It's time to *Rethink* Security

Security matters to everyone but much that governments do in our name is making us all less safe, at home and around the world. It's time for a rethink.

Rethinking Security is working for an approach to security that meets everyone's needs, from local to global.

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National security or human security?

How safe and secure do you feel in your everyday life? Are there things that make you feel anxious or insecure – maybe to do with money, health, housing, loneliness, seemingly endless wars, the state of the environment or the future of your children?

The UK is one of the world's richest countries and spends more on its military than any other country in Europe, yet many UK citizens face growing insecurity as inequality and austerity measures push them into homelessness, hunger and debt.

The United Nations defines human security as "the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair"; a right not addressed by a predominantly military national security policy.

The current UK security strategy

As a post-imperial power, Britain is focussed on global status and influence pursued largely through military means, with a shrinking role for diplomacy and aid. Where aid is given, it is increasingly used to further UK interests. The UK prides itself on its special relationship with the US, its permanent position on the UN Security Council, and its prominence within NATO and other international institutions. Ignoring the UN treaty that bans all nuclear weapons, it retains and has pledged to increase its nuclear arsenal. Its substantial military industries and arms exports fuel conflict around the world.

Military solutions to perceived threats are failing. Over 20 years since the invasion of Afghanistan and the 'war on terror' and the world has seen the failure of militarised 'security' policy. Military interventions across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and now Europe, have resulted in human catastrophe and further destabilisation.

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National interest or international cooperation?

In 2021 global military spending exceeded $2 trillion, yet, few would call the world a safer place. The real causes of insecurity affecting the majority of the world's citizens – ecological destruction, climate change, disease, poverty, inequality, marginalisation and militarism – must be resolved through international cooperation at all levels. The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the global interdependence of our species and of all life on the planet. Failure to recognise this reality has brought us to the multiple crises we currently face. A human security approach would build real security for people and the planet.

A vision for change

Rethinking Security works to generate a big conversation to re-examine existing assumptions and explore new ways of doing things together.

Our vision is to see:
- ✔ global relationships based on cooperation rather than domination;
- ✔ a global economy which serves the needs of all, rather than the greed of the few;
- ✔ flourishing, inclusive societies where the voices of all are heard and each person's well-being is valued and respected;
- ✔ protection for our planet from looming catastrophe so the next generation and beyond have a viable future.

We want to develop new ideas for policy and how it is created, including the voices of the public and grassroots groups in that conversation, not just defence and 'security' elites. *We need your support and your involvement in that process.*

How to get involved

Find out more and sign up as a Rethinking Security Supporter on our website. The website has a number of resources that can help you change the conversation on what security means.

- Learn more about human and ecological security by following and sharing our blog.
- Use the Supporters' resources to host a discussion on how people in your local area or community really feel about security.
- Use our policy briefings to bring your concerns to your MP.
- Take action by following our members' campaigns and advocacy work.

If you want to get in touch for more information or advice, contact **info@rethinkingsecurity.org.uk**

Follow us on

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www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk

Members of the Rethinking Security network include: Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 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, and academics from several universities across the UK.

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