

The work of Christian Peacemaking

Lesson 4: Military Spending



Lesson Objectives

- What:** To evaluate the effectiveness of military spending in the UK and around the world.
- How:** To develop skills of evaluation by looking at a variety of ways in which the UK military budget could be spent.

You will need

Slideshow: Military Spending

Tokens: (buttons, balls, pennies, pieces of paper, or similar) to each represent £10 billion. 4 per student.

8 containers: one for each spending priority.

Give Peace a Budget film. <http://youtu.be/MBGeBlSiSMU> or available as a DVD from Pax Christi.

Lesson 4: Teacher's pack

Starter

How should the government spend its money?

In groups the students are to decide what they consider to be the spending priorities of the UK government. They are to produce a shortlist of eight (from **long list of 24** in the Teacher's pack if that is being used). [Slide 2]

Using these shortlists as a starting point, the class is to decide on their final list of eight spending priorities. [Slide 3]

Main Activities

How would you spend £40 billion?

[You will need **tokens, 8 containers**, the **Lesson 4 Teacher's pack**, and the film **Give Peace a Budget**]

Each student is given four tokens, each representing £10 billion. This money represents the £40 billion spent each year by the UK government on defence. Would the students spend this money differently?

They can 'spend' their money by distributing their tokens between the eight containers representing budget priorities identified earlier, choosing those they consider to be most important. [Slide 4]

Students should then watch the short film *Give Peace a Budget*. They should then reflect if they would change any of their spending in light of what they have seen.

If time allows the students could also consider the following quotations. How might these, from scripture and church teaching, inform our thinking? [Slides 5 and 6]

“Countries squander cash to boost their pride while millions starve. The money spent on arms is scandalous while schools, and homes, and hospitals remain unbuilt.”
(Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio* #53)

“He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.”
(Isaiah 2:4)

Plenary

Finish the sentences

Students should complete the following two sentences: [Slide 7]

Before the lesson I thought...

Now I think...