

The Campaign for New Priorities – Declaration of Principles

Our nation is deep in an economic crisis that can only be addressed by adopting *New Priorities* to create a sustainable economy for the 21st Century.

Our people need our resources allocated to immediate and significant increases in domestic spending for jobs, infrastructure, new technologies, education, health care, environmental protection -- all those efforts that enhance the Common Good of our society.

Our nation needs foreign and defense policies that serve the authentic needs of maintaining our security in a world where the use of force should be the last resort, not the first response. Our foreign policy should serve the interests of global peace, not the interests of the military-industrial complex.

- ***Our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan must end.***
- ***The Pentagon budget must be dramatically cut.***
- ***The rebuilding of our society must begin.***

(Full text attached)

*If you agree with these principles, we invite you to join us in signing the **Declaration of Principles of the Campaign for New Priorities**. Ask your organization, congregation, institution or agency to formally endorse it. Based on support the Declaration receives in each community, the Campaign will then approach local elected officials to ask that a resolution be adopted by city councils, boards of supervisors and other governmental bodies calling on Congress to adopt these new priorities and that public hearings be held to take testimony from those most impacted by the crisis..*

Who should sign? *Anyone who supports these principles. Those who have been impacted by the economic crisis – by budget, service and program cuts, chronic unemployment, foreclosures, lack of health care, environmental degradation, or other effects of the crisis.*

Who should endorse? *Social, economic and racial justice organizations, unions, faith congregations, civic organizations, non-governmental service agencies, environmental organizations, youth and seniors organizations, and all other groups that agree with these principles.*

Support this campaign: *Personally sign and return this Declaration. Circulate copies to others; promote the campaign; get organizations to endorse it. **On-line signing:** copy and past this URL into the address bar of your web browser <http://bit.ly/newprioritiescampaign>*

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**Initial Signers:**

|                                                         |                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Ying Lee, Grandmothers Against the War</i>           | <i>Jakada Imani, Ella Baker Center</i>                    |
| <i>Michael Eisenscher, US Labor Against the War</i>     | <i>Sandra Schwarz, American Friends Service Committee</i> |
| <i>Esperanza Tervalon-Daumont, Oakland Rising</i>       | <i>Norman Solomon, Progressive Democrats of America</i>   |
| <i>Walter Riley, Attorney and Civil Rights Activist</i> | <i>Jackie Cabasso, Western States Legal Foundation</i>    |
| <i>Jack Kurzweil, Wellstone Democratic Club</i>         | <i>Roger Kim, Asian Pacific Environmental Network</i>     |

**Please Join Us**

*I endorse the Declaration of Principles of the Campaign for New Priorities:*

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

*check if this is a personal endorsement only*

*check if signing for the organization*

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Return your endorsement to: [newprioritiescampaign@gmail.com](mailto:newprioritiescampaign@gmail.com) or mail to:

**Campaign for New Priorities, c/o 1731 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94703**



## Campaign for New Priorities - Declaration of Principles

Our nation is deep in an economic crisis that can only be addressed by adopting New Priorities to create a sustainable economy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Our people need our resources allocated to:**

- *Aid state and local government to restore and maintain public services, education, social programs, reemploying teachers, police, firefighters and other workers who provide vital public services;*
- *Create jobs in both the private and public sectors by rebuilding our outdated and failing physical infrastructure and our deteriorating cities, and developing and investing in new technologies for a sustainable energy future;*
- *Finance renewable energy programs and environmental cleanup to put our country on an ecologically sustainable path in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, creating stable jobs paying good incomes that will stay in the United States;*
- *Take emergency measures to address the dramatic increase in poverty and inequality in our country – provide for decent food, shelter, education, health care for all, repair the social safety net and protect Social Security and Medicare. **Instead our resources are being wasted prosecuting endless wars.***

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a consequence of a foreign policy that has used force of arms as a substitute for diplomatic engagement, and that so far has cost us more than \$1 trillion of borrowed money – a debt to be borne by future generations. These wars have generated increased threats to our national security as well as death and injury to thousands in our military and uncounted Iraqi and Afghan civilians who have also suffered physical and environmental destruction of their societies.

Our total military budget, at more than \$700 billion per year, accounts for 43% of global military spending. More than two decades after the end of the Cold War, many billions of dollars are being allocated to maintain and modernize our enduring arsenal of nuclear weapons and to add to the staggering number of U.S. military bases on foreign soil. We do not need this to provide for the legitimate defense needs of the people of the United States.

Our nation needs foreign and defense policies that serve the *authentic* needs of maintaining our security in a world where the use of force should be the last resort, not the first response. Our foreign policy should serve the interests of global peace, not the interests of the military-industrial complex.

- ***Our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan must end.***
- ***The Pentagon budget must be dramatically cut.***
- ***The rebuilding of our society must begin.***

We call upon the Northern California Congressional delegation to commit to the rapid and safe withdrawal of all of our troops and contractors from Iraq and Afghanistan and the dismantling of all U.S. military bases in those countries. We urge them to support efforts to help rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan with aid channeled through established international organizations.

Our nation's security can best be strengthened by reliance on diplomacy and negotiation, on economic development and education, rather than more troops, weapons and war.

***We call upon the Northern California Congressional delegation to adopt these New Priorities:***

- ❖ ***End the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq***
- ❖ ***Major systematic reductions in the Pentagon budget***
- ❖ ***Immediate and significant increases in domestic spending for jobs, infrastructure, new technologies, education, health care, environmental protection, an effective social safety net, defense of Social Security and Medicare from threatened cuts, and all other efforts that enhance the *Common Good* of our society.***

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*Michael Eisenscher, US Labor Against the War*  
*Esperanza Tervalon-Daumont, Oakland Rising*  
*Walter Riley, Attorney and Civil Rights Activist*  
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*Norman Solomon, Progressive Democrats of America*  
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*Roger Kim, Asian Pacific Environmental Network*

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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*check if signing for the organization*

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Circulated/Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

