

Action sheet for 9th July Air Power Conference, Church House London

Background: on 9th July 2014 The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) will host a conference at Church House Conference Centre, Westminster on the theme *Chief of Air Staffs Air Power Conference*. (<https://www.rusi.org/airpowerconference>). Among other things, the Conference will explore “the key changes which are likely to affect global security and prosperity. It will then explore the use of air power as an extension of political will; discuss the economic contributions that a national aerospace industry can make towards prosperity; before studying the relationship between airmen and society.”

The Conference is sponsored by the world’s largest arms exporting companies including BAE Systems, Finmeccanica, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

The Church House Conference Centre is the trading subsidiary of the Royal Chartered Corporation which owns and operates the building and is a charity. The president is the Archbishop of Canterbury and whose council includes “representatives of national church institutions”.

A number of Christian organisations, including *CAAT Christian Network*, *Christian CND Christianity Uncut*, *Fellowship of Reconciliation* and *Pax Christi* are concerned that in allowing such a conference to take place on church property the Anglican Church is benefiting financially from the arms trade and giving tacit support to this trade and those companies most deeply involved.

A similar conference took place in November 2012 and we objected to this with letters to Church House Conference Centre and to the Archbishop of Canterbury and with a prayer vigil outside Church House on the morning of the Conference. We are taking similar actions this year and look for your support in the following ways.

We invite you to take some of the following actions

Write to one or all of those listed, setting out in your own words your concerns about this Conference taking place at Church House

- **Rt Rev Justin Welby**, Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU. Switchboard: 020 7898 1200 / email: contact@lambethpalace.org.uk
- **Michael Chamberlain OBE**, Chairman of the Council of the Corporation of Church House, The Corporation of Church House, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ, Tel 020 7898 1316
- **Robin Parker**, General Manager, Church House Conference Centre, Deans Yard London SW1P 3NZ, Tel 020 7390 1590

Join us for a silent vigil on 9 July between 11.00 and 12.00 noon in The Sanctuary, in front of Westminster Abbey. We will have a nonviolent presence with banners/placards. We will give out leaflets to those passing to explain our presence. Please meet outside Methodist Central Hall at 10:45.

Inform your local press of any actions you take - write a letter or offer a short article setting out what is happening and your objections to it - help raise the debate!

Let us know what you do - if you receive responses/engage press interest it would be good to know.

Twitter: tweet @ChurchHouseConf or using #DisarmChurchHouse

Other useful links

British Aerospace Systems: <http://www.baesystems.com/home>

Church House Corporation : <http://www.churchhouse.org.uk/index.shtml>

Church of England Statement of Ethical Investment Policy 2013

<http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1891510/statement%20of%20ethical%20investment%20policy%20nov%202013.pdf>

Campaign Against Arms Trade <http://www.caat.org.uk/>

Christianity Uncut: <http://christianityuncut.wordpress.com/>

Fellowship of Reconciliation: <http://www.for.org.uk/>

Lockheed Martin: <http://www.lockheedmartin.co.uk/>

MBDA: <http://www.mbda-systems.com/>

Pax Christi: paxchristi.org.uk

Raytheon: <http://www.raytheon.co.uk/>

Contact: FoR: 01865 250781 or Pax Christi: 020 8203 4884

For help on the day: 07522 370839