

## The Mission of CPT

*Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) offers an organized, nonviolent alternative to war and other forms of lethal inter-group conflict. CPT provides organizational support to persons committed to faith-based nonviolent alternatives in situations where lethal conflict is an immediate reality or is supported by public policy. CPT seeks to enlist the response of the whole church in conscientious objection to war, and the development of nonviolent institutions, skills and training for intervention in conflict situations. CPT projects connect intimately with the spiritual lives of constituent congregations. Gifts of prayer, money and time from these churches under gird CPT's peacemaking ministries.*

## Available From CPT

“Signs of the Times” - quarterly newsletter.

“Interventions of Truth” by John Stoner – discussion guide for churches with a view to developing a Biblical peace witness.

**Internet Services:** *CPTNet* provides news updates, prayer requests, and urgent actions relating to CPT projects. *CPT-D*, an e-mail discussion group, highlights theological, political, or practical aspects of nonviolence and the work of CPT. To subscribe to internet services, visit [www.cpt.org/subscribe.php](http://www.cpt.org/subscribe.php)  
Email [peacemakers@cpt.org](mailto:peacemakers@cpt.org); Website [www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)

**CPT's Adopt-a-Detainee Campaign** matches individual detainees with congregations, mosques, synagogues, or peace groups who organize their members to write two letters on the detainee's behalf. Find additional campaign materials and stories of specific detainees on CPT's website. To join, contact Rick Polhamus, [jjrp@cpt.org](mailto:jjrp@cpt.org)

## CPT United Kingdom

We are a regional gathering who care about the work of CPT and want to get involved in the work of nonviolent peacemaking. We often meet for meals and discussion, or to listen to a speaker.

### Ways you can get involved:

- Attend CPT UK meetings.
- Invite a CPT UK speaker to your church.
- Join CPT UK mailing list. Email [timjn@anabaptistnetwork.com](mailto:timjn@anabaptistnetwork.com)
- Provide prayer support for CPT
- Go on a delegation to Iraq, Hebron or Colombia. Email [delegations@cpt.org](mailto:delegations@cpt.org) to learn more.
- Go on CPT training – currently only available in the US and Canada (see [cpt.org](http://cpt.org) for dates) , but please register your interest as we hope to arrange a training in the UK in 2005.
- Join CPT as a reservist – this involves committing to at least 2 weeks overseas each year for 3 years.
- Join CPT as a full timer –this involves 3 years full time commitment.

**Peggy Gish visiting the UK** - Partnering with Voices in the Wilderness UK, we will host Peggy Gish, Iraq team co-ordinator, from 11-22 November. For dates, see the CPTUK website (below) or visit: [www.voices.netuxo.co.uk/detainees.html](http://www.voices.netuxo.co.uk/detainees.html)

## Contact Information

### For information on CPT UK, contact:

London Mennonite Centre  
14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ  
Tel: 0845 4500 214  
Email: [timjn@anabaptistnetwork.com](mailto:timjn@anabaptistnetwork.com)  
Website: [www.cptuk.org.uk](http://www.cptuk.org.uk)

### CPT Headquarters

P.O. Box 6508; Chicago, IL 60680  
Tel: 773-277-0253; Fax: 773-277-0291  
Email [peacemakers@cpt.org](mailto:peacemakers@cpt.org)  
Website: [www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)

# Christian Peacemaker Teams United Kingdom



**“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”  
Matthew 5:44**

**We** believe that the mandate to proclaim the Gospel of repentance, salvation and reconciliation includes a strengthened Biblical peace witness.

**We** believe that faithfulness to what Jesus taught and modelled calls us to more active peacemaking.

**We** believe that a renewed commitment to the Gospel of Peace calls us to new forms of public witness which may include nonviolent direct action.

## Background

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) arose out of a call in 1984 for Christians to devote the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking that armies devote to war.

Today, CPT places violence reduction teams in situations of crisis and areas of militarization both locally and around the world. CPT embraces the vision of unarmed intervention waged by committed peacemakers ready to risk injury and death in bold attempts to transform lethal conflict through the nonviolent power of God's truth and love.

Initiated by Mennonites, Brethren and Quakers with broad ecumenical participation, CPT's ministry of Biblically-based and spiritually-centred peacemaking emphasizes negotiation, protection of human rights, creative public witness and nonviolent direct action. A strategy developed thoughtfully over the years has taught us that:

- Trained, skilled teams from "the outside" can work effectively to spur and support local efforts toward nonviolent peacemaking;
- "Getting in the way" of injustice through direct nonviolent intervention, public witness and reporting to the larger world community can make a difference;
- Peace team work engages congregations, meetings and support groups at home to play a key advocacy role with policy makers



***CPTer John Lynes East Sussex, England has his head shaved in solidarity with Palestinians whose land is shaved away by bulldozing in an action outside the Israeli Consulate in Chicago. (23/7/04)***

## Violence Reduction Projects

**Hebron, West Bank** - a continuing presence since June, 1995 standing with Palestinians and Israeli peace groups engaged in nonviolent opposition to Israeli military occupation, bombings, collective punishment, home demolitions and land confiscation.

**Colombia** - a continuing presence since May, 2001 supporting Colombian Christians working to end violence in the river communities around Barrancabermeja; public prayer and fasting in response to huge infusions of foreign military aid and widespread killings.

**Iraq** - a Baghdad-based presence since October 2002, walking with the Iraqi people as they endured the US-led 2003 war, continuing to bear witness to post-war Iraq and calling the US government to acts of responsibility rather than killing and destruction.

**Asubpeeschoseewagong** - a continuing presence since November 2002 in Grassy Narrows, ON, standing with the Anishnaabe people as they resist the clear-cutting of their land through nonviolent means such as blockading logging trucks.

**Urban North America** - a periodic presence since 1994 in various communities experimenting with inner-city violence reduction; prayer vigils, neighbourhood patrols, and nonviolent campaigns in response to murders and drug-related violence; Washington, DC (1994-1996), Richmond, VA (1997-1999), Cleveland, OH (2000-present).

**Regional CPT Groups** - CPT Corps members, Reservists and supporters have formed regional groups in the UK, Ontario, Colorado, Indiana and Ohio to focus on local peace witness and under gird CPT's ongoing violence-reduction efforts.

## CPT - "Getting in the Way"

**Violence Reduction Projects** - Peace team presence of three months or longer in specific conflict settings at the invitation of local peace workers.



***CPTer Art Gish "gets in the way" of an Israeli tank demolishing the Palestinian market in Hebron. (31/1/03)***

**Peacemaker Delegations** - Short-term teams travel to crisis settings to protect human rights, engage in public peace witness, and report to home churches.

**Peacemaker Corps** - A body of trained peacemakers available full-time to staff CPT's violence reduction projects.

**Reserve Corps** - A pool of individuals available to join CPT projects and delegations for two weeks to two months each year.

**Peacemaker Training** - Four weeks of intensive preparation for Corps members and Reservists.

**Special Campaigns** - Church-wide actions to support nonviolent peacemaking; can include special calls for public prayer and fasting in response to specific crises or during particular liturgical seasons.

*Campaign for Secure Dwellings (CSD)* enlists churches and groups in efforts to stop the demolition of Palestinian homes by Israeli authorities.

*"Violence Is Not Child's Play: 500 Churches for Change"* campaign of churches and groups engaging in nonviolent activities to challenge retailers marketing violent toys and games to children.