

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## **Messaging Guidance: President Biden's Decision to Withdraw U.S. Forces from Afghanistan**

### **President Biden is finally ending our nation's longest-running war.**

- We commend the Biden administration for this decision and recognize that this step forward would not have been possible without the long struggle of the pro-peace movement.
- Two decades of trying to bomb our way to peace has made clear: there is no military solution to the war in Afghanistan, regardless of time horizon or troop levels.
- President Biden's decision to withdraw U.S. forces is a welcome step toward recognizing what the U.S. public [has long known](#): that our military-first approach to international problems has failed. We can't bomb our way to peace.

### **We must move beyond debating troop levels to fully ending endless war and the mindset that leads to it.**

- After 20 years of endless war, a combat force withdrawal alone is not enough to fully bring peace. We must rethink the entire military-first mindset that brought us here in the first place and invest in alternative solutions for peace, justice, and accountability.
- We must see this plan to its conclusion, holding the administration to a total withdrawal of all U.S. and NATO forces from the country, and a meaningful commitment to diplomacy and peacebuilding.
- Withdrawing international forces occupying Afghanistan is only part of the solution. Combat troops must not be replaced with CIA-funding of abusive militias, private contractors, or drone warfare.
- Following four decades of conflict, with U.S. military involvement from the very beginning, the United States owes a debt to the people of Afghanistan. Ending the U.S. military role merely recognizes that continued militarism will not bring sustainable peace.

### **We can't bomb our way to peace — but we can help build it.**

- Building sustainable peace in Afghanistan requires long-term bilateral and multilateral efforts to end what is now a four-decades-long conflict through an inclusive, intra-Afghan peace process that addresses local drivers of conflict.
- This requires long-term and meaningful investments in accountability, peacebuilding, and development, along with a commitment to robust multilateral diplomacy.
- Pursuing post-conflict justice, centering the victims of decades of violence, ensuring refuge for those and resettlement for those displaced, and holding those responsible — including in the United States — accountable for the gross violations of international law and human rights are essential for building sustainable peace.

### **Additional Resources:**

- [Statement: President Biden Takes Great Step Toward Ending Endless War](#), Win Without War
- [Issue Brief: Afghanistan](#), Win Without War
- [No Peace without Justice in Afghanistan](#), Dr. Huma Saeed, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
- [Ending the Afghanistan War Responsibly](#), Friends Committee on National Legislation
- ["The Futility of Failure in Afghanistan"](#), Stephen Miles, *Inkstick*