

**The educational films are available at:
www.interfaithdronenetwork.org.**

We recommend that a congregation show *Moral and Safe?: War, Peace, Drone Warfare and the Religious Community*, as an introduction to the issue for congregations. This and four other 30 minute videos still in production are ideal resources for screening and discussion in several contexts:

- Using the video and study guide in a one-hour regular religious education class.
- A specially organized event that might be more than an hour long
- Men's, young adults' or women's organizations
- A five session event (like a Lenten study) using our various videos.

What is the U.S. Drone Warfare program?

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) commonly known as "drones" are aerial systems that can be remotely controlled for short and long range military and civilian purposes. The decision to use drones for targeted killing— particularly in countries that are not declared combat zones —has raised concerns in the faith community.

Why do people of faith care about the U.S. Drone Warfare program?

People of faith share common values from diverse traditions which go beyond national security objectives and national borders. The intrinsic value of all humanity and creation compel faith communities to work for the common good of all people. The U.S. practice of drone warfare is contrary to shared values which guide us, our faith communities, and most Americans.

What are problems with Drone Warfare?

1. Civilians are too often killed

As the film *Moral and Safe?: War, Peace, Drone Warfare and the Religious Community* indicates, U.S. Sen. Lindsay Graham (Republican of South Carolina) stated that there were 4700 deaths in 2013 from drone strikes. Some studies have shown that as many as 50 civilians die for each suspected terrorist killed.

2. Drone Strikes have expanded war

Our use of drones has expanded violent military campaigns into areas in which we are not formally at war, lowering the bar for military interventions and dragging our country into a state of unending military campaigns. Rather than limit destruction, as many argue, drone warfare has expanded the battleground. It is a false argument that drone strikes are better than "boots on the ground", since the U.S. is using drones in places where we would never send in soldiers.

3. Drone Strikes create more Terrorists

Counterterrorism expert David Kilcullen asserts that killing leaders of terrorist groups has only a short-term impact on repressing terrorist violence, while every civilian killed in such actions "represents an alienated family, a new desire for revenge, and more recruits for a militant movement ..."¹ Thus, these attacks often do not reduce the terrorist threat, but rather increase it.

4. International law

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Philip Alston, has said that the use of drones is not combat as much as 'targeted killing'. He has repeatedly asked the U.S. to explain how they justify the use of drones to target and kill individuals under international law. The U.S. has so far refused to do so.

5. Secrecy of the drone program

The secrecy of the drone program runs counter to democratic, participatory principles. Because of a law suit, the Obama Administration released the President Policy Guidance which provides guidance on how force can be used outside of the U.S. and outside of areas of active hostility. It asserts that lethal force should only be used to stop imminent attacks against U.S. persons when there is no alternative. But there is no clear information about what the U.S. considers an "imminent threat". There is no indication that the current administration will follow the guidance. It is essential to be more transparent about drone strikes for democratic review. One step in this direction is to ban drone strikes by the CIA and conduct them only by the military.

What are alternative suggested by the Faith Community?

"Just Peace" advocates suggest that we should focus on encouraging diplomacy, democratic participation, reconciliation, right relationships, restoration, and sustainability in places beset by conflict. Peace-building, focusing on the structural causes of conflict can pro-actively prevent war and violence

Dr. David Cortright of Notre Dame University notes that a U.N. Counterterrorism study recommended preventing armed conflicts by building up fragile states and demonstrating deep respect for human rights & and the rule of law.²

Susan Hayward, US Institute for Peace has said, "There is, ultimately, only one way to end violence... it is the creation of sustainable peace... It is love, finally, and only, that squelches out fear. It is love as lived out in the public square as justice, right relationships, human flourishing."³

² J. Cockayne and S. O'Neil (eds), "UN DDR in an Era of Violent Extremism: Is It Fit for Purpose," *United Nations University*, 2015, Available at: www.unu.edu.

³ S. Hayward, "I No Longer Love Blue Skies," *The Epistemological Gap*, 2015, Available at www.epistemologicalgap.wordpress.com.

¹ D. Kilcullen and A. McDonald, *Death From Above, Outrage Down Below*, N.Y. Times, Mar. 17, 2009.

Showing the Films in your Congregation



In the last decade, drone warfare has rapidly escalated in war zones, as well as in areas where war has not been declared. Up to 80 countries, as well as non-state actors such as ISIS, now have drone warfare capability. Important moral, ethical, and theological issues are raised by this development, but to date there has been relatively little public debate on the issue.

The Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare has produced the 30 minute film *Moral and Safe?: War, Peace, Drone Warfare and the Religious Community* as well as four other half hour videos, together with discussion guides to help congregations explore the moral, policy, and religious dimensions of this new and troubling development. Military, international law, proliferation, human rights, and policy experts are featured, along with religious leaders from a wide range of faith traditions.

Drone warfare is explored from the perspectives of just war, pacifism, and the emerging new theology of just peace. Each video screening can be followed by a 25 minute guided discussion and still finish within an hour.

Go to www.interfaithdronenetwork.org to see a 90 second preview of *Moral and Safe?: War, Peace, Drone Warfare and the Religious Community*, the entire 30 minute video, and a Study Guide for discussion leaders.

Please go to the website above to access the order form and links to our videos. If you use them in your congregation be sure to let us know how your screening and discussion went!

The other four videos which will be available soon are:

- A 30 minute version of *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars* – used with permission
- A 30 minute version of *Drone* – used with permission
- A 30 minute version of *National Bird* – used with permission
- *The Religious Community and Drone Warfare*, about 30 minutes long



Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare

a project of

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Drone Warfare*



What people of faith can do:

Educate Your Congregation. It is important for congregations to learn about and to apply their faith to the question of drone warfare. Educational films, produced by the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare, are available (see inside).

Advocate with elected officials to oppose or restrict drone warfare. Sign up on the website for our free email listserv to stay informed of the latest information and developments. We partner with the DC-based Interfaith Working Group on Drone Warfare to identify and support specific legislative and executive branch opportunities for your advocacy.

About Us

The Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare grew out of two developments: the formation of the DC-based Interfaith Working Group on Drone Warfare in spring 2014; and the first Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare in January 2015 at Princeton Theological Seminary, facilitated by the Princeton-based Peace Action Education Fund. The Network is continuing the work in the faith community, seeking to deepen understanding and bring spiritual insight to that emerging major issue.