

Saturday 29th January 2011

Lindsay Cross

Project Director, Newcastle West End Refugee Service

'Seeking sanctuary: some reflections on the needs of asylum seekers'

Over the last 11 years West End Refugee Service has seen how successive government asylum policies impact on the lives of the men, women and children who come to the UK seeking sanctuary. Whilst demonstrating inadequacies of asylum legislation, the talk will also focus on the extraordinary achievements of people in the north-east in providing practical and emotional support to refugees and asylum seekers, and the remarkable resilience and courage shown by those fleeing persecution.

Saturday 19th February 2011

Sauro Scarpelli

Campaign Manager, International Secretariat of Amnesty International

'No Arms for Atrocities: the Control Arms Campaign'

The arms trade is out of control. In 2003, Amnesty International joined other NGOs in launching the Control Arms campaign, a global campaign to promote an Arms Trade Treaty to regulate the arms trade. This presentation will give evidence of the unregulated arms transfers across the world, how this impacts on human rights and how the suggested Arms Trade Treaty would help to protect lives, livelihoods and rights.

Saturday 12th March 2011

Richard Wilkinson

Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology, University of Nottingham Medical School

'The Spirit Level: why more equal societies almost always do better'

Comparing life expectancy, mental health, levels of violence, teenage birth rates, drug abuse, child wellbeing, obesity rates, levels of trust, children's educational performance, or the strength of community life among rich countries, it is clear that societies which tend to do well on one of these measures tend to do well on all of them, and the ones which do badly, do badly on all of them. What accounts for the difference?

Saturday 9th April 2011

Stephen Tindale

Climate consultant, visiting research fellow at the University of Westminster

'Can we control climate change and still be rich and happy?'

Stephen Tindale will examine how UK renewables might be developed to replace North Sea oil and gas. Setting these changes in a geo-political context, he will argue that nuclear power will have a role to play in the transition period. Meanwhile, we need a major renovation programme to improve the carbon foot-print of existing properties, backed up with policies to address issues of fuel poverty and fairness.

Saturday 14th May 2011

Paul Rogers

Professor, Bradford University Department of Peace Studies

'9/11 Ten Years After'

With the war in Afghanistan now heading towards its eleventh year, is it time to rethink the whole response to the 9/11 atrocities? Can this be done, and will it have positive implications for how we respond to future conflicts?

Saturday 11th June 2011

Chris Mullin

Author, journalist, campaigner, former MP

'In Defence of Politics'

Chris Mullin believes that it is our good fortune to live in a democracy where public opinion can influence governments. He will address some of the challenges facing politicians, the greatest of which is how to persuade people to live sustainably when all the pressure is in the opposite direction.

Saturday 2nd July 2011

John Sloboda

Director of Oxford Research Group's Recording Casualties in Armed Conflict Programme

'Civilian Casualties: the unacceptable face of modern warfare'

The majority of casualties in today's wars are civilian. The trend in the civilian/military death ratio has been consistently upwards, and the main priority of the USA and its allies has become the protection of the lives of its own military forces. Governments and military should strive to protect civilians from harm, and compensate them if this protection fails. Better evidence gathering is needed to get a full picture of war's effects on civilians. The lecture outlines the efforts being made to address some of these critical needs.

Lindsay Cross is a former teacher who set up West End Refugee Service (WERS) in the west end of Newcastle in 1999. As Project Director she is responsible for strategic development and management of the organisation, including fundraising and running the extensive awareness-raising, training and education programme. Currently WERS has 8 paid staff, 60 approved volunteers and around 900 clients.

Sauro Scarpelli Over the past 12 years he has covered several issues in his role as Campaign Manager of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. Specialising in the international arms trade, he coordinated the Control Arms campaign, including representing Amnesty at the UN, Inter-Parliamentary Union and several civil society gatherings worldwide. He is now leading the work of AI on individuals at risk.

Stephen Tindale is Visiting Research Fellow at the Policy Studies Institute, University of Westminster. He was previously Executive Director of Greenpeace UK and Chair of Greenpeace Europe in Brussels, Special Adviser to Environment Minister Michael Meacher, and Head of Environment at the Institute for Public Policy Research. Through the IPPR he has written on Green Tax Reform and energy policy.

Prof Richard Wilkinson has played a formative role in international research on the social determinants of health and on the societal effects of income inequality. He studied economic history at the LSE before training in epidemiology. He co-wrote "The Spirit Level" with Kate Pickett and is a co-founder of The Equality Trust. He is Honorary Professor at University College London and Visiting Professor at the University of York.

Prof Paul Rogers studies trends in international conflict, developing an analysis of the linkage between socio-economic divisions, environmental constraints and international security. Since 9/11, his focus has been on

western military responses to political violence and the problems arising from the "war on terror". A regular commentator on global security issues in both the national and international media, he is also openDemocracy's International Security Editor.

Chris Mullin Author, journalist and politician. He was MP for Sunderland South from 1987 - 2010, during which period he was chairman of the Home Affairs select committee and a minister in three departments. His Diaries have been widely acclaimed. His dogged pursuit of the truth about the Birmingham bombings, documented in his book "Error of Judgement" led to the correction of one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in British legal history.

Prof John Sloboda was Executive Director of Oxford Research Group from 2004 to 2009. Since 2003, he has been co-director of the Iraq Body Count project, which remains the only continuously updated source of event-based information about civilian casualties in the ongoing Iraq conflict. In October 2010, Iraq Body Count collaborated with Wikileaks, the Guardian newspaper and others, over the release of the leaked "Iraq War Logs" which detail 16,000 hitherto unrecorded civilian casualties in Iraq.

The Hexham Debates seek to carry on the tradition of active, radical debate essential for ensuring freedom and justice for all. We hope that this programme will demonstrate ways in which a government's legitimate power must depend on the consent of its citizens, and reveal how far we have moved away from that ideal.

Hexham Debates contact:
Northumbrians_for_peace@hotmail.co.uk

Hexham Debates Series 4

War
Peace
Democracy

29 January
19 February
12 March
9 April
14 May
11 June
2 July

11.00am - 12.30pm

The St Mary's Centre
St Mary's R C Church
Hencotes, Hexham

Admission Free – Retiring Collection

Organised by Northumbrians for Peace and Hexham Quakers