



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
UNITARIEN  
DU CANADA

---

## Four Resolutions Reaffirming the Commitment of the Canadian Unitarian Council to Work for Global Peace

### RESOLUTION 1

#### BUILDING A GLOBAL CULTURE OF PEACE

1 (a) Whereas everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, and

1 (b) Whereas the unequal access to this right among people around the world is an important factor in the global forces that have created gross disparities in living standards and quality of life between countries and peoples, and

1 (c) Whereas we understand that these disparities are a major cause for misunderstanding and mistrust between peoples and nations, and for social unrest and inter- and intra-state violence around the world, and

1 (d) Whereas we believe that these conditions are important ingredients in the complex of conditions that give rise to acts of terror against civilians, and

1 (e) Whereas we believe internationally accepted laws and rules of behaviour are necessary to resolve disputes between nations or peoples peacefully, and

1 (f) Whereas the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) affirms with Unitarians and Universalists worldwide and with like minded people everywhere

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person,
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and
- the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;

1.1 **Therefore be it resolved** that the overarching goals of CUC policy respecting peace and global security be to prevent wars and violent conflict, and to promote respect for international law and the use of dialogue, negotiation, mediation, co-operation and compromise as the principal tools for resolving conflict, and,

1.2 Be it further resolved that the CUC promote education that provides tools to practice nonviolent communications and non-violent action in working for peace, justice and conflict resolution, and

1.3 Be it further resolved, that the CUC promote the broader objectives necessary to achieve these overarching goals. Namely, respect for human rights as set out in the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, support of policies aimed at the sustainable, equitable distribution of wealth and resources within and between societies; and broad and inclusive participation in the institutions of society.

1.4 Be it further resolved, that the CUC promote and encourage its members and the Canadian public at large, to support Canada's active membership of the United Nations and the fulfilment of its obligations therein, including seeking needed reforms within the UN, to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of this organization as a primary key to a pervasive culture of peace.

### RESOLUTION 2

#### ARMS AND DISARMAMENT



2 (a) Whereas the Canadian Unitarian Council, (CUC) affirms with Unitarians and Universalists world-wide and with like minded people everywhere:

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person,
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations,
- the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, and

2 (b) Whereas war and violent repression have been used by state and non-state actors throughout history to impose domination and to avoid negotiation and compromise in situations of inter- and intra-state conflict, and

2 (c) Whereas war has been, and continues to be, the cause of untold death and suffering in the human family, with the greatest toll being borne increasingly by innocent civilian populations, and

2 (d) Whereas war and the threat of war are fed by the availability of weapons of all kinds, from nuclear to small arms, which is caused by the global traffic in armaments that is driven by corporate demands for profit, and

2 (e) Whereas the immediate catastrophic end to human civilization continues to hang over our planet because the major nuclear weapon states continue to keep large numbers of nuclear weapons on high alert status and to maintain their Cold War “launch on warning” policies that promise “Mutually Assured Destruction,” and

2 (f) Whereas the continued development and proliferation of nuclear weapons increases the likelihood of their use in regional conflicts with immediate catastrophic results for the states involved, and long-term harm to the entire planet, and

2 (g) Whereas the continued reliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on nuclear weapons contradicts the obligations that Canada and all NATO member states have undertaken, as signatories to the nuclear NonProliferation Treaty (NPT), to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith, and

2 (h) Whereas the development of more and more elaborate systems of defence, such as missile

defence systems, fuels the race to develop new weapons and strategies to overcome such defences, and

2 (i) Whereas the cost of this reliance on weapons to make and to threaten war is a shameful waste of wealth generated by the world’s people, which should be used for their well-being and advancement;

2.1 Therefore be it resolved that, the CUC urge the Government of Canada to advocate within NATO, the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) and the UN (1) the reduction of the immediate danger posed by nuclear weapons and (2) urgent action on concrete steps for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and



2.2 Be it further resolved that the CUC support, and urge the Government of Canada to continue to

support, the universal ratification of the international treaties banning chemical and biological weapons and landmines, and the strengthening of their mechanisms for implementation and effectiveness, and

2.3 Be it further resolved that the CUC advocate international regulation and control, under the UN system, of all international trade in arms, including trade in small arms and light weapons (including Canada-US trade), requiring permits for all military exports from Canada, including exports to the USA, and

2.4 Be it further resolved that the CUC advocate the negotiation of an international treaty controlling

the development and use of new weapons technologies and call for a ban on weapons employing depleted uranium, laser, microwave and sonar weapons until such a treaty is in force, and

2.5 Be it further resolved that the CUC oppose the placement of weapons in space and urge the Government of Canada to continue its firm opposition to any moves in this direction, and

2.6 Be it further resolved that the CUC urge the Government of Canada, through its membership in NORAD, NATO and UN agencies, and through bilateral relations with the USA, to oppose the development of a US missile defence system and to refuse to participate in its operation.

### **RESOLUTION 3**

#### **DEFENDING CANADA AND KEEPING PEACE**

3 (a) Whereas the CUC affirms with Unitarians and Universalists worldwide and with like minded people everywhere

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and
- the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, and

3 (b) Noting that Canada in 2004, with a military force numbering about 60,000 and a defence budget of about \$12 billion, has a range of commitments that is greater than in 1993 when the forces numbered around 80,000 and the defence budget was also about \$12 billion, but in real terms about 30% greater than in 2004, and, further, that Canada is under pressure from the USA to expand its commitments still further to support the US determination to protect and promote its global interests, and

3 (c) Whereas Canada's participation in recent ad hoc coalitions for foreign military missions of questionable international legality (such as the invasions of the former Yugoslavia, Kosovo and Afghanistan) tarnish Canada's reputation as a peacekeeper and honest broker in international affairs,



3.1 Therefore, be it resolved that the CUC urge the Government of Canada to develop a defence policy that will equip and train our military to:

- (i) patrol and protect our borders;
- (ii) carry out search and rescue operations;
- (iii) provide relief assistance in disaster situations;
- (iv) give aid to the civil authorities when called upon;
- (v) carry out peace-keeping assignments mandated by the United Nations; [referred to committee to add reference to UNSC Resolution 1325 related to vulnerability of women in war and training for peace-keepers] and
- (vi) participate in state interventions for humanitarian purposes that are fully and transparently compliant with international law and mandated by the UN Security Council, or in an exceptional case where the will of a majority of UN Security Council members is blocked by a major power veto,
  - (a) that is undertaken by a coalition of willing member states committed to carry out their assignment consistent with the “basic principles” of The Responsibility to Protect the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), and
  - (b) that has as an overriding consideration the avoidance of serious harm to the civilian population.

3.2 Be it further resolved that the CUC urge the Government of Canada to refuse Canadian support of any kind for any military mission which allows the threat or use of nuclear weapons by Canada or an ally under any circumstance.

#### **RESOLUTION 4**

##### THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

4 (a) Whereas the world has witnessed repeated instances of mass killings and related atrocities in the modern era, and

4 (b) Whereas the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) submitted its report, “The Responsibility to Protect”, to the United Nations in 2001, and

4 (c) Whereas the “basic principles” underlying the recommendations of this report are consistent with Unitarian and Universalist principles, specifically,

- the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, and
- the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

4.1 Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian Unitarian Council endorse the “basic principles” in the ICISS report, The Responsibility to Protect, namely

- “State sovereignty implies responsibility, and the primary responsibility for the protection of its people lies with the state itself,” and
- “Where a population is suffering serious harm, as a result of internal war, insurgency,



**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA**

Growing Vital Unitarian Communities

@ Centre for Social Innovation | 215 Spadina Ave | Suite 400 | Toronto ON M5T 2C7

cuc.ca – [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca) – 1.888.568.5723

repression, or state failure, and the state itself is unwilling or unable to halt or avert it, the principle of non-intervention yields to the international responsibility to protect.”

**Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting in Edmonton, May 2004  
Canadian Unitarian Council**