

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PERPETUAL WAR

Proposed by the NLG Military Law Task Force

WHEREAS, the United States has approximately 750 military bases in approximately 81 countries around the world.

WHEREAS, the United States has intervened militarily in other countries approximately 200 times since 1950, including 27 attempts at regime change.

WHEREAS, the United States public military budget for 2023 was over 816 billion dollars.

WHEREAS, the clear pattern of US military support for foreign regimes and armed presence or intervention in other countries is one of protection of US economic and political interests.

WHEREAS, the American people are kept largely unaware of this wide-flung military empire and its purposes and, when the public does become aware of the conflicts, they are falsely given to understand that our country acts only in the interests of freedom and democracy.

WHEREAS, the US's military presence and warfare abroad, often under the guise of training and advising local military forces, serves to prop up a number of dictatorial and repressive regimes.

WHEREAS, such US military presence and action abroad have created a state of perpetual war, to the detriment of independent nations, progressive movements and indigenous populations around the world.

WHEREAS, against this backdrop of ongoing warfare the US government and the interests it serves are also preparing for the very real possibility of "great power" war(s) with international rivals.

WHEREAS, the state of perpetual war and the likelihood of great power war are adverse to the interests of the American people or those of US military personnel.

WHEREAS, the US military seeks to address this problem and motivate servicemembers to fight in unwanted and unjust wars through military training and a military culture that glorify violence and warfare, equate military prowess with sexual prowess and sexual violence, and objectify potential “enemies” by painting them as subhuman and “other,” often doing so by singling out as targets of harassment and other mistreatment servicemembers of color as well as those who appear weak or simply different, all with the result that people of color, women and non-binary servicemembers face harsh treatment and abuse in the armed forces.

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense’s own reports reveal that 8,942 service members reported they were sexually assaulted in 2022, and that as of 2023, in 9 of the last 10 reporting years, total sexual assaults in the military have increased each year, while sexual harassment is growing at a similar rate

WHEREAS, a GAO report released in May 2019 found evidence that black and Hispanic troops were more likely than their white peers to be investigated by military commanders and tried in courts-martial, but not any more likely to be found guilty.

WHEREAS, in 2019 the number of discrimination complaints which the military officially substantiated was 6% in the Navy, 18% in the Air Force and 35% in the Army. According to the AP, surveys taken on aircraft carriers in 2019 showed that nearly 1 in 4 sailors said they could not use their chain of command to report incidents of racism without fear of retaliation or reprisal, and that 4 out of every 10 said discipline was unfairly administered.

WHEREAS, a 2020 Military Times poll found that 57% of servicemembers of color said they had witnessed incidents of racism or racist ideology , yet there is no specific prohibition against hate crimes in the military justice system.

WHEREAS, the U.S. military is a significant contributor to climate change. If it were a nation state, it would be the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world. Total emissions from war-related activity in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria are estimated to be more than 400 million metric tons of carbon dioxide alone.

WHEREAS, The Selective Service System continues to attempt to register all young men in the United States for induction into the military, and the U.S. Congress is considering expanding this registration requirement to women.

WHEREAS, the United States has increased hostilities in the Pacific region and is committed to military intervention in Taiwan against China.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Lawyers Guild calls for an end to U.S. policy of preparing for and fighting perpetual wars around the world. The National Lawyers Guild will educate its members on the dangers this policy poses to peoples around the world and in the U.S.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guild, through its Military Law Task Force, will seek to educate Guild members, committees and other entities, as well as Guild allies and the public, about these issues and encourage Guild entities and members to take part in campaigns to stop the U.S. military from fighting perpetual wars around the world.

IMPLEMENTATION by the NLG Military Law Task Force and other endorsers

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Submitted by:

The Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild

The International Committee of the National Lawyers Guild

The Environmental Justice Committee of the National Lawyers Guild

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