



HUCTW On War: *Good Things Come to Those Who Negotiate*

There are many voices responding to the United States government's motion towards waging war. The Harvard Union of Clerical & Technical Workers is the university's largest labor union representing about 4,700 employees. We have continuously spoken thoughtfully and truthfully, with our own unique voice, on issues affecting the working people of Harvard, and those outside our walls. That said, the HUCTW leaders consider the question: "*Should HUCTW do something as a union to respond to the threat of imminent war?*"

First, we must recognize the diversity of political, if not philosophical, views both within our leadership and our 4,700 person bargaining unit itself. Some of us may be 100% antiwar, while some may feel that war is the best solution in the current situation. Whether we are for or against war with Iraq or any other nation, we are firmly united in our strong support of friends and family in the military, as well as our own union members who are called to serve.

We, the undersigned leaders of HUCTW, are against war for most of the same reasons being voiced by many people worldwide: we advocate for peace and for engaging in widespread debate; we believe in focusing on global human rights, justice and equality--values that will decrease the threat of terrorism; and we oppose pre-emptive action against Iraq. We know that diplomacy doesn't work quickly: efforts to resolve issues by diplomatic means take time and patience and come to fruition often at the last possible crucial moment. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Good travels at a snail's pace."

Everyday the Union's leaders show our own commitment to diplomacy by working with staff and managers for justice and change in the Harvard workplace. We know that effective, courageous and ongoing negotiation and worker participation is vital in achieving our goals. This is how our energy ought to be focused, even now, in the midst of this serious debate about making the world more safe and democratic. It is because we believe with our whole hearts that "peace in the world begins at home." The Harvard workplace is our home every day and we stand united in living our credo, "Good things come to those who negotiate."

HUCTW leaders know that each of you will decide for yourself what to think and what to do. We trust you will decide, based on your own mind and heart, what the real clear and present dangers are in our world. We trust that if you choose a course of action, it will be based on what you learn, what and whom you care about and trust, and what you think is right.

With peace in our hearts and our hands,

*Charlotte Boulay
Wanthani Briggs
David Bufano
Gloria Buffonge
Marilyn Byrne
Margot Chamberlain
Alex Chisholm
Randi Ellingboe
Anne Frankel
Thomasin Guenard
Jana Hollingsworth*

*Bill Jaeger
Laura Johnson
Adrienne Landau
Miriam Leibowitz
Marie Manna
Shamim Morani
Loretta Norcross
Lynnie Reid
Martha Robb
Kris Rondeau
Donene Williams*



