

Instructions for the Peace Tax Return

Who should use this form?

This form is for

- people who want to register a protest to paying taxes for war
- people who choose to refuse to pay some or all of their federal taxes to divest from war

Is this form illegal?

You have the right to protest actions by the government with which you do not agree. Using this form is an exercise of your freedom of speech. (*See the next section regarding refusal to pay taxes.*) The IRS regulations state that you should not write messages on their official forms, such as the 1040 form, but enclosing a note or letter of protest with your mailed in return is allowed. The IRS may send a warning letter about “frivolous returns” in response, but that letter can usually be ignored. War tax resisters have many years of experience with this, but to avoid any worry you might choose to send your Peace Tax Return or protest letter in a separate envelope to the IRS Commissioner’s address at the top of the form.

Is it illegal to refuse to pay taxes?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes “freedom of conscience” as a human right. Many who refuse to pay war taxes believe our government should recognize a conscientious objector status for war tax refusers (*see peacetaxfund.org*).

However, under current tax laws in the U.S., there is no legal option to send tax dollars to an organization of one’s choice rather than to the IRS to prevent taxes being used for war. The IRS has full power to enforce collection of taxes not paid to the government. This is usually done through letters demanding payment, but can involve seizures, such as of funds from bank accounts or salaries. Making charitable contributions and seeking out all options for deductions and credits may help to legally reduce taxes if

you file. Living below the taxable income (approximately \$12,000 for a single person in 2018) is also legal. If you choose either of these options to lower your complicity with war, register your protest by using Part A of this form.

Protesting war taxes involves risks. Feminist/peace activist Barbara Deming put it well: “Think first about the action that is right to take, and think later about coping with one’s fears.”

Instructions

(Please read through the above first.)

Part A

This section is for **1)** people who are getting a refund from the IRS because taxes have already been paid through payroll withholding; **2)** people who are paying their taxes in full but under protest; or, **3)** people who do not owe tax on April 15 because they have used legal methods to reduce their tax bill.

Add your own thoughts if you choose. Sign and date the statement and enclose it when you file your IRS return. Send copies to elected officials.

Part B

This section is for people who refuse to pay some or all of their federal taxes because they do not want to pay for war. This is an act of civil disobedience.

Fill in the percentage and/or amount you are refusing. (Example: 50% of \$1,500 tax due is \$750, or refuse a small amount as a protest, such as \$1 or \$10.)

Add your own thoughts on this form and enclose it when you file your IRS return, or send it with a separate letter if you choose. Send copies to elected officials, and join our public resisters list at wartaxdivestment.org.

Response Form

Please return this form to NWTRCC (anonymously if you prefer)

- to let us know that you have used the Peace Tax Return
- to request more information
- to be added to our mailing list

NWTRCC was founded in 1982 as a coalition of local, regional and national groups supportive of war tax resistance.

Through the redirection of our tax dollars, NWTRCC members contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all.

NWTRCC will put you in touch with groups in your area if you contact us at the address below. Contributions from individuals sustain our efforts. Your financial support will help us continue our work.



NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

PO Box 5616, Milwaukee, WI 53205
Office/War Tax Resistance Hotline:
1.800.269.7464
nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org
nwtrcc.org · wartaxdivestment.org

Local Contact:

Use this form to divest
from or protest war taxes.

PEACE TAX RETURN

A thief says, “your
money or your life.”
The Pentagon says,
“Your money and your
life.” I refuse to give
either one.

—Maurice McCrackin

NATIONAL
WAR TAX RESISTANCE
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Peace Tax Return Tax Year 20

Produced by: National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWRTRCC), PO Box 5616, Milwaukee, WI 53205, www.nwrtrcc.org

Note: *This is not an official IRS form. Use it to divest from war while demanding investment in people and the earth.*

There are 3 sections to this form. Please read the Instructions on the reverse to use Part A or Part B; everyone can use the Response Form. If you do not file or file online and want to send a protest, mail either Part A or Part B to Office of the Commissioner, IRS, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20224 and to elected officials.

Part A

For persons paying their taxes to the IRS who wish to register a protest with their payment. →

To the IRS and Elected Officials:

I am sickened by the amount of my tax dollars being used for war. More than \$4.3 trillion has been spent on the U.S. wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, by the Pentagon and other federal agencies. More than 17 years of war has resulted in a horrifying loss of life and spreading violence, terror, and environmental destruction, while programs serving communities here and abroad lack funding. Taxpayers will foot the bill for medical costs and the debt from these wars for decades to come. Each year about half of our tax dollars are used to pay for current and past wars and the weapons of future wars. If instead this money were invested for humanitarian purposes we could truly build a better and more secure world.

I request that the part of my taxes used for military purposes be diverted to non-military programs.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Part B

For persons who refuse to pay some or all of their federal taxes to the IRS as a protest against paying for war. →

To the IRS and Elected Officials:

I am sickened by the amount of my tax dollars being used for war. More than \$4.3 trillion has been spent on the U.S. wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, by the Pentagon and other federal agencies. More than 17 years of war has resulted in a horrifying loss of life and spreading violence, terror, and environmental destruction, while programs serving communities here and abroad lack funding. Taxpayers will foot the bill for medical costs and the debt from these wars for decades to come. Each year about half of our tax dollars are used to pay for current and past wars and the weapons of future wars. If instead this money were invested for humanitarian purposes we could truly build a better and more secure world.

I feel so strongly about this that I am refusing to pay _____% or \$_____ of my taxes owed to the IRS. I will either set this money aside to pay at a time when it will not be used for war, or I will give this amount to programs that help build true peace and security. I understand that the IRS may use its enforcement procedures to collect this money from me, but I hope that you will instead join me and divest from war, invest in people!

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Response Form

Please help us to track the use of this form by filling out this section and returning it to our office at the address below.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I completed Part A and sent it to the IRS.
 I completed Part B and sent it to the IRS.

I sent copies of Part A or B to my elected officials.

I prefer to remain anonymous, but I sent notice of my protest refusal of war taxes to the IRS.

Please add me to your mailing list.

Please send me _____ copies of this flyer.

If you refused to pay some or all of your taxes, what amount was refused? \$_____.

Enclosed is a contribution for the work of NWRTRCC.

Return this section to: National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWRTRCC),
PO Box 5616, Milwaukee, WI 53205

Thank you!