

The National Registry For Conscientious Objection

Founded in 1991

The National Registry for Conscientious Objection was created following the war in the Persian Gulf in early 1991. The National Registry provides men and women of all ages with an opportunity to register their objection to personal, national, and international violence. As a concept, conscientious objection was co-opted by the military who gave itself the power to grant or withhold official status as a "C.O." The National Registry reclaims the notion of conscientious objection, and returns it to its original meaning as a way of life (rather than a military or governmental designation). Conscientious objection is not the property of the military, to be handed out or withheld according to the judgement of draft boards or commissioned officers of the armed services. Objection to violence and courage of conscience are characteristics of a life committed to peace.

The National Registry is a national campaign to promote peacemaking as a practical ideal: a way of living in the present that represents our best hope for the future. It seeks to inspire peace and justice in society by inviting peacemakers everywhere to "register" their conscientious objection to violence, and in so doing, to share with others their commitment to a peaceful world. The intent of The National Registry for Conscientious Objection is to emphasize one's absolute dedication to peaceful living and to peaceful resolution of conflict. It is only by committing ourselves to peaceful living that peace will in fact prevail, in our lives and on the planet.

IMPORTANT: This statement should be read silently first and then aloud in the presence of two witnesses who will then sign along with the registrant. Please send the original back to The Peace Abbey, Two North Main Street, Sherborn, MA. 01770 and keep a copy for your personal records.

Affirmation Statement

I hereby affirm that: because of my deeply held beliefs about peace, justice, and nonviolence, I am opposed to the use of violence to settle disputes. Furthermore, I wish to make public my decision not to participate in any group, organization, or agency of government that would require from me acts of violence against a fellow human being.

I sign The National Registry for Conscientious Objection to have my position on peace, justice, and nonviolence duly recorded as a way of life that I embrace and am totally committed to.

Date _____ Printed Name _____

Address _____

Signature

Witnesses: 1. _____

2. _____