

## Possible Actions

- 1 Offer your congregation the opportunity to adopt the “Iraq Sensible Transition to Enduring Peace resolution.” This Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) statement is consistent with the recommendations which grew out of a recent MCC delegation trip to the region.
- 2 **Donate to MCC.** MCC workers continue to have a programmatic and personal presence in Iraq—supporting local non-governmental organization activities, including conflict resolution centers. MCC is collecting relief and school kits for a shipment to Iraq sometime yet this year.

**Mennonite Central Committee:** 21 South 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500, Toll Free: (888) 563-4676, or (717) 859-1151, [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org)

**MCC Canada:** 134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9  
Telephone Toll Free: (888) 622-6337

- 3 **Join a Christian Peacemaker Teams Iraq delegation**

**DATES (tentative):** September 12–October 1, November 19–December 3, 2005.

While Iraq continues to suffer under unstable and difficult conditions, delegates will meet with representatives of nongovernmental organizations, fledgling Iraqi civil society groups, the U.S. military, and others, to assess the current situation. They may visit hospitals, schools, mosques, and churches, and will talk with Iraqis whose loved ones have been detained by U.S. forces or the previous regime. Based primarily in Baghdad, the delegation may travel to outlying areas.

**COST:** \$2000 U.S., which includes round-trip airfare. Your donations make CPT’s continuing work in Iraq and other areas possible.

**In the USA:** Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680-6508, Tel. 773-277-0253, Fax. 773-277-0291, E-mail: [peacemakers@cpt.org](mailto:peacemakers@cpt.org).

**In Canada:** 25 Cecil St, Unit 307, Toronto ON M5T 1N1, Tel. 416-423-5525, Fax. 416-423-7140, E-mail: [canada@cpt.org](mailto:canada@cpt.org)

# Wage peace

*Possible actions for response to the war in Iraq*

## Iraq: “Sensible Transition to Enduring Peace resolution” The Next STEP for Iraq

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has launched a campaign calling for the U.S. Congress to state clearly that: “It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq.” The statement does not give a timetable, but simply urges a clear statement of intent. Whether you support an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops, or believe they should stay until stability is achieved, we can agree that it is time for Congress to declare that, ultimately, it is U.S. policy to withdraw completely from Iraq. Urge your local church or organization to adopt a resolution to support Iraq STEP. These resolutions will demonstrate to members of Congress that there is strong public support for a change in U.S. policy.

The FCNL statement is consistent with the recommendations which grew out of a recent MCC delegation trip to the region. The MCC Washington Office encourages individuals and congregations to participate in this FCNL campaign.

### Sample Iraq STEP Resolution

Here is a sample resolution for your congregation, Sunday school class, small group or other organization to discuss and to adopt. Feel free to add to or change the text to best suit your needs and perspectives.

### Iraq STEP Resolution (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace)

**Whereas** President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004, that “as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America” and that the U.S. will remain in Iraq “as long as necessary and not one day more”;

**Whereas** Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 17, 2005, that “we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq”;

**Whereas** the Wall Street Journal reported in February 2005 that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq;

**Whereas** former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq;

**Whereas** political parties opposed to the ongoing U.S. military presence won the overwhelming majority of votes in Iraq’s January

2005 election and a clear majority of voters interviewed in exit polls cited their desire to see an end to the military occupation as a major impetus for voting;

**Whereas** the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity;

**Whereas** many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq;

**Whereas** we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country;

**Whereas** a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy;

**Whereas** such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety;

**Therefore**, be it resolved that this [congregation /organization] holds in our prayers the people of Iraq, the U.S. troops and international troops and humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war;

Be it also resolved that this [congregation/organization] calls on the United States Congress to adopt a sense of the Congress resolution declaring: "It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq";

Be it also resolved that this [congregation/organization] will present a copy of this resolution to the members of Congress who represent the district in which the congregation is based;

And be it also resolved that this [congregation/organization] will send a copy of this resolution to the local media.

### More information

See [www.fcni.org/iraq](http://www.fcni.org/iraq) for more information, including:

- filing your resolution,
- lobbying your members of Congress, and
- spreading the word through your local media.

