

News release
For immediate release

**‘TEACH PEACE’ WORKSHOP TO SHOWCASE ALTERNATIVES
TO MILITARY RECRUITMENT, KICK OFF EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

The Oklahoma Center for Conscience will host a workshop on Monday, August 10, where potential "counter-recruitment" volunteers can learn about the successful CR programs in Fort Worth and Austin, Texas, and then get involved with such work in Oklahoma. The training will run from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. at Joy Mennonite Church at 504 NE 16th in Oklahoma City.

"We don't really like to use the term 'counter-recruitment,' although that's the common shorthand for the type of work we are preparing to do," said Rena Guay, a spokesperson for OCC and a coordinator of the workshop. "We don't seek to silence or remove recruiters, nor could we in any case -- though we would hope to keep them honest."

By federal law, public schools that allow in military representatives and recruiting material must also give space to those with alternative messages regarding student recruitment.

Guay says that counter-recruitment campaigns provide young people and their parents with "context and alternatives to the propaganda, pressure and sometimes false promises offered by military recruiters" in schools, malls and other public places. "We believe that youth have the right to a full horizon of options when considering their future education and careers. They aren't really getting that from recruiters, who aren't exactly unbiased participants, and have their own agenda, including a quota to meet every month."

According to Diane Wood of Peaceful Vocations in Fort Worth, counter-recruiters reach students "by tabling during lunch hours, making classroom presentations, having a presence at College Days and Career Fairs, hanging hallway posters, and placing our literature in the counselors' offices. We provide all of these services at no cost to students. We attend numerous civic events; we provide street theater for the community, and presentations for churches, civic groups, and parents' groups."

Guay said they plan similar outreach in Oklahoma, and that local volunteers can choose the type of work they feel most comfortable doing, including support work doing research, fundraising, or setting appointments and maintaining literature.

The workshop, which is free of charge, will present an overview of the various methods of outreach, and sample copies of literature will be available. Ms Wood will also give a report about the recent national counter recruitment convention in Chicago, where she was a workshop presenter.

For more info, call 405-771-4743 or 405-615-2700 or visit www.centerforconscience.org.

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