

I Will Not Kill Campaign

by Virginia Wilber

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'Conscientious Objection' Not a Term of the Past

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is taking a leading role in a new initiative called "I Will Not Kill" (IWNK) that offers young people the opportunity to affirm their right not to kill other human beings, and to resist military recruitment.

IWNK plans to reach youth through mass advertising that will direct people to its Web site, www.iwillnotkill.org. Hundreds of Web sites dedicated to exposing the myths of the military already exist. IWNK will be unique in offering youth a space to publicly declare their opposition to war by either signing the Youth Pledge or by submitting photos (much like the concept behind the popular post-election www.sorryeverybody.com). Not only will this site serve as a venue for young people to express themselves, but it will also be a starting point in the process of creating individual conscientious objector files.

The IWNK initiative will also serve as a national resource to support individuals, especially young people and current members of the armed forces, who affirm the moral right to refuse to kill other human beings or to participate in armed conflict. It will specifically target populations most affected by the "poverty draft" - youth of color and youth from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

The campaign was conceived by a broad collaboration of organizations and individuals in the United States and Canada who support the human rights of conscientious

objection to war and nonviolent resistance to all forms of military recruitment, and who oppose the possible reintroduction of the draft in the United States. The idea for the initiative grew from the Gathering of Conscience and Courage hosted by the FOR in February 2005 in Nyack, New York.

I WILL NOT KILL Youth Pledge

As a young person concerned about my future and the future of all young people, I pledge that:

- I will not kill**
- I will not go to war**
- I will not support war against other nations**
- I will resist recruitment into the military**
- I will encourage others to do the same**

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

To be included in a national registry of conscientious objectors, please cut out and send to the:

Fellowship of Reconciliation

**IWNK / FOR
P.O. Box 271
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