



## European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO)



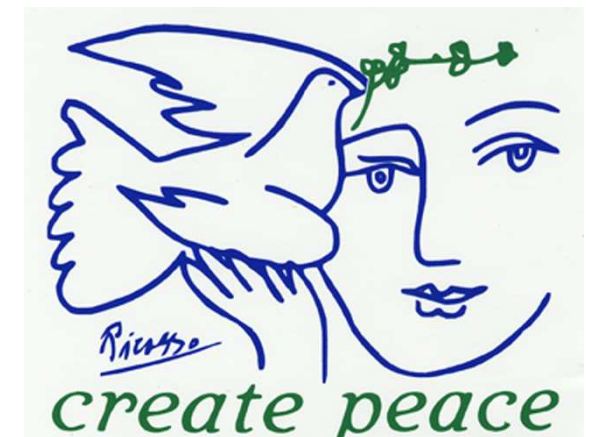
The **European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO)** was founded in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors, with the aim of promoting collective campaigns and lobbying the European Union institutions for the recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military service. Today, its main concern is the promotion of this right in all member states of the Council of Europe as well as the promotion of peace and conflict resolution through the experience of conscientious objectors and their supporters.

### **EBCO promotes:**

- the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right, on both a national and an international level, at the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and other international bodies,
- the right of asylum for conscientious objectors coming from countries that do not recognise or that insufficiently recognise their rights in countries having signed the European Convention on Human Rights,
- peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, non-violence, antimilitarism, antidiscrimination, human rights and youth rights.

### **EBCO:**

- 📖 enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe,
- 📖 is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" (1994),
- 📖 provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights of the Council of Europe,
- 📖 is a full member of the European Youth Forum.



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**YOU can join EBCO as an individual or an organisation.**



**SUPPORT EBCO!  
DONATE NOW!**

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## Progress at international level:

- ☑ Reports and Resolutions of the European Parliament (1983, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001).
- ☑ Recommendations of the Council of Europe (1967, 1987, 2001, 2010).
- ☑ Resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004).
- ☑ Introduction of the right to conscientious objection into the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 10).

## Progress at national level:

- ☑ 29 Member States of the Council of Europe have no conscription: Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands, United Kingdom.
- ☑ 16 Member States have adopted laws recognising conscientious objection to military service: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.
- ☑ 2 Member States still have no laws recognising conscientious objection to military service: Azerbaijan and Turkey.

## Targets:

- ⊕ Most European Union states have abolished or suspended conscription. They should provide the right to conscientious objection also for professional soldiers.
- ⊕ The last seven European Union states which still have conscription (Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece and Sweden) have adopted some law recognising conscientious objection. However, improvements have to be made in some of them, especially in Greece, Finland, Estonia, Cyprus and Austria.
- ⊕ Improvements in the existing laws recognising conscientious objection should also be made in Council of Europe Member States, especially in Russia and Armenia.
- ⊕ Laws which recognise conscientious objection should be adopted by those European states which still do not do so, namely Azerbaijan and Turkey.
- ⊕ As most European states suspend or restrict the right to conscientious objection in war or in situations of conflict, it is important that the fundamental right to conscientious objection is guaranteed equally in war time and in peace time.
- ⊕ Finally, all European states should recognize the right of asylum for conscientious objectors coming from countries that do not recognise or that insufficiently recognise their rights.

