



# Encountering Recruitment

An orientation to the truth-in-recruiting movement

**The problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are interrelated. – Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## Who is involved?



**Soldiers are not the enemy.**

**Parents** are concerned about the military's unfettered access to their children's contact information, and want to identify better options than the military for a successful life for their kids.

**Young people** are concerned about the militarization of their schools and want a safe school and a positive future without the presence of military recruiters.

**Church congregations** committed to Christian peacemaking want to provide life-giving alternatives for youth drawn to the military, educate about conscientious objection, and help young people in their own spiritual formation.

**People of color and white allies** are both concerned about the disproportionate impact of recruitment on Black and Latino communities.

**Veterans** who came home from the war are speaking out about their experiences and encouraging young people to educate themselves well before joining the military. Look for supportive local vets on the Veterans for Peace website, [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org), or Iraq Veterans Against the War, [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org).

## You are.



## What can I do?

**“Relationship, Relationship, Relationship.”** This work is not about developing a “program,” it’s about reaching out and meeting young people and accompanying them through discernment and decisions. Key goals are helping youth find their path, consider their options, and achieve success as they define it. Many peace and church groups struggle to incorporate the ideas and energy of youth. (See enclosed handout on being an ally to youth.)

**“Opt Out” of information collection.** The No Child Left Behind Act requires school systems to turn over student’s information to recruiters unless students or parents submit an “opt-out form.” Contact your school system to find out about local practices with regards to the opt-out form. Spread the word! A sample form is included. Visit [www.leavemychildalone.org](http://www.leavemychildalone.org).

**Limit Recruiter Access.** Make a proposal to your local school board. School boards across the country have acted to limit the access of recruiters to their students. For example, the Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, WI, limited recruiter access to three days per year, stipulated that recruitment materials may only be placed in the Guidance Office, and specified that counselors can provide information about both military service and alternatives to military service. See insert for more examples.

**Make Positive Options Available and Possible.** Generate a list of regional alternative connections for internships, college education, and employment. You can find a model guide for one region at [www.whatsnext.afsc.org](http://www.whatsnext.afsc.org). Many young people enter the military as an avenue for job training or college money, and the movement needs local advocates who are familiar with local, regional and national scholarship possibilities. See the enclosed flyer on national scholarship options.

**Build connections with others who want to act.** There are many individuals, local and regional groups, and national networks concerned about military recruitment and related issues. Don't think for a minute that you are by yourself in this – find them! A great way to start is by participating in one of On Earth Peace's regularly scheduled networking calls. Visit our website to find the next date.

**See “Ten Ways To Get Started” for more ideas.**