



Stop the War **coalition**
YOUTH & STUDENT NETWORK

RESIST THE DRIVE TO WAR

For nearly three years, our government has supported Israel's genocide in Gaza and assault on Lebanon. It has supported Trump's wars in Venezuela and Iran and the tightening of the blockade on Cuba. It continues to fuel the war in Ukraine and has launched a mass drive to rearmament.

We are told we must prepare for war, to sacrifice our lives, and that we must accept across-the-board cuts to our wages, welfare, public services, education, healthcare and infrastructure to pay for it.

This is particularly targeted at young people. From the 'military gap year' to the Defence Universities Alliance, we are witnessing the wholesale militarisation of education.

We say no. We refuse to be cogs in the war machine.



STOP THE DEFENCE UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE

In April 2026, the Ministry of Defence launched the Defence Universities Alliance with an initial 35 universities and colleges. These universities will get a share of £182 million in investment in return for committing to “actively growing research and development activity and capacity in defence and national security relevant fields and technologies to support defence aims and objectives.”

This investment will fund student places on ‘defence and security’ related courses, the promotion of military technology research projects and partnerships, the creation of five new ‘Defence Technical Excellence Colleges’ and new graduate schemes with the defence sector – including companies like BAE Systems which produces the parts for the F-35 fighter jets used by Israel.

The new alliance represents a massive escalation in the militarisation of education as part of a wider drive to rearmament. It goes hand in hand with the government’s Defence Investment Plan which commits the government to nearly £300bn extra military spending over the next four years – and sweeping cuts across all other areas of public spending to pay for it.



It is not a coincidence that this alliance was launched at the same time as universities slashing thousands of jobs and shutting down whole courses. After decades of marketising higher education, the government is now turning cash-strapped universities into hubs for the military industrial complex.

As Demilitarise Education said:

“This is not a partnership between equals. It is a formal mechanism for embedding military priorities into university strategy, research agendas, and student career pathways — permanently.”

Nearly 100 universities applied to join the alliance, and the MoD has said it will be expanding beyond the initial signatories. We must act now to stop the escalating drive to militarising education and turning young people into cogs of the war machine.

That is why we will be joining the **International Youth Strike on Friday 20 November**. Inspired by the massive school strikes against conscription in Germany, students

WELFARE NOT WARFARE

WAGES NOT WEAPONS

A TOUR OF RALLIES WITH SPEAKERS FROM THE
INTERNATIONAL ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

22 OCT LONDON	23 OCT BIRMINGHAM	24 OCT BRISTOL	26 OCT BRIGHTON
27 OCT LIVERPOOL	28 OCT NEWCASTLE	29 OCT GLASGOW	

DETAILS AT [STOPWAR.ORG.UK](https://stopwar.org.uk)

TIES ALLIANCE



across Europe and beyond will be walking out, protesting and holding assemblies to reject militarism and conscription.

We are demanding:

- **An end to the Defence Universities Alliance**
- **An end to conscription by stealth**
- **An end to complicity with Israel's genocide and repression against students**

The following day, Saturday 21 November, there will be a trade union-led national demonstration in London where there will be a mass student bloc.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION

In June, 3,000 delegates from 27 countries came together for the International Conference Against War in London. Out of it, three international days of action were agreed:

10 October

For Palestine, marking 3 years of the genocide in Gaza

30 October

Support the dockworkers

20-21 November

Youth strike and wider mobilisations against militarism and conscription

Find details of UK actions at
stopwar.org.uk

We call on students and young people across the UK to organise action at your school, college or university on the 20th, join the student bloc on the national demonstration on the 21st, and be part of a united, international, mass movement against war and militarism.

Scan the QR code overleaf to find out about actions happening near you. Contact the Stop the War office if you need any support with organising where you are.

JOIN STOP THE WAR TODAY

Become a member of the campaign central to building the mass movement against war, militarism and genocide.



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FIGHT FOR OUR FUTURES
NOT THEIR WARS

20 NOV



**INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH STRIKE**

**AGAINST
WAR**



SUPPORTED BY



ForcesWatch

