

Teacher? Parent? School or college student?  
Are you concerned about military activities in schools?

# young people & militarism in the U.S. and U.K



## Challenging military presence in schools & colleges

### **Military Out Of Schools campaign launch**

**LONDON: Sat 9 July  
2011, 7pm**

Housmans Bookshop  
5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DY

**with U.S. speaker Oskar  
Castro, plus Ben Griffin,  
School Students Against  
War and others**

### **Workshop for those who want to get more involved**

**LONDON Wed 13 July,  
7pm**, Friends House, Euston Rd,  
NW1 2BJ

**with Oskar Castro and David  
Gee**

### **Public meetings with U.S. speaker Oskar Castro and others**

**COVENTRY Tues 12 July,  
7pm**, Peace House, 311 Stoney  
Stanton Rd, CV6 5DS

**EDINBURGH Thurs 14  
July, 7pm**, Quaker Meeting  
House, 7 Victoria Terrace, EH1 2JL

The UK armed forces visit thousands of schools each year. They offer school presentation teams, youth teams, 'careers advisors' and lessons plans. The Government is suggesting the expansion of cadet forces within state schools to encourage the military 'spirit' and that ex-soldiers mentor youngsters in schools.

While there are claims that school involvement is not about recruiting young people, the Ministry of Defence has itself stated that visits to educational establishments are a "powerful tool for facilitating recruitment".

Should the armed forces be given access to children within education? How can we challenge their activities in schools and colleges? How can a more balanced view of what life in the armed forces involves be given to young people?

**The meetings will look at initiatives to tackle military involvement in public education in the U.S. and what can be learned for challenging the presence of the armed forces in U.K. schools and colleges.**

*These events are supported by Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Pax Christi.*

**Oskar Castro** is currently the Director of the US organisation, **Military Families Speak Out**. Previously he was the Coordinator of the **American Friends Service Committee's Youth and Militarism Program**, which seeks to reduce the influence of the military in schools, to provide young people with alternatives to military service and to empower them to become peacemakers within their communities.

**David Gee** is the author of *Informed Choice: Armed forces recruitment practice in the UK*

**Ben Griffin**, ex SAS, left the UK armed forces in 2005.

These meetings are part of ForcesWatch's **Military Out Of Schools campaign**.

ForcesWatch raises awareness, and campaigns on, issues of ethical concern and the armed forces. Our work includes challenging unethical recruitment practices, raising concerns about human rights within the military and questioning the climate of uncritical national pride in the armed forces.

For more information: [www.forceswatch.net](http://www.forceswatch.net)  
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## ForcesWatch