

On Conscientious Objection and Military Conscription

During the 20th Century many members of the churches in the United States refused to serve in the military for reasons of conscience, believing that serving in combat was contrary to their faith. If there is to be military conscription again, we anticipate that as before individuals within our churches will believe themselves called to conscientious objection to participation in training for, and participation in, military service.

Recognizing both the difficulty and the necessity of discerning God's will for oneself in a particular context, the churches and other faith communities have regularly exercised pastoral concern for those members who have been led to refuse participation in military training and service.

The U.S. Committee for the Decade to Overcome Violence of the World Council of Churches urges churches to continue to consider the integrity of the position of conscientious objection under any new military conscription and to seek to ensure that conscientious objectors are offered humane and socially productive alternatives to military service, as has been done in the past.

US Decade to Overcome Violence Committee
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