



IPAN SUBMISSION from the Graham F Smith Peace Foundation Inc. (GFSPF).

The GFSPF thanks IPAN for the opportunity to put forward its views on achieving a genuinely independent and peaceful foreign policy for Australia. This is so important for everyone living in Australia, our regional neighbours and all other nations.

The peaceful safeguarding of Australia's independence (sovereignty) and wellbeing should be the overarching goal of Australia's foreign policy. This can be only achieved by addressing the following specific foreign policy objectives:

- address social justice (everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities); alleviate need and poverty in the world. Australia should be more generous in the provision of foreign aid and in negotiating treaties with states such as East Timor and other Pacific Island countries.
- promote human rights and democracy.
- promote the peaceful coexistence of peoples. This should begin at home with respect for the First Nations People by ensuring the Uluru Statement of the Heart is included in the Australian Constitution. It is also essential that the Australian Government addresses the human rights of refugees who have been in Australia for a long time. The argument for keeping refugees in detention is no longer valid.
- promote preservation of natural resources. and environmental sustainability. A global environmental policy that relates to climate change is essential.

Australia has a moral obligation to undertake social, economic and humanitarian activities that contribute to world peace and prosperity. This should be manifested by bilateral and multilateral diplomatic activity, assistance to developing countries and support for the extension of international law, particularly humanitarian law. Diplomatic activity should be undertaken by the Diplomatic Service and not by politicians appointed by the government for the interest of party politics.

The GFSPF opposes conflict, violence and global militarisation.

All **overseas** wars that Australia has been involved in have had little to do with our national security here in Australia. They have been at the behest of the UK or USA. with unimaginably huge costs of lives on all sides, and with the decision made by the executive of the Australian Government.

Any armed conflict entered into by Australia should be fully debated and decided by Parliament – and only as a last resort, after avenues to solve disputes with peaceful alternatives have been exhausted in the International Court of Justice and the UN Security Council. Furthermore, peripheral engagements of conflict in third world countries should not be disguised as a defence of peace when access to oil and similar resources are the reason for doing so.

It is heartening to see the great support, not only here in Australia but from many nations, for the United Nations ban of all nuclear weapons. It is not acceptable that our own government and our nuclear-armed partner in wars, the US, continue to resist signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We remain hopeful that they will comply and that all nuclear weapons will be destroyed forever. This is an example of positive action taken by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to bring about positive change.

To progress disarmament, the countries that allow the manufacture and testing of weapons, including land mines, nuclear devices and similar war mongering weaponry, should be identified. Trade embargoes by Australia are recommended to prevent massive marketing and trading fairs being held within our country.

The GFSPF hopes that the IPAN Survey will result in Australians being made aware of how best we can achieve an independent and peaceful foreign policy and that they will call on Australian parliamentarians to heed the cry for international peaceful relations and to use the formal UN structure to solve international disputes. Only then will all citizens be safe from the scourge of wars.

We look to IPAN to monitor the development of an independent and peaceful policy and keep us informed, as does ICAN.

Naomi Ebert Smith
Chair
The Graham F Smith Peace Foundation

26 July 2021

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