

Conclusion



Principles for Collective Action

To achieve climate justice, we must transform the extractive economy we have now that is harming people and ecosystems. Resisting militarization is core to building an economy that works for people and the planet. As such, we must pursue solutions to the climate crisis that challenge the violent and oppressive systems that have fueled war and warming for generations. In solidarity with the movements on the frontlines of U.S. militarism and the climate injustice, we offer the following principles for collective action:

1. All human life has equal value.

- a. Old structures that have devalued human life based on race, ethnicity, assigned gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, place of origin, wealth, different abilities, and other factors, have been upheld and promulgated by both militarism and the extractive economy. These structures cannot be dismantled unless both militarism and the extractive economy are dismantled.
- b. Enforcement of restrictive immigration policies devalues specific human lives by condemning people to suffering and death. When all lives have equal value, all people can freely move around the globe, and no one is shut off from safety and abundance.
- c. The inequitable effects of climate change and militarism are overwhelmingly borne by those whose lives have been chronically undervalued, including but not limited to Black and Brown people, poor people, the Global South, and others. In a just world, no one bears an unequal burden for environmentally destructive or militaristic practices, and no one benefits from these practices at the expense of others.

2. Economies are only as healthy as people and the planet.

- a. Protecting extractive industries, militaristic industries, and those who profit from them places values like wealth and collective productivity above the value of human life.
- b. Work is a fulfilling part of life that can grant a sense of meaning as well as a means of material support, but no one's work should deprive another person of their life or well-being. Both the global and U.S. economies are overly dependent on extractive industries and militarism, demeaning the lives of those most directly harmed but also the lives of those who work within those industries. Every person should have the opportunity to work in a life-affirming capacity.

3. All people have a right to self-determination.

- a. Extractive industries, war, and militarism are joined by their collective denial of self-determination to both communities that suffer their effects, and communities whose economies are captive to these industries. Deep democracy that puts people in control of the decisions that affect their daily lives must replace militarism as the means through which we govern the economy.
- b. Too often, one nation's resources are the source of another nation's riches. Oil and fossil fuels are the prime example of this extractive economy, and militarism is the mechanism by which one country exploits another country's land, resources, and labor. Nations must not use force to dominate or exploit natural resources.
- c. The United States is unique among nations and has been at the forefront of both fossil fuel consumption and emissions, and military adventurism and force. Both roles diminish self-determination for peoples around the world, as they are forced to struggle against the consequences of U.S. emissions and U.S. militarism.

4. There is enough for everybody.

- a. We have enough to live well, without living better at the expense of others.
- b. There is enough to support everyone in the world, no one needs to be left behind. Nations and groups that have benefited disproportionately from the extractive economy must make reparations to nations and peoples that have historically been harmed.

5. We are all interconnected and so are our movements.

- a. No country or people can stop climate change alone. Any solution must be built on negotiation, cooperation and diplomacy – the antithesis of military antagonism and war. Full collaboration between nations and peoples will not be possible under conditions of perpetual military conflict.
- b. Interdependence is the defining feature of all living systems. We are interconnected to each other and the world. No economy stands in isolation. The global economy must make room for all people, be built on mutually beneficial relationships, and the distribution of resources must reflect the need for healthy, regenerative economies in all nations.

Next Steps

True climate justice must have antimilitarism at the core. We hope that this resource will contribute to existing conversations about climate change and militarism by highlighting the ways that the two fuel each other. We also hope that this resource will spark new questions and help facilitate dialogue—and coordination—across movements. When we come together we can build the just future we deserve:

- Use our discussion guide to host a virtual discussion on climate change and militarism.
- Use our op-ed template and [online trade-offs calculator](#) to write to your local newspapers about how cutting military spending could make us safer and fund a transition to a clean energy economy.
- Contact us at info@nationalpriorities.org to sign-up to attend one of our webinars or to schedule a webinar or training specifically for your group or organization.
- Add anti-militarism to your climate justice platform. Need help? [Contact us](#).
- Center impacted people—are you a member of a community disproportionately impacted by militarism and climate change? [Contact us](#) and we'll work to help amplify your voice.
- Support organizations that fight both climate change and militarism, including:

[Climate Justice Alliance](#)

[Global Grassroots Justice Alliance](#)

[The Leap](#)

[The Red Nation](#)

[Dissenters](#)

[Peace Action](#)

[United We Dream](#)

[Code Pink](#)

[Friends Committee on National Legislation](#)

[Poor People's Campaign](#)

[Justice is Global](#)

[Movement for Black Lives](#)

Additional Resources

[Just Transition: A Framework for Change](#) by Climate Justice Alliance
[From Banks and Tanks to Cooperation and Caring: A Strategic Framework for a Just Transition](#) by Movement Generation for Change
[The Red Deal Part One](#) and [Part Two](#), The Red Nation
[Indigenous Principles of a Just Transition](#), Indigenous Environmental Network
[Climate Change, Capitalism and the Military](#) by Nick Buxton of Transnational Institute
[10 Ways That the Climate Crisis and Militarism are Intertwined](#) by Medea Benjamin of Code Pink
[War is Not Green Campaign](#), Code Pink
[Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War](#), Cost of War Project
[Cut Military Spending, Fund Green Manufacturing](#), Cost of War Project
[Costs of War, War Spending and Lost Opportunities](#), Cost of War Project
[Armed Lifeboat: Government's Response to Natural Disaster](#), by Sam Ross-Brown and Utne Reader on UTNE
[Climate Change and Migration](#) by The Leap
[More Than a Wall: Corporate Profiteering and the Militarization of the US-Mexico Border](#) by Todd Miller for the Transnational Institute
[Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security](#) by Todd Miller
[Sunrise Movement Green New Deal](#)
[A Green New Deal Needs to Fight US Militarism](#) by Phyllis Bennis in Jacobin