

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from Tony Young

Deiseb/ Petition ref. P-03-262 Academi Heddwch Cymru/ Wales Peace Institute

Annwyl Aelodau y Pwyllgor/ Dear Committee Members,

As a member of CND Cymru/ Cynefin y Werin, I heartily welcome this opportunity to address the Committee on the subject of this petition.

The petition calls upon the Cynulliad Genedlaethol Cymru/ National Assembly for Wales "....to investigate the potential for.....Wales having a Peace Institute concerned with peace and human rights.....". The committee should not have to investigate very far, as the potential in Wales for the establishment of such a Peace Institute is enormous, and is there for all to see. Just look at the work done over the years by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, the David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies, CND Cymru, and the various locally-based Peace and Justice groups around Wales, in pursuing the cause of the promotion of peace and justice on a global scale.

The petition also calls upon the C.G.C./N.A.W. "..... to investigatethe practicality of Wales having a Peace Institute....." Again, I say, no problem.

There are so many people in Wales, members of the organisations I mentioned in the last paragraph, who are 'straining at the leash', just waiting for the 'green light' that would signal the start of this momentous initiative. Among these people are many who are eminently capable of establishing the structure of the Institute.

Much work is already underway in Wales, being undertaken by, for example, Cynefin y Werin, Cymdeithas y Cymod, and Co-exist, in promoting the cause of peace and justice around the world. The pity is that all this good work goes largely unrecognised, quite simply because it does not attract the attention of the various media of communication as readily as it should. If the Academi Heddwch Cymru/ Wales Peace Institute were to be established, however, with the full support of the C.G.C./N.A.W., and with a remit to draw together and publicise all the admirable work already being undertaken by the organisations I have mentioned, the situation would be transformed. We would have international recognition, we would be part of an international network of Peace Institutes located all over the globe, and as such the media of communication would carry the message of peace and justice, first of all around Wales, and thereafter around Europe and around the world. This is the prize to be won. We should all be striving with might and main to bring it about. And you, as members of the Petitions Committee, should be with us on this. The potential is obviously there, the practicality of the venture is already proven. The question of the funding of the Institute would have to be thrashed out, of course. In this, and in the matter of the structure and terms of reference of the Institute, we would obviously look to Peace Institutes already in existence and choose the model best suited to the situation pertaining in Wales.

I think I have made a strong case for the establishment of an Academi Heddwch in Wales. It is now down to you, as members of the Petitions Committee, to produce a positive response. I call upon you to give us the 'green light' to move ahead to the next stage of the process, and to reach a situation wherein Wales, at least in the matter of the promotion of peace and justice around the globe, can stand with the nations of the world.

Yr Eiddoch yn Gywir

Tony Young