



## Introduction

This document is a written submission prepared by PTFD Peace Tax Fund of Denmark for OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to UPR Universal Periodic Review of human rights in Denmark. We are proud and honored to present you our cause as a human rights organization.

## Peace Tax Fund of Denmark

PTFD was founded 10th of May 1990. Ever since, we have worked towards realization of a Peace Tax in cooperation with politicians, national and international institutions to make our cause common knowledge. Recently we have started a campaign that seeks to inform the people about their human rights, to share the idea of a Peace Tax and to present the possibility to contribute to its realization through Democracy. We hereby present you with the key concepts of a Peace Tax in hope of finding any support for our cause.

## CCPR Covenant on Civil and Political Rights article 18:

The human right to have freedom of thought, conscience and religion is fundamental to the individual psychological well-being especially when having to do with life and death. In Denmark today anno 2015, we confront conflicts and war on a daily basis via a live-stream of media footage and refugees of violence. Every day, the globalization forces a reaction to this development, and PTFD is a part of this movement; however, we do not wish to move against violence nor oppression, but towards peace. Our organization represents a minority of pacifists and religious people, who hurt from forced taxes to military purposes. We believe that this obligation to military undermines our human right not to partake in violence or killing, although we do wish to help bring forth long-term peace and security, but only through non-violent means. Thus a Peace Tax, so that everyone no matter background can go to work and pay taxes with no regrets regarding conflicts or war, but in a way that we feel is not contradicting our beliefs, conscience or religion.

## Peace psychology

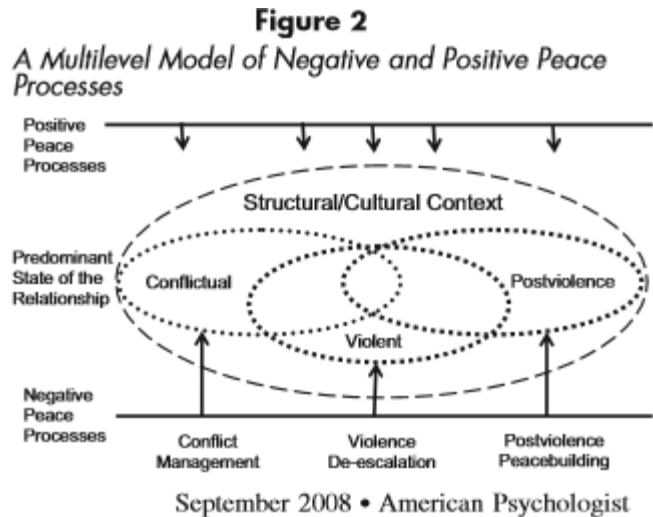
Our cause builds on ethical and moral concerns, why we believe that a common goal, peace and security, should include means that does not undermine that very end. A Peace Tax is not only a respect of the human right to be free to choose not to support military actions, but a potential solution to counter growing radicalization that can rise or already have arisen in Denmark from forcing our citizens to partake in killing. After the Second World War, almost 4000 American psychologists signed the *Psychologists' Manifesto: Human Nature and Peace*, which for instance declared "[...] *War can be avoided. War is build, not born.*" Smith, M. B. (1999). Members of PTFD are concerned that we cannot avoid war by only training soldiers or building weapons, though others might disagree. We fear that undermining this freedom to manifest essential believes of non-violence might intensify conflicts of integration or even radicalize minorities to commit acts of terror. Professor of Psychology, Moghaddam, presented in 2005 the article *Psychological processes and the staircase to terrorism*. According to this



theory the first steps of radicalization is perception of relative deprivation (Crisp & Turner, 2010). Due to the recent terrorist-attack at Krudttønden, Østerbro, in Copenhagen, PTFD urges that we as a Democratic society take every appropriate action to prevent radicalization by reducing deprivation of this freedom to live according to conscience and religion.

Modern day peace psychology differs between *negative peace processes* that is military means to peace, and *positive peace processes* e.g. non-violent means of peacebuilding. Consistent with the research article *Peace Psychology for a Peaceful World* both options have effect and can work together to prevent violence and make peace and security through different forms and approaches. Based on framework by Christie et al., September 2008 American Psychologist, it is possible to make

peace and security without using force. Thus, we argue that a Peace Tax makes it possible to enforce human rights without violating the right to be free from paying taxes to military and as a result partake in acts of killing by second hand.



### National campaign

Ever since February 2015, PTFD has been running a national campaign presenting our cause via petition to inform people about this human right, so that a Peace Tax may become a lawful alternative to obligated military taxation. So far, 72 have signed PTFD's online, electronic petition at campaign website, and they state the following based on our Peace Tax legislative proposal (translated from Danish for this occasion):



#### PTFD: PETITION FOR A PEACE TAX FUND TO THE PEOPLE

Under existing laws, every Danish citizen have the right to refuse carrying or producing guns, however, he is forced to pay, so that others will do it in his place. This is a violation against the human right to have freedom of thought, conscience and religion Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 18:

*“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”*

Thus, if paying taxes to the military is incompatible with an individual's belief, conscience



or religion, it should be his right to refuse to kill or partake in killing. The European Convention on Human Rights, article nine, which is existing law in Denmark, states the same right and defines it likewise under limitations that are prescribed by current law and are necessary in democratic societies.

We argue that it is not necessary –

However, the majority of the people have decided via parliamentary democracy that all Danish citizens with no exceptions are legally obligated to pay taxes to the military – even citizens that due to conscience or religion – i.e. pacifists or religious people – object to support or partake in violent, military activities. Therefore, there is a minority in Denmark, whose experience of peace and psychological freedom suffers from this obligation to support violent means through daily work towards peaceful ends and security.

With a Peace Tax, it would no longer be necessary to undermine human rights at one place to enforce human rights at another place, because the end towards peace and security is the same and the fact that both opportunities, if given, would not exclude one and another.

#### SIGN THE PETITION FOR A PEACE TAX AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO USE OF FORCE

According to PTFD's Peace Tax legislative proposal, individual payments for a Peace Tax goes to peace and security, however, by different means entirely. A Peace Tax respects the individual right to be free from paying taxes to military, if need be, but it also requires the citizen to pay taxes to peace and security.

A Peace Tax contributor's payment is marked for the prevention of violent conflicts, non-violent conflict-solving, post-violent peace building, establishment of human security, first aid to war refugees and so on. Where traditional military security works with troops and weapons, human security seeks to strengthen social and environmental structures based on human rights. For human security policies, there are entirely different milestones and objectives, but the purpose of a Peace Tax would be the same, because the focus is to help ensure the safety of local areas in need and to improve international cooperation.

With your signature, you will recognize the human right to have freedom of thought, conscience and religion and thus freedom to deny killing or partake in killing by supporting the realization of a Peace Tax.

For more information, visit Peace Tax Fund of Denmark's homepage:

[www.fredsskattefonden.dk](http://www.fredsskattefonden.dk)



or visit the website of PTFD's national campaign:

<http://fredsskat.dk/skrivunder.html>

## Legislative proposal for a Peace Tax in Denmark prepared by PTFD

### § 1.

*The citizens' tax payment cannot against their conscience be used to finance the military system.*

### § 2.a.

*Every taxpayer has the right to state him or herself as a Peace Tax contributor on the tax return.*

### § 2.b.

*Businesses and legal persons shall also be able to register themselves as Peace Tax contributors.*

### § 3.

*Tax payment from Peace Tax contributors enters a distinct account in the State's income budget and accounts. From this account, finances cannot be used to military purposes, but finances can proportionally be used to means to secure peace and conflict solving from a non-violent philosophy and thereby without military actions.*

### § 4.

*Properties and assets belonging to Peace Tax contributors cannot be appointed administratively to military purposes.*

### § 5.

*From taxes paid by Peace Tax contributors, it strive to use a proportional percentage, equivalent to military expenditures from the State budget, to financing and supporting e.g. following objectives:*

*a. Research in causes to international conflicts, in consequences of the use of military force and in consequences of use of non-violent conflict solving.*

*b. Research in transition from military production to civil production.*

*c. Institutions and projects that promotes the use of non-violent conflict solving e.g. through education, mediation including contributions for the international Peace Tax movements projects.*

*d. Projects for conservation and recovery of nature.*

*e. Possibly for distribution of international peace awards.*

*f. Information about development of non-violent peacekeeping and conflict solving.*



*g. Support to and care for refugees of war, i.e. people who flee from violence, instead of participate in it.*

*h. Prevention of violent conflicts through civilian mechanism of conflict control including conflict handling and conflict transformation as well as stabilization of post-violent areas.*

*i. Establishment of human security through strengthening vulnerable society's social and environmental structures and by stabilizing democratic management processes based on human rights.*

## Conclusion

In light of a growing number of refugees that seek asylum from war in Europe, PTFD urge that we discuss the necessity of violating CCPR 18 and prepare to accommodate our system of taxation on this matter. PTFD believe that it is in everyone's interest to make peace and security possible to obtain through means that does not per se violate those values. Considering all kinds of individual races, religions, nationalities, or even political opinions, in all fairness, we believe that the right not to kill or partake in killing is essential to all. PTFD have been trying to solve this problem locally with established parties of Danish Parliament, however, we look forward for the UPR to recognize the right not to pay military taxation due to CCPR 18.

With regard to CCPR and to the psychological processes from deprivation to radicalization and effects of positive peace processes, PTFD believe that a Peace Tax in fact is a valid and effective solution to this conflict of interest, and we invite you to contact us for any questions. PTFD as a national institution seeks from June-15 membership of CPTI Conscience Peace Tax International to the international co-operation.

Please note that PTFD request that the annex "Documentation for PTFD petition" including signatures to individual statements is not made public due to potential personal consequences. So far, 72 people have signed the petition, but the number is growing steadily.

## Literature

Christie, J. Daniel et al. (2008): *Peace Psychology for a Peaceful World*. American Psychologist, Vol. 63, No. 6

Crisp, R. J. & Turner, R. N. (2010): *Essential social psychology*. 2. edition. London: Sage publications

Smith, M. B. (1999): *Political psychology and peace: A half-century perspective*. Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 5, 1–16.

