



# Quakers in Scotland

Quakers in Scotland wholeheartedly support the amendment by John Finnie, to the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill.

Quakers believe that there is “that of God” in everyone and this belief leads us to renounce war. We live out this belief by opposing the idea that conflict can be resolved by war, and by campaigning against the arms trade.

Quakers have made peace-building a central part of their witness working across continents and through history. Most recently in Northern Ireland, former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Burundi, Israel, and Palestine. Quakers have been addressing disarmament both internationally through the Quaker United Nations Office, Quaker Council for European Affairs, and within our own countries.

Quakers challenge the practice of using public money to support arms manufacturers, even if that money is targeted at secondary areas such as training and development. The primary function of – and source of profit for - such companies is the production of armaments, which increases the likelihood of war.

Quakers in Scotland believe that Scotland has the ability to become a world leader in many areas, including peace. However it will be impossible for Scotland to have the integrity that is required in this important work if its public money and government agencies simultaneously support and fund the arms industry. We fear that it will signal on the international stage that Scotland does not have the courage of its convictions, and the excellent work that the Scottish Government has done in areas such as supporting Syrian women in peacebuilding, which we applaud, will be undermined.

Arms companies with a base in Scotland such as Raytheon, are selling arms to the Israeli Government and Saudi Arabia where its earnings are reported as £1.8m. We ask if the Scottish Government can truly be seen to hold up the rights of children when its enterprise agencies give money to those who sell arms used to attack civilians in Palestine and Yemen, including children? We ask the Scottish Parliament to consider if it is morally right for arms manufacturers to be supported by the Scottish public purse when these companies are profiting handsomely from the destruction of families, homes and communities?

We believe that the tension between the ambitions of Scotland in the arena of peace and the international stage, and the policy of our enterprise bodies has not been given the attention that is needed in parliament. We hope our elected representatives will take the time to give this important amendment the consideration and depth of debate it deserves.

A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it...

William Penn

*Peace is a gift, but it does not come magically through our passivity.*

Sandra Cronk