President Biden will resist strong pressures from the military and others to alter that decision.

This 20-year failed war illustrates the folly of using American military power to direct the internal affairs of another country. In the case of both Afghanistan and Iraq, the Bush Administration transformed an international crime into an opportunity for the invasion and prolonged occupation of those two nations.

Brooklyn For Peace hopes that the U.S. will commit to a lasting solution in Afghanistan by also ending airstrikes, Special Ops and covert operations, and that the tragic experience in Iraq as well as in Afghanistan can be an occasion for the U.S. to reassess its reliance on military power in all forms as the cornerstone of American foreign policy in other nations.

We will continue to advocate for peaceful solutions to international problems, and for redirecting federal funding away from military spending and toward increased spending on education, housing and health care at home as well as on international human needs.

**Please use Take Action tool from the Friends Committee on National Legislation to encourage our elected officials to support this decision and to make public statements to that effect.**

### **Take Action**

Biden's announcement of the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan is a welcome step in the right direction. But it's not enough! We shouldn't be lulled into thinking that this war is really at an end.

Check out these items:

1. [What's Needed for a More Lasting Peace in Afghanistan](#)
2. [Contrary to What Biden Said, US Warfare in Afghanistan Is Set to Continue](#)

**To really end the war in Afghanistan, we need to end the use of sanctions and weaponized drones.**

Learn more about [how sanctions are used as a tool of war](#):

[Learn about weaponized drones](#)

[Sign this petition](#) to ban weaponized drones.

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## **4) Massachusetts Peace Action**

<https://masspeaceaction.org/>

**The U.S. must stop making war on Afghanistan. No drone strikes, bombings, special forces, or aid to rebel groups.**

- Engage with the Taliban and establish normal relations with the new government. Pay reparations to the Afghan people for the harm we have caused. Accept all Afghan refugees.
  - Support regional diplomacy by convening Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Iran and others to guarantee the neutrality and support the stability and development of Afghanistan.
  - Clean house in Washington. Conduct a thorough investigation of the lies, fraud and mismanagement. Remove all the lying and incompetent generals and national security officials who managed the war for the past 20 years.
  - End other U.S. interventions in the Middle East by withdrawing troops from Syria and Iraq, ending arms sales and military assistance to Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Israel, ending sanctions on Syria and Iran, and rejoining the Iran nuclear deal.
  - Repeal the 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of military force. Pass the National Security Powers Act (S.2391) to ensure that any future military interventions, arms sales, and sanctions are approved by Congress and have limited terms.
  - **Deeply cut the Pentagon budget and use the funds made available to resettle refugees, launch a global COVID-19 vaccination drive, greatly reduce inequality in our country, and address the climate catastrophe.**
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## **5) Ban Killer Drones**

<https://bankillerdrones.org/>

At this juncture, BAN KILLER DRONES calls on the U.S. government to immediately cease its protracted bombing of Afghanistan. Without such armistice in the sky, prospects for genuine peace in that sorrowing land are nil.

For far too long systematic, wholesale drone surveillance and attacks have enabled the Pentagon under our last four U.S. presidents to terrorize and mutilate the Afghan people. Such continued extra-territorial assault is meant to fill the vacuum left by the current partial retreat of acknowledged (but not CIA, etc.) U.S. ground forces.

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## **6) United National Antiwar Coalition**

<https://www.unacpeace.org/>

Events are happening very fast in the world today but perhaps none faster than the rapid advance of the Taliban and the fall of the US puppet regime in Afghanistan. It is reported that Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country with four cars and a helicopter full of cash.

Perhaps we were not prepared for the rapid fall of the US supported Afghan government and forces because we have not been told the truth throughout the 20-year occupation and war. The US supposedly went into Afghanistan to capture Osama Bin Laden who they held responsible for the attacks on 9/11. [The Taliban government said they would turn him over to an international court if shown proof of his involvement](#), but rather than do that, the US attacked and occupied the country and turned the government over to a group of war lords from the Northern Alliance. That was supposed to bring democracy to Afghanistan. Twenty years later the Taliban has returned stronger than ever.

It has to be clear that the Taliban have a lot of support in Afghanistan because they took the entire country at lightning speed. They have no Air Force, no advanced weaponry or intelligence. The Taliban are not from outside the country, they are a homegrown movement. So why do they have such support? The answer is that they have been the main force in the country that has been resisting the occupation of the US and its Western allies, and the Afghan people, like all people, do not like to be occupied. The last 20 years have been hell for the Afghan people. Around [240,000 have been killed](#), there have been massive numbers of drone strikes and bombings, Black sites for torture such as Bagram Air Base were created. [Opium production skyrocketed](#) under the US occupation and [72% for the population lived at or below the poverty level](#). In a survey reported by the Associated Press in January 2020, [only 33% of the people surveyed wanted the US to stay in their country](#). In another poll, 80% of Afghans said they feel fear when encountering the foreign occupation forces.

There has been a lot of talk about the puppet government supporting women's rights, but this is a sham. According to Afghan activist Malalai Joya, speaking on Democracy Now in July, "the catastrophic situation of the women of Afghanistan was a very good excuse for U.S. and NATO to occupy our country. Unfortunately, they pushed us from the frying pan into the fire as they replaced the barbaric regime of the Taliban with the misogynist warlords... That's why today millions of Afghans are suffering from insecurity, corruption, joblessness, poverty. And still, most of Afghan women are the victims." Several years ago, the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) organized a US tour for Malalai Joya.

The US was never in Afghanistan to fight terrorism or to bring a better life for the Afghan people, they were there to install a pro-US government that would support their strategic political and military goals in the region including their aggression against China and Iran. Additionally, they wanted to get their hands on the vast mineral resources in Afghanistan. If the US was interested in helping people in other countries, they would not be supporting despotic regimes such as those in Saudi Arabia, Haiti, Columbia, Israel and many others.

Now that the US has been defeated in Afghanistan, we can be sure that they will impose additional sanctions to make the people of that country suffer more and push for a regime change through which they can start the entire process over again. The continued US bombing in areas that fell to the Taliban was responsible for the killing of many civilians causing people to flee and the destruction of schools and health centers. We must demand: No more bombing, remove all troops, mercenaries, and special forces from the country and the surrounding area, no sanctions, and pay reparations for the destruction caused by their war and occupation. The people of Afghanistan must find their own way free from US intervention.

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## **7) Peace Action NYS**

<https://www.panys.org/>

The intersection of the 20th anniversaries of September 11, 2001 and the invasion of Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, alongside the present tumultuous U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, is forcing all of us to come to grips with the past 20 years of war. Opposed to the war from the beginning, Peace Action has been pressing for an exit from Afghanistan ever since. We also believe that, with that exit, comes a great deal of responsibility.

In Congress, Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA14) has introduced [H.R. 4736](#) Improving Access for Afghan Refugees Act to evacuate as many at-risk Afghans to safety as possible. This bill would:

\* Expand processing capacity, eligibility criteria, and quotas for the Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) program and Priority 1, 2, and 3 (P1, P2, and P3) applicant programs (especially to people who worked with the U.S. government, and those in media, NGOs, or who are civil society activists.)

\* Expand refugee quotas for all at-risk Afghans and create an expedited “humanitarian parole” category to streamline the relocation process to get refugees safe passage out of the country so they can complete visa processing in safety.

\* Have the Department of Homeland Security designate Afghans for Temporary Protected Status so that Afghans are not sent home to an uncertain fate.

\* Continue and increase humanitarian aid to those still in Afghanistan, as well as Afghan refugees who’ve left the country, as a down-payment for the moral debt that the U.S. owes the Afghan people.

Calling your Congressional Representative using the Congressional Switchboard (202) 224-3121, and asking them to co-sponsor this bill is one way to encourage the U.S. government to take responsibility for the past twenty years of war.

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## **8) Veterans for Peace**

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>

Veterans For Peace has previously condemned the U.S. "forever wars" against "terror" and called for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, Iraq and other places in the world. We unequivocally believe that war is not the answer to any problem and that there is no military solution in Afghanistan.

The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan was shameful and poorly executed. We have left too many behind. It was only after veteran and media outcry over leaving dedicated translators and their families, people who risked their lives for us that the U.S. decided, too late, to include them in our withdrawal. Many Afghans have been blocked by callous immigration policy and "Muslim Bans" from seeking safety in the United States, from the destabilization in Afghanistan that the U.S. created. Caring for refugees and civilians fleeing from conflict is basic decency, and the United States fails to act with the urgency required to protect people. Casual disregard for Afghan lives continues on all levels.

The release of the [Afghanistan Papers](#) last year clearly laid out the failed policy and the catastrophic level of malfeasance that reach the highest levels of the U.S. government. Virtually all U.S. government agencies bear responsibility for misleading the American public and for creating the conditions in which an unchecked military operates without accountability.

In the Afghanistan Papers [over 400 people detailed the systematic failure of the U.S. military](#) to take responsibility for its ineptness and instead blamed "corruption" of the Afghanistan government, all the while revealing the massive corruption and lies that the U.S. is perpetuating. While U.S. military commanders bemoaned Afghan leaders enriching themselves off American tax dollars, those same commanders climbed government ranks and earned promotions for promoting endless war.

U.S. Soldiers, contractors, and veterans were routinely marginalized or persecuted to maintain the status quo in Afghanistan. Their integrity was questioned while government lies were glorified as truth by a complicit media and government agencies.

Afghanistan is yet another example of U.S. military ineptness. Name it and it was wrong....Korea, Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq and a host of other military deployments in Latin and South America. There are other instruments of national power that can be used to achieve reasonable national objectives than the U.S. military. Will our national leaders ever learn this lesson?

As veterans who have served in these wars and past wars, we are enraged by leaders that lie to us and lack the moral courage to act even when there is proof. We demand accountability in real and tangible ways. The pandering and posturing of so many politicians today is infuriating. Both parties are to blame for this and a militaristic culture that places profit above all else.

We must see a shift towards a future that holds the military and our government officials accountable. We must reduce the military budget and reallocate those funds towards social programs that prioritize meeting people's needs and to support the masses of refugees that seek safety for their families.

We continue to stand by these demands:

- Accept all Afghan refugees and provide humanitarian aid & resettlement aid.
  - The military IMMEDIATELY release all three hundred names of those quoted in the Afghanistan Papers
  - Congressional hearings that include perjury trials for all those officials who knowingly lied in official Congressional testimony, including closed door sessions of the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees
  - A special Congressional committee to investigate fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement for the war in Afghanistan
  - A Congressional tribunal allowing Afghanistan veterans to testify about their experience.
  - Repeal of the AUMF (Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists) -- which includes any subsequent AUMF to have a sunset clause.
  - Recognition of Moral Injury as a legitimate diagnosis
  - Reparations to Afghanistan and to all Afghans
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