

Resolution: Ending the War with Afghanistan

The war with Afghanistan is entering its 10th year. The National Leaders Council of the American Ethical Union's statement of 12/2/09 calls for a "Just and Enduring Peace in Afghanistan". The path to peace and an end of war and terrorism in Afghanistan requires full support of the right of Afghan people to a humane quality of life. The Afghans must also have the right to form a government of their choosing.

Money spent on this war could be better spent in other ways, such as improving education in Afghanistan. Education is more effective than military power in neutralizing foreign extremism. For the cost of one soldier for one year in Afghanistan, we could establish 20 schools there. For the cost of one cruise missile we could start 11 schools. For the cost of 246 soldiers for one year we could pay for a higher education plan for all of Afghanistan. Afghan cultural ties with Pakistan have caused the conflict to cross into Pakistan. Instability in Pakistan is aggravated by U.S. and its allies bombing Pakistan territory resulting in civilian casualties and increased hostility toward us. The fact that Pakistan has nuclear weapons brings the threat of nuclear war closer to reality.

We believe it is necessary to find a negotiated solution to the war. We therefore call upon all parties involved in the fighting in Afghanistan including the Taliban and Pakistan to enter into a cease fire, to end all offensive actions, to enlist the help of The United Nations in taking the lead in talks designed for a lasting peace, and to plan for the reconstruction of Afghanistan through a collaborative process with the Afghan people and all other interested and affected regional parties, and we call upon all parties in the conflict to fully fund the initiative.

Be it resolved that the Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle calls on President Obama to initiate the above actions.