

News Release

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INTEGRATED REVIEW IS BLIND TO ITS CONTRADICTIONS

Today the Prime Minister released his government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

Rethinking Security, a network of peace and security practitioners, analysts and activists, made efforts to engage with the Integrated Review throughout its work. It has also engaged extensively with parliamentarians and select committees on their approaches to the Review.

Rethinking Security's approach has been to encourage the widest possible consultation process with the people of the UK and to animate policy-makers to take a different approach to security policy, prioritising human security and the sustainable wellbeing of people and planet.

Rethinking Security Co-ordinator Richard Reeve said:

"The Integrated Review is an elaborate document that recognises many of the challenges that will grievously impact the world over the next decade. However, it is not a strategy for national security or anything else.

"The Review defines a vision for the UK's future and many actions towards achieving it, but no strategy for prioritising or reconciling them.

"Saying that 'HMG will make tackling climate change and biodiversity loss its number one international priority' is good but the Review's helpful breakdown of applied funding clearly shows that it falls way behind resourcing the military.

"Prioritising the deepening of trade and investment relationships with China, Gulf States and other autocracies is clearly in tension with the Review's professed objective of promoting open societies and defending human rights. So is much else that is omitted, including arms exports.

"Increasing the number of nuclear warheads in the UK stockpile and increasing ambiguity around their deployment is unjustified, irresponsible, unlawful and sends a clear message to other states to do likewise.

"The Review is also blind to the UK government's domestic actions, which have at times undermined democracy, justice, equality and the Union. Resilience, as the Review reminds us, starts at home.

“Over the next three years Rethinking Security will be coordinating an Alternative Security Review to do what this and previous governments should have done: to develop a Human Security Strategy for the UK, its people and the planet.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Rethinking Security Co-ordinator, Richard Reeve is available for comment on the Integrated Review – 07811 362054
2. The Rethinking Security media page and factsheet is at www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/media
3. All Rethinking Security's policy work on the Integrated Review, including the latest briefing can be viewed at <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/policy-makers/>
4. Rethinking Security's evidence submission to the Integrated Review (Sep 2020) can be viewed at <https://rethinkingsecurityorguk.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/rs-submission-to-the-integrated-review-03-sep-2020.pdf>
5. About Rethinking Security:
 - Short description – Rethinking Security is a network of peace and security practitioners and experts.
 - Long description – Rethinking Security is a network of organisations, academics and activists working together for security based on justice, co-operation and sustainability.
6. Member organisations:
 - Campaign Against Arms Trade
 - Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament
 - Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy
 - Conciliation Resources
 - Forces Watch
 - International Alert
 - Medact
 - Movement for the Abolition of War
 - Northern Friends Peace Board
 - Peace Direct
 - Quaker Peace And Social Witness
 - Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network
 - Saferworld
 - Scientists for Global Responsibility
 - United Nations Association – UK
 - War on Want

Our work also benefits substantially from the active participation of academics from the universities of Bradford, Coventry, Kent, LSE, Oxford Brookes and York.