



Connecticut Peace and Solidarity Coalition (CPSC)

www.HopeOutLoud.org

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Beyond Vietnam," Riverside Church, 4 April 1967, New York City

Dear friends,

April 4, 2019, is the 51st anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Disrespectfully ignoring Dr. King's lifelong dedication to peace, military leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have chosen to celebrate NATO's 70th anniversary – on that very day – by holding its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. This is not only an insult to Dr. King but conveys NATO's message that Black lives and indeed the lives of the vast majority really do not matter.

We are calling for a peaceful mass mobilization against this year's NATO summit in Washington for Saturday, March 30. Additional actions will take place at the opening of the NATO meeting on April 4.

We invite you to add your, and/or your organization's name to the list of supporters of the anti-NATO, antiwar and antiracism mass actions in Washington, D.C. against the NATO alliance and its celebration of war and militarism this spring. Because the NATO alliance, an extension of the Pentagon, is a relic of the Cold War that does not have a legitimate purpose, it is especially dangerous. This is because in order to justify its existence, NATO must find new enemies – and if NATO can't find any, then NATO must conjure-up new enemies. The recent coup attempt in Venezuela was undoubtedly facilitated by its neighbor, Colombia – NATO's newest "Global Partner." We also object to NATO's dangerous build-up, right on the borders of Russia, along with NATO's past aggressive wars in the Middle East, Yugoslavia, and other places.

It is imperative that we understand, as Martin Luther King did over 50 years ago, that the poverty in our own communities is directly related to the vast treasures spent on war every year. The Pentagon's budget for 2019 is \$716 billion, 61% of federal discretionary spending.

We must understand, as King did, that equality, security, civil rights are impossible to attain in a militarized society.

At home, education, health care, preschool, public transportation, infrastructure, pensions, and more – all suffer from lack of funds. Even though the resources exist in this, the richest country in history, they are headed to make war. We must redirect those resources to peaceful needs. The level of inequality in the US is by far the highest of any developed country, as well.

Abroad and at home, women and children bear the brunt of war and war spending.

Globally, the environment suffers the damage of wars and actions of the world's greatest single polluter – the Pentagon. The many wars waged to control fossil fuels and ensure that corporations make profits on burning them must be stopped if we are to halt and reverse the impact of global warming and build a sustainable energy economy.

LET US MARCH TO END THIS SCOURGE OF WAR! PLEASE JOIN OUR NATIONAL MOBILIZATION!

Endorse as an individual at: <http://no2nato2019.org/individual-endorsers/>

Have your Organization endorse at: <http://no2nato2019.org/organizational-endorsers/>

Contact us to help organize a Connecticut response to NATO and militarism at: No2NATO2019CT@HopeOutLoud.org

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A Call for National Mobilization to Oppose NATO, War, and Racism

April 4, 2019, will mark the 51st anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the internationally revered leader in struggles against racism, poverty and war.

And yet, in a grotesque desecration of Rev. King's lifelong dedication to peace, this is the date that the military leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have chosen to celebrate NATO's 70th anniversary by holding its annual summit meeting in Washington, D.C. This is a deliberate insult to Rev. King and a clear message that Black lives and the lives of non-European humanity, and indeed the lives of the vast majority, really do not matter.

Since its founding, the U.S.-led NATO has been the world's deadliest military alliance, causing untold suffering and devastation throughout Northern Africa, the Middle East and beyond. Hundreds of thousands have died in U.S./NATO wars in Iraq, Libya, Somalia and Yugoslavia. Millions of refugees are now risking their lives trying to escape the carnage that these wars have brought to their homelands, while workers in the 29 NATO member-countries are told they must abandon hard-won social programs in order to meet U.S. demands for even more military spending.

Dr. King's words linking the three evils of American society: Militarism, Racism and Poverty, and his deeply profound remark that every bomb that falls on other countries is a bomb dropped on our inner cities, reveal the deep-rooted relationship between militarism and the social, racial, economic and environmental injustices that now impoverish whole cities and rural communities and have plagued our society and the world for a long time. It was exactly one year before he was murdered that Rev. King gave his famous speech opposing the U.S. war in Vietnam, calling the U.S. government "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world" and declaring that he could not be silent.

We cannot be silent either. As Rev. King taught us, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Every year NATO has held its summits, people around the world have organized massive protests against it: in Chicago (2012), Wales (2014), Warsaw (2016), Brussels (2017 & 2018) — and 2019 will be no exception.

We are calling for a peaceful mass mobilization against this year's NATO Summit in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, March 30. Additional actions will take place at the opening of the NATO meeting on April 4.

We ask you to make every effort to join with us in Washington DC, or, if not possible, organize a rally or demonstration in your area. We need to show, in the strongest possible way, our opposition to NATO's destructive wars and its racist military policies around the world.

We also invite you to add your, and/or your organization's name to the list of supporters of the anti-NATO, Anti-War and Anti-Racism mass actions in Washington DC.

National Organizing Committee: <http://no2nato2019.org/>