

# LET'S START TALKING ABOUT PEACE

Who profits from war?

What is the nature of peace? – outer *and* inner

How can we further peace?

Where is the moral or spiritual leadership?

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7 pm

An open public meeting at the Art Studio,  
Centre for Science and Art  
13 Lansdown, Stroud GL5 1BB

Free entry  
donations to  
cover costs

Introduced by the  
Stroud Freedom Group

“The first casualty when war comes is truth,” US Senator Hiram W. Johnson famously proclaimed in 1917. And for Mahatma Gandhi, “The very first step in non-violence is that we cultivate in our daily life, as between ourselves, truthfulness, humility, tolerance, loving kindness.”

How is it that the human species still seems addicted to war? This open public meeting will enable a deep conversation about war *and* peace, seen from every perspective – historical, economic, political and spiritual.

(This background photo was taken in the Iraq war, on a residential street...)

**ALL WELCOME!**

Excerpt from *SNJ*,  
7 March 2023 [online]

## “Thoughts on Nato and the war in Ukraine”

As this terrible war grinds on, ...it really has become a NATO versus Russia war, with Ukrainians used as proxy fighters helping to promote US global hegemony (the real goal and purpose of NATO). When did we express our democratic will to go to war with Russia? NATO was created in 1949 to secure US power, and its relentless expansion since 1990s has seen it expand its power right across Europe.

...Eisenhower’s defending “a way of life” (1954) looks distinctly American, including ideologically driven privatisation and structural readjustments to make the target country US business friendly. From World War II to the present the US economy has been built on its massive, largely privatised, military industrial complex. The Ukrainian war has been a godsend to defence industries across the Western world, especially the US.

...The evil talismans of “appeasement” and “Hitler” can be bandied about to hammer all opposition to the war. Calls for a ceasefire and negotiations are shouted down with accusations of being Putin’s “useful idiots” and anti-democratic even.

This war cannot end with victory or defeat for either side, NATO or Russia...

**James Derieg, Kemble**

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*“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work  
with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”*

Nelson Mandela