

Justice
Peace
Democracy

THE HEXHAM DEBATES 2011

SERIES 4 Organised by Northumbrians for Peace and Hexham Quakers

RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Each speaker 80 minutes including questions and answers



29th January 2011: **'Seeking sanctuary: some reflections on the needs of asylum seekers'**

Lindsay Cross, Project Director, Newcastle West End Refugee Service

Over the last 11 years West End Refugee Service has seen how successive government asylum policies impact on the lives of the men, women and children who come to the UK seeking sanctuary. Whilst demonstrating inadequacies of asylum legislation, the talk also focuses on the extraordinary achievements of people in the north-east in providing practical and emotional support to refugees and asylum seekers, and the remarkable resilience and courage shown by those fleeing persecution.

19th February 2011:

'No Arms for Atrocities: the Control Arms Campaign'

Sauro Scarpelli, Campaign Manager, International Secretariat of Amnesty International

The arms trade is out of control. In 2003, Amnesty International joined other NGOs in launching the Control Arms campaign, a global campaign to promote an Arms Trade Treaty to regulate the arms trade. This presentation gives evidence of the unregulated arms transfers across the world, how this impacts on human rights and how the suggested Arms Trade Treaty would help to protect lives, livelihoods and rights.

- Single CDs (1 speaker) £2.00 each
- Or all 6 CDs for £10
- Or CDROM (has 6 speakers) for £2.50

*Cheques to 'Religious Society of Friends Hexham Meeting',
6 Park Avenue, Hexham, NE46 3EN*

14th March 2011: **'The Spirit Level: why more equal societies almost always do better'** **Richard Wilkinson, Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology, University of Nottingham Medical School**

Comparing life expectancy, mental health, levels of violence, teenage birth rates, drug abuse, child wellbeing, obesity rates, levels of trust, children's educational performance, or the strength of community life among rich countries, it is clear that societies which tend to do well on one of these measures tend to do well on all of them, and the ones which do badly, do badly on all of them. What accounts for the difference?

9th April 2011: **'Can we control climate change and still be rich and happy?'** **Stephen Tindale, Research fellow at the University of Westminster**

Stephen Tindale examines how UK renewables might be developed to replace North Sea oil and gas. Setting these changes in a geo-political context, he argues that nuclear power will have a role to play in the transition period. Meanwhile, we need a major renovation programme to improve the carbon footprint of existing properties, backed up with policies to address issues of fuel poverty and fairness.

14th May 2011: **'9/11 Ten Years After'** **Paul Rogers, Professor, Bradford University Department of Peace Studies**

With the war in Afghanistan now heading towards its eleventh year, is it time to rethink the whole response to the 9/11 atrocities? Can this be done, and will it have positive implications for how we respond to future conflicts?

2nd July 2011: **'Civilian Casualties: the unacceptable face of modern warfare'** **John Sloboda, Director of Oxford Research Group's Recording Casualties in Armed Conflict**

The majority of casualties in today's wars are civilian. The trend in the civilian/military death ratio has been consistently upwards, and the main priority of the USA and its allies has become the protection of the lives of its own military forces. Governments and military should strive to protect civilians from harm, and compensate them if this protection fails. Better evidence gathering is needed to get a full picture of war's effects on civilians. The lecture outlines the efforts being made to address some of these critical needs.