

Anti-Militarism Funding Guide

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This resource guide is compiled by the [Alternatives to Militarism Funder Community](#) (AMFC). If you are a funder who would like more information about the anti-militarism ecosystem, any specific organizations, or the AMFC itself, please reach us via [this form](#).

Introduction

The US is in an authoritarian crisis and philanthropy is rightly turning its attention toward efforts to protect democracy and civil society. But much of this work has a critical blind spot: the role that militarism plays in exacerbating and facilitating authoritarianism.

Militarism is the worldview that justifies the use of state force and violence as the basis of safety and security. In the US, militarism and its attendant policies stand in the way of:

- An open, functioning civil society with the rights to free speech and dissent;
- Adequate funding of the social safety net and other care-centered priorities, like healthcare, education, and climate resilience; and
- The right of people in the US and around the world to live free from war and violence.

This donor guide aims to fill this gap in the funding landscape by lifting up organizations doing important work to:

- Help the public and policymakers understand the harms of militarism,
- Block or mitigate those harms on impacted communities,
- Engage and mobilize important constituencies in advocacy, and
- Promote viable alternative pathways for domestic and global security and prosperity.

Context

In 2023, the US spent 62 percent of its federal discretionary budget (\$1.1 trillion!) on [militarized programs](#), including wars, deportations, detentions, prisons, and policing. Contrary to its stated aims of reducing government spending, the Trump administration has indicated it intends to raise investments in militarism even higher, allocating [\\$1 trillion](#) toward the military alone and [\\$45 billion](#) to building new private incarceration facilities for immigrants. At the same time, DOGE is decimating the already underfunded programs supporting housing, healthcare, global aid and peacebuilding, climate solutions, education, and other vital human needs.

Beyond issues of federal budget priorities, however, the apparatus of US militarism presents an immediate threat to US social justice movements and democracy itself. The surveillance and

legal tools long honed against Muslim and Arab communities during the “War on Terror” [are now wielded](#) against a broad range of dissident voices. Opposition to US foreign policy has become the administration’s [justification](#) for abducting, incarcerating, and deporting legal residents expressing their right to free speech. A similar logic of national security is being used in various efforts to [threaten the charitable status](#) of nonprofits supporting purportedly “terrorist” activities. Increasingly militarized immigration enforcement is terrorizing noncitizens and citizens alike. And there is growing concern about the president’s potential use of the [Insurrection Act](#) to deploy the military domestically to aid with mass deportations.

And this is not even addressing the devastating harms of US militarism beyond our borders. The US continues to aid Israel’s devastating strikes in Gaza, which have [killed more than 50,000 people](#) and displaced [more than 90%](#) of Gaza’s population since late 2023. Last spring’s airstrikes in Yemen, largely eclipsed by the appalling Signal chat that launched them, have killed [dozens of civilians](#); airstrikes in the Caribbean and Venezuela have flouted international laws and killed more than [130 people](#). Under presidents of both major US parties, [four million](#) people have died because of this country’s post-9/11 wars in the Middle East and North Africa. And the new administration is doubling down on militarist belligerence, escalating tensions with China, threatening takeovers of Greenland and the Panama Canal, and starting a new regional conflict with Iran.

At this moment, there is a critical need to support advocacy groups that can make militarism’s harmful impacts clear to policymakers and mobilize the public to advocate for alternatives. This donor guide is intended to help meet that need by providing a partial list of organizations engaged in pressing work to push back against accelerating US militarism. It provides a starting point for rapid response grants to facilitate work in this area.

More information

This [crowd-sourced resource list](#) for funders includes more background on militarism and its intersections with other issues, as well as a more extensive list of anti-militarism organizations.

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National Anti-Militarism Organizations

This is a cross-section of organizations working on militarism, representing work on grassroots organizing, policy development, and communications. Here is a [more comprehensive list](#).

[Common Defense](#) | 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and PAC | Jessica James, development@commondefense.us

Common Defense is the largest grassroots veterans' organization in the US, and its members organize across the country around issues of foreign policy, democracy, climate solutions, and immigrant justice. Veterans are counted as trusted spokespeople across ideological lines, making them a particularly important voice on issues like protecting the Constitution, resisting domestic deployment of the military, and prioritizing diplomacy over military force.

[Dissenters](#) | 501(c)(3) | yuni@wearedissenters.org

Dissenters' campus chapters train and organize young people to advocate for divestment from militarized foreign policy, policing, and incarceration in favor of reinvestment in things like climate mitigation, healthcare, and housing. Its membership is mostly working class youth of color on college campuses, which have become a critical battleground for free speech issues.

[Feminist Peace Initiative](#) | 501(c)(3) via MADRE | Diana Duarte, diana@madre.org and Christine Ahn, christine@ips-dc.org

Militarism relies on the assumption that violence is necessary for security. The Feminist Peace Initiative (FPI) is advancing an alternate vision for US foreign policy that rejects this assumption in favor of things that actually keep us safe, like justice, a stable climate, and human rights. Anchored by MADRE, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and Women Cross DMZ, FPI recently released a [strategy guide](#) for how movements, researchers, policymakers, funders, and media can advance feminist peace.

[Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) | Stephen Donahoe, stephen@fcnl.org

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) lobbies and advocates for more justice- and peace-oriented policy in the US Government. Beyond its DC-based experts, FCNL provides training, resources, and policy research to a network of thousands of grassroots volunteers who then educate and lobby their elected officials on issues of militarism and federal spending.

[Fundors for Demilitarization](#) | 501(c)(3) | Diana Duarte, diana@madre.org

A joint project of MADRE, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, Grassroots International, and the Peace Development Fund, this new pooled fund moves funds to grassroots organizations within the United States working to advance alternatives to militarism rooted in community safety, human rights, peace and justice.

[Grassroots Global Justice Alliance](#) (501(c)(3)) and **Grassroots Global Justice Action Fund** (501(c)(4)) | Randy Jackson, randy@ggjalliance.org

GGJ is a US-based alliance of multiracial base-building organizations in solidarity with global social movements working for climate and gender justice and an end to war. Its People's Care Agenda seeks to win protections for frontline communities and expand investments in the caring economy as part of a longer campaign to divest US funds from military aggression for reinvestment in community-centered climate resilience and disaster response.

[Kairos Center for Religions, Rights & Social Justice](#) | 501(c)(3) | Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, liz@kairoscenter.org

The Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, & Social Justice organizes poor and working-class communities to confront the interrelated issues of militarism, racism, and economic injustice. The organization does much of its organizing in faith communities and is an important moral voice on social issues. Kairos co-leads the Poor People's Campaign along with Repairers of the Breach.

[MADRE](#) | 501(c)(3) | Diana Duarte, diana@madre.org

MADRE provides funding, partnership, and advocacy support to grassroots feminist peace movements in 40+ countries around the world. US foreign policy is often made without reference to on-the-ground knowledge; to interrupt that dynamic, MADRE also brings its grassroots partners from war-impacted countries together with US policymakers to share their perspectives on policies that impact them.

[MPower Change](#) (501(c)(3)) and **MPower Action** (501(c)(4))

MPower is a grassroots community organization organizing Muslim communities to advance social, racial, and economic justice by conducting political education and training, mobilizing Muslim voters, and leading campaigns that impact Muslims.

[Muslims for Just Futures](#) | 501(c)(3) via Defending Rights and Dissent | Darakshan Raja, darakshan@muslimsforjustfutures.org

Muslims for Just Futures (MJF) is a grassroots organization building power in Muslim communities through training and advocacy to divest from criminalization and the War on

Terror and invest in economies of care. MJF is also building out resource hubs for movement organizations to better manage risk and build resilience against state targeting and repression.

Network Convening of Diaspora-Led Groups at [Institute for Policy Studies](#) | 501(c)(3) | Christine Ahn, christine@ips-dc.org

Organizations [based in and led by diaspora communities](#) impacted by US wars and militarism have an important role to play in advocating for demilitarized US foreign policy, often working at the intersection of militarism, human rights, and migrant justice. Christine Ahn and Khury Petersen-Smith, both veterans of diaspora-led organizing, are planning an upcoming convening of diaspora-led organizations to develop collective strategy and build a more aligned multiracial and multiethnic movement to demilitarize US foreign policy and offer a positive vision for the US role in the world.

[Public Citizen](#) | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) | Amanda Fleming, afleming@citizen.org

Public Citizen's People Over Pentagon campaign is a coalition of grassroots, anti-poverty, climate, faith, and watchdog groups coordinating advocacy to reallocate excess Pentagon spending toward human needs like healthcare, education, housing, and environmental justice. The coalition engages in c3 and c4 advocacy and seeks to popularize the idea of steep Pentagon cuts.

[ReThink Media](#) | 501(c)(3) | Mark Reading Smith, mark@rethinkmedia.org

ReThink Media provides collaborative communications capacity and services to the peacebuilding and democracy fields. Its team conducts public opinion research, develops narrative and communication strategy, and works with partners to design and implement communications plans that optimize effective advocacy on peacebuilding and democracy issues.

[Secure Families Initiative](#) | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) | Rebecca Nowatchik, rebecca.nowatchik@securefamiliesinitiative.org

Secure Families is an organizing home for diverse family members of actively-serving military troops to vote and advocate for their communities on issues of democracy, national security, and diplomacy-first foreign policy. Military families can be particularly trusted and compelling spokespeople, and they are in an important position to convey the perils of military deployment both domestically and abroad to policymakers across the political spectrum.

[US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) (501(c)(3)) and [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action](#) (501(c)(4)) | development@uscpr.org

US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR) and its sister organization (USCPR Action) are Palestinian-led organizations advancing public education on, and grassroots advocacy for, Palestinian rights and freedom, respectively. Since October 2023, they have been key hubs in efforts to inform the public about US complicity in Israel’s bombardment of Gaza and to end it, resulting in the most powerful movement to erode support for US militarism abroad in a generation.

[Win Without War](#) | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) | Shayna Lewis, shayna@winwithoutwar.org

Win Without War is a network of grassroots activists and advocacy organizations working to advance a more peaceful and progressive US foreign policy. Win Without War’s role is both to track policy in DC and to mobilize grassroots energy to influence that policy. As a prominent peace advocacy organization, Win Without War also plays an important role in bringing an internationalist, anti-militarist foreign policy perspective into domestic movement coalitions.

Intermediary Funds Supporting Adjacent Work

There are a number of pooled funds that fund important work adjacent to anti-militarism. Moving money to these pooled funds is another good way to support the broader anti-militarism ecosystem.

[Financial Futures Fund](#) at Peace Development Fund | 501(c)(3)

Financial Futures Fund is a pooled fund launched in 2025 to respond to growing threats in the wake of intensifying authoritarian policies and laws aimed at criminalizing dissent. FFF provides grants to strengthen financial movement infrastructure for groups at risk of being targeted or financially de-platformed.

[Four Freedoms Fund](#) at NEO Philanthropy | 501(c)(3)

The Four Freedoms Fund is an intermediary that supports the immigrant justice movement and works against the criminalization of immigration—which is especially vital now as immigrants are on the front lines of extralegal incarceration, deportation, and political retaliation.

[In Defense of Movements Project](#) at Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs | 501(c)(3)

This new partnership by the Democratizing Justice Initiative, Borealis Philanthropy, CS Fund, Piper Fund, and Funders for Justice is working to mobilize money and build field infrastructure in order to counter the increasing political prosecutions of social justice activists, organizational ecosystems, and funders. Contact ken@democratizingjustice.org to donate.

[Just Future Initiative](#) at Borealis Philanthropy | 501(c)(3)

Militarized policing, police violence, and overincarceration are clear ways that militarism manifests within the US. The Just Futures Initiative supports grassroots organizing groups that are working to end criminalization and state violence, build community-based safety strategies, and shift power and resources away from policing and toward community needs.

[Peace Development Fund](#) | 501(c)(3)

Peace Development Fund provides seed funding to transformative community organizing efforts nationally. Its annual community-led grant process is focused on community-led resilience as the solution to addressing militarism and peace in social justice efforts. PDF has a four-decade history of combatting militarism and nuclear issues at the local level.

[Piper Fund](#) at Proteus Fund | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)

Piper Fund has been providing critical infrastructure for defending the right to protest since 2018. It coordinates the Protect Dissent network, a broad coalition conducting research and sharing strategy, and moves funds to local- and state-based organizations confronting attacks on protest rights.

[Movement Protection Fund](#) at Solidaire | 501(c)(3)

Solidaire's Movement Protection Fund moves rapid-response funds to organizations and individuals to protect the security of frontline movement organizers in the face of state repression, vigilante violence, digital attacks, or institutional backlash.

[Moxie Fund](#) | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)

Moxie Fund (formerly the Trusted Elections Fund) is an intermediary that funds efforts to protect and advance US democracy. Moxie Fund prioritizes funding civil society defense (including legal defense), protecting free and fair elections, and holding actors accountable for flouting the rule of law.

[RISE Together Fund](#) at Proteus Fund | 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)

RISE Together Fund moves money to grassroots advocacy organizations based in the Black, African, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (BAMEMSA) communities, who have long been organizing against government surveillance, repression, militarization, and incarceration in the context of the War on Terror and have hard-won experience to share in this moment.

No War with Iran: Urgent Funding Guide

No War with Iran: Urgent Funding Guide

Updated March 20, 2026

The attacks on Iran that the US and Israel initiated on Saturday are a serious escalation that violates both international law and US law. The humanitarian toll is already devastating, with civilian casualties mounting and regional destabilization growing by the hour.

These attacks make visible the warped logic of militarism: that violence is strength, that bombs are strategy, and that military force is a rational and effective path to peace, stability, and democracy. Time and again, US leaders present war as the only viable path, foreclosing diplomatic, humanitarian, and political alternatives. And as we've seen from previous "wars of choice" in the Middle East, the harms of US militarism are not only felt abroad. Militarism reshapes life at home, too, driving further surveillance and repression in the name of national security and further concentrating power in the executive branch. What appears as foreign policy is in fact the manifestation of a pervasive system that normalizes endless war and state violence from Iran to Venezuela to US neighborhoods.

This moment underscores both the necessity and the limits of rapid response work. We are left with a hard truth—although these attacks are deeply unpopular, we have very little leverage to stop them. This is in part because of acutely anemic funding of the anti-militarism ecosystem in the past decades. It's our hope that together, funders and donors can meet this challenge: supporting groups responding in moments of crisis, and coordinating to build the power and infrastructure needed to dismantle militarism over the long haul.

In that spirit, **below are some rapid-response funding recommendations** for organizations that are 1) playing leadership roles in the broader effort to stop further military strikes against Iran and 2) in urgent need of additional funds to scale up and meet the moment. **For a more comprehensive overview of opportunities that can help build the field's long-term capacity and power, refer to the [Anti-Militarism Funding Guide](#).**

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Funding Needs – 501(c)(3)

Note: This list is kept short to prioritize the organizations whose increased capacity will be an important catalyst for more effective advocacy in the field as a whole. See below for a [longer, crowdsourced list](#) of organizations also mobilizing in response to the Iran attacks.

[National Iranian American Council](#) | Sara Hawrami, shawrami@niacouncil.org

The National Iranian American Council is a diaspora-led grassroots organization lifting up the pro-peace voices of Iranian Americans. It needs funds to support these rapid-response activities:

- Mobilizing its grassroots base of tens of thousands of Iranian Americans to demand an end to military escalation;
- Covering higher infrastructure expenses to keep up with security needs and the rapid growth of membership; and
- Coordinating with other major advocacy organizations to uplift credible, pro-peace Iranian American voices in the media.

[Win Without War Education Fund](#) | Shayna Lewis, shayna@winwithoutwar.org

Win Without War Education Fund is a prominent organization working to advance more peaceful US foreign policy. It has immediate needs to support these activities:

- Liaising with other major advocacy and labor organizations, particularly those outside the anti-war movement to share analysis, coordinate communications, and plan mass mobilizations;
- Investing in deeper creative tactics and influencer marketing, including projections, art installations, and other social media content that can break through the noise to engage new and existing audiences; and
- Training state and local leaders on the urgent need to integrate national security and foreign policy issues in their analysis and build a new generation of decision makers that can push for peace.

Funding Needs – 501(c)(4)

The 501(c)(4) organizations [NIAC Action](#) and [Win Without War](#) are leading on congressional advocacy. Both chambers of Congress voted down the War Powers Resolution earlier this week, which would have asserted Congress' authority over the use of military force. 501(c)(4) funds are needed to continue coordinating congressional advocacy, including:

- Mobilizing hundreds of thousands of activists to push decision makers and influencers – members of Congress, CEOs, movement partners, thought leaders, and others with cultural influence – to oppose military operations and call on Congress to reassert war powers, while simultaneously building a sustained campaign to build more power by hold decision makers accountable for their failures to do so;
- Organizing in-person events on the Hill that uplift the pro-peace asks and stories of Iranian Americans and other impacted communities to break through the hawkish narratives and power of the weapons lobby; and
- Coordinating large-scale ad buys (digital and print) to oppose war with Iran in strategic, visible locations and key congressional districts.

Other Funding Opportunities (crowdsourced)

Members of the Alternatives to Militarism Funder Community (AMFC) crowdsourced this list of organizations that are also doing rapid response work in response to the attacks on Iran. To suggest others to add to the list, email AMFC's network consultant at hanni@hannihanson.com.

- **Message development and coordination**
 - [Rethink Media](#)
- **Grassroots mobilization in the US**
 - [About Face](#) – veteran-led mobilizing
 - [American Friends Service Committee](#) – Quaker advocacy and service organization
 - [Common Defense](#) – veteran-led community organizing and advocacy
 - [Demand Progress](#) – policy and campaign hub
 - [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) – Quaker advocacy organization.

Specific work happening now:

 - Expanding grassroots faith leader organizing to push for deescalation and build long-term power for peace; working in key states and districts to organize faith coalitions that advocate together on specific war/peace issues and build more constituent power for the future.
 - Bolstering communications in key states and districts to activate a broader audience to contact Congress to oppose militarism; using the war on Iran as a wedge moment to engage more people to push back against this war and against unrestrained militarism more broadly.
 - [MPower Change](#) – Muslim-led digital advocacy organization
 - [Ploughshares Fund](#) – coordinates an Iran advocacy coalition
- **Documenting civilian impacts of war**

- [Airwars](#)
- [Center for Civilians in Conflict \(CIVIC\)](#)
- **Policy development and advocacy**
 - [Center for International Policy](#)
 - [Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft](#)
- **Humanitarian response in the region**
 - *Note: due to international sanctions, it is very difficult to get aid funds inside Iran. The organizations listed below are working in other countries in the region impacted by growing conflict and/or conflict-related displacement.*
 - [Purposeful](#) – regranting to local displacement relief across the region
 - [SMART Center](#) – offering psychosocial support services for pregnant women and children in 72 shelters in Lebanon; email info@smartmena.org to donate