

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY RESOURCES

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR POSITIONAL STATEMENT INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



The Salvation Army respects the right of the individual to arrive at his or her own decision on the question of bearing arms in military service, based on personal Christian conviction, without seeking to influence any individual in either direction. The Army offers a full spiritual ministry to those arriving at either decision, with all possible help and guidance.

Based on scriptural teaching concerning respect for properly constituted civil authority, the Army counsels those who object to military service to accept the legal means provided for alternative service, where such exist.

In no circumstances does the Army regard a sincere conscientious objector with any sense of stigma. It sees any such attitude as being a negation of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose power alone can enable men to learn to live together in peace.

Key Words

Bearing arms - to carry weapons

Christian conviction - a firmly held belief or opinion that comes from an individual's Christian faith

Constituted civil authority - those that have been appointed to govern a country

Sincere - genuine

Conscientious objector - someone who refuses to bear arms or participate in military service on the basis of moral or religious convictions

Negation - the opposite of something

