



“If the people lead, the leaders will follow.”

Did you know:

- 60% of Americans oppose the U.S. war with Iraq ([CNN poll, 8/9/06](#))
 - 61% of Americans think the U.S. should withdraw some troops from Iraq by the end of the year (CNN poll, 8/9/06)
 - 70% of Iraqis favor setting a timeline for the withdrawal of US forces ([World Public Opinion Poll, 1/31/06](#))
 - 67% of Iraqis say that day-to-day security for ordinary Iraqis would increase if US-led forces were to withdraw from Iraq (World Public Opinion Poll, 1/31/06)
 - 73% of troops on the ground favor withdrawal within a year, (Zogby poll, 2/06)
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The US war in Iraq is an endless fire consuming lives, resources, and the fragile possibilities of peace. Instead of quenching this fire, the US occupation intensifies it. As Lt. Gen. William E. Odom, former director of the National Security Agency, put it in a recent sharply worded article in Foreign Policy, “America must withdraw from Iraq now.” Continued military occupation will not prevent civil war; in fact, it is likely to increase its prospects because US policy favors and supports only one of the several contending factions.

The war has resulted in at least 100,000 Iraqi deaths, the deaths of over 2600 US soldiers, and has consumed billions of dollars of resources. Nevertheless, the Bush administration continues to pursue an indefinite policy of war and occupation. Recently, President Bush stated that the decision on whether or not to withdraw would be left to his successor.

Left to its current direction and scope, the war and occupation will likely continue for years to come. This will not change until the American people dramatically remove their active or passive support for this war and create the political conditions for an end to the US war and occupation. For this to happen, widespread unease about the war must be translated into clear and active support for the policy alternative: a concrete and comprehensive withdrawal plan and timetable.

The Declaration Option

The Bush administration frames the debate about the war as a choice between “staying the course” and “cutting and running.” In fact, the choice is indefinite war and occupation, entailing greater death and destruction in Iraq, or a responsible plan, a concrete, timetable for an end to the US war in Iraq and for a peace process for security, reconstruction and reconciliation.

The Declaration of Peace is a campaign being organized in every part of this country calling for this responsible plan. It is calling on the US Congress to establish a concrete and rapid timetable for an end to the US war in Iraq and for a peace process designed to increase create the conditions for security, reconstruction, and reconciliation. The declaration calls for the plan to include:

- **Establishing an Iraqi-led international peace process to create a roadmap to peace and security**
- **Bringing US troops home and closing the US bases**
- **Reconstruction and reconciliation in Iraq, and**
- **Creating a peace dividend by diverting funding for war to meeting human needs at home and abroad.**

Thousands of people are signing the Declaration and committing themselves to take action to help our nation and its leaders establish this concrete and rapid timetable for peace in Iraq. Forty national peace and justice organizations and coalitions are building this campaign, including United for Peace and Justice, the largest anti-war coalition in US history with 1400

local groups. Together, we are saying, "Enough is enough" and we are working to make the fall mid-term congressional elections a referendum on this war.

The Power of the Declaration of Peace

The tools and strategies of nonviolent people power are increasingly being used in the United States and around the world to challenge the cycle of violence, create democracy, take action for justice, establish freedom, and to work for the dignity and worth of all beings. Recent examples where nonviolent people power movements brought down dictatorships and unjust regimes include Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine, Beirut, and Bolivia. Similarly, the Declaration of Peace seeks to mobilize public resolve and people power to reframe the debate on the war, to show that a responsible alternative is possible, and to create the shifts in the political and moral landscape that will make a concrete, comprehensive withdrawal plan feasible and unavoidable.

Ten Reasons Why the US Must Leave Iraq: a resource from the American Friends Service Committee: <http://www.afsc.org/iraq/activism/10-reasons.htm>

The Goal of the Declaration of Peace: Establishing and Completing a Comprehensive Plan to End the US War in Iraq

The Declaration of Peace is a commitment to take nonviolent steps for a comprehensive, concrete and rapid end to the US war in Iraq, including:

- **Withdrawal of US troops and all coalition forces**
- **Closure of US military bases**
- **Support for an Iraqi-led peace process, including a peace conference to shape a post-occupation transition and an international peacekeeping presence if mandated by this peace process**
- **Return of Iraqi control over its oil resources and the political and economic life of the nation**
- **Reparations and reconstruction to address the destruction caused by the US war and thirteen years of sanctions**
- **Establish a "peace dividend" for job creation, health care, education, housing, and other vital social needs**
- **Increased support for US veterans of the Iraq war, and**
- **No so-called "preventive" war against Iran or any other nation**


Whether or not you agree with each and every point in the declaration, it is important to let Congress know what it is **you** think they need to do to bring this war to a resolution. This time, right now, before the 2006 election is an opportunity for all of us to exert the collective power of public opinion, of public action, and of our votes. This is a point in time when all of us taking action together can make a difference.



What you can do:

- Find out more at: <http://declarationofpeace.org>
- Sign the declaration and act on it
- Contact Rep. Bartlett, Senator Mikulski, and Senatorial and Congressional candidates and ask that they sign a pledge to end the war. Tell candidates that your vote depends on it. http://declarationofpeace.org/files/Congress_Pledge.pdf
- Say you want them to support / cosponsor the legislation listed on the pledge site above.
- Take part in local, regional and national actions over the next month—listed on the website above.
- Make the voice of the people loud and clear before the election.

Contact Congressman Bartlett at: <http://www.bartlett.house.gov/> (202) 225-2721; (888) 297-8006.
Senator Mikulski: <http://www.mikulski.senate.gov/mailform.html> (202) 224-4654

 All around the world, Women In Black stand in silent vigil, wearing black as a symbol of mourning, for the ravages of war and violence. WIB is an international grassroots women's peace advocacy network, present in 40 countries, and in 38 US states. Our vigils are a public statement that violence and oppression, under any label, are unacceptable. **Vigil Schedule:** All are welcome; please wear black. Third Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7 pm, and first Fridays 12 - 12:30 pm, at intersection of Market and Patrick Streets in Frederick. For more information about Women in Black Frederick, MD. see www.wibfrederick.org Email: info@wibfrederick.org or call 301/834-7581