

What Is Our Responsibility, As Parents, To Our Children and to Society?

If we see war as futile in solving world problems, have we made that clear to our children? In what ways? How can we, as parents, set an example of what sort of world we want to see?

What if we brainstormed with our children, whatever their ages, about what they hope their future will hold, and what it will take to get there?

What if, *at the same time*, we spoke to them realistically of our concerns about living under a government devoted to war-making, both under Democrats and Republicans?

How could we protect our family members and our larger communities from a military draft?

What might we have to do, as parents and family members, to help our youngsters as they decide to resist our government's war-making?

Are We Allowing Others, Such as the Military, to Make Decisions about Our Children?

As parents, we judge ourselves on how our children fare in the world. We are concerned for their well-being, and naturally we hope they will choose courses in life which reflect our values.

How is it, then, that so many young people in the U.S. have been recruited into the military, when polls show that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are unpopular and widely regarded as illegal and inhumane?

When You Do The Math, War Money For College Doesn't Add Up.

Well-meaning activists sometimes demean poor people by suggesting that joining the military is the only way they can attain a college education.

Paying for college is hard, but there may be alternatives that don't require registering for the draft: Fund for Education and Training (FEAT), work/study programs, living with parents instead of in a dorm, low-tuition community colleges, need-based scholarships at private colleges, scholarships for children of union members. And if the price of college is enlistment in the military, or the risk of being drafted, should we tell our children that college is worth that price?

What message do we send our children when we tell them graduating from a prestigious college is more important than living out their values? What message does this send to people worldwide about Americans' priorities? Is America really more enlightened, or do we have a superior way of life, because a higher percentage of our population goes to college? What is the message if we tell our children to compromise their beliefs to get college aid, but aren't willing to make comparable sacrifices in our own way of life to save money for our children's education, such as postponing major purchases, taking out loans of our own, or selling our car(s) and switching to public transportation?

*for more information, or to arrange a house party
or a presentation to your group, contact:*

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Parents and The Draft

Nurturing Our Children by Supporting Their Resistance to War

**Are you confident that
your children would tell you
if they were talking to
military recruiters?**

**Are you uncertain
about where you stand
on getting involved
in your children's resistance
to wars and war-making?**