

STOP THE WAR COALITION



This union notes:

- the continuing cost-of-living crisis, the squeeze on real wages being applied to millions of workers and the cuts being applied by the Tory government to vital services.
- that the Royal United Services Institute has calculated the increasing arms spending to 3% of GDP, as the government seeks to do, would mean either a 5% increase in income tax or VAT, or equivalent cuts in other public spending. Either option would be devastating for working-class people and communities.

Under these circumstances, it believes that:

- it is inappropriate for the trade union movement to campaign for an increase in military spending. While recognising that unions will rightly campaign to protect members' jobs wherever they work, an increase in the arms bill is an ineffective way to create additional jobs in manufacturing. State resources should instead be used to create new skilled green jobs in industry.
- Additionally, we reaffirm our long-standing support for defence diversification as a means of guaranteeing continuing appropriate employment at good rates of pay for workers in the sector. We urge the next Labour government to act on these proposals.
- We also note that Britain often supplies arms to reactionary regimes and for aggressive purposes, most blatantly in respect of the war being waged against the Yemeni people by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as using those weapons for its own illegal wars as in Iraq.

This union reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful resolution of international disputes and urges the labour movement to campaign for these ends.

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