

Free Public Lecture - All welcome

PEACE AND WAR

in
the 21st century

Is war now obsolete as national policy?

Brian Walker

Former Director-General Oxfam

Daphne Sanders

Co-author 'Preparing for Peace: by asking the experts to analyse war'

Hear and discuss the findings of a 5-year enquiry into whether war works.

Law Lecture Theatre
University of Tasmania

Saturday 3rd March 7.30pm

Tasmanian Quakers

United Nations Association of Australia

Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania

Tasmanian Peace Trust



The findings presented in “Peace and War in the 21st Century” come from a five year study: Preparing for Peace – By Asking the Experts to Analyse War.

In 2,000 Nobel Prize Winner, Joseph Rotblat, accepted an invitation from members of the Religious Society of Friends – better known as Quakers – in Westmorland, to speak about the issues of war & peace.

A small number of Friends inspired by what they heard began what they envisaged as a three to four year enquiry to explore the key issues of war & peace in the new century through the minds of international experts.

Well attended public meetings were addressed by experts who were invited to analyse the effectiveness of war as a tool of modern diplomacy. Speakers included a military General & other non-Quaker speakers.

Following this enquiry, a book based upon the lectures (entitled “Preparing for Peace – by asking the experts to analyse war”) was sent to every member of the UN General Assembly in 2005 & then distributed internationally. A web site www.preparingforpeace.org records all contributions made.

The Preparing for Peace group considers that war in the 21st century does not work because it cannot work. Globalisation & the application of science & technology to the weapons of war have made war unworkable, they argue.

Although a simple idea, its implications & consequences are at once daunting & complex. Nonetheless it seems to express the aspirations of many people world-wide. The purpose now is to explore those consequences with special emphasis on the nature of Civil Society in the 21st century & the prime role of politicians in designing & implementing peaceful solutions to disputes between nations. The group is analysing the changing & often helpful nature of the military’s own analysis of war as a largely failed tool of diplomacy.

Additionally, the role of the UN in terms of peace-making & peace keeping has been addressed. Of particular interest has been the investigation of the true human, economic & environmental costs of modern war. The validity of the theories of “Just War” has been scrutinised & found wanting.

Brian Walker was Director-General of Oxfam 1975-85 & subsequently President of the International Institute for Environment and Development.

Daphne Sanders is a retired social worker with expertise in child welfare and child protection.