

# POSITION PAPER

**COUNTRY:** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**COMMITTEE:** General Assembly Third Committee Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

**TOPIC:** Counterculture, New Left, Anti-War Protest and Movements

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## Introduction:

Counterculture movements, particularly the New Left, emerged in the mid-20th century as a response to social and political issues in societies worldwide. These movements expressed discontent with established norms and institutions, and often focused on anti-war activism, advocating for peace and social justice. This position paper delves into UK's stance on counterculture, specifically addressing the New Left's anti-war practical policies that we believe should be prioritized in any resolution.

## I. Acknowledging the Historical Context:

Counterculture movements have significantly influenced society and politics, leaving long-lasting impacts. Great Britain recognizes that the anti-war, New Left counterculture emerged as a reaction to the Vietnam War, which displayed how, during times of conflict, states could inadvertently sideline individual freedoms, human rights, and social justice. Understanding this historical context is crucial to appreciating the importance of practical policies that address these issues.

## II. Upholding Freedom of Expression and Assembly:

Great Britain firmly supports the fundamental principle of freedom of expression and assembly as essential components of a thriving democracy. In any resolution, it is crucial to prioritize policies that strengthen and safeguard these democratic values. Providing legal protections for peaceful protestors and ensuring open spaces for public gatherings will foster an atmosphere conducive to constructive dialogue and peaceful activism.

## III. Promoting International Cooperation and Dialogue:

Acknowledging that major conflicts often transcend national boundaries, Great Britain strongly advocates for policies that promote international cooperation and dialogue concerning anti-war efforts. Encouraging sustainable diplomacy, peaceful negotiations, and multilateral forums will contribute to creating an environment that prioritizes dialogue over militarization. Promoting bilateral and international agreements that aim to prevent conflicts by addressing the root causes should be an integral aspect of any resolution on anti-war policies.

#### **IV. Investing in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding:**

Great Britain recognizes the necessity of investing in practical policies that prioritize conflict prevention and effective peacebuilding. This includes targeted funding for diplomacy, mediation, humanitarian aid, and development projects in regions affected by conflicts. By supporting local communities and empowering them to address underlying issues, we can alleviate conditions that often lead to violence and war, thereby promoting stability, justice, and lasting peace.

#### **V. Addressing the Aftermath of War:**

Counterculture movements, particularly the New Left, emphasize the need to address the consequences of war, including the humanitarian fallout, displacement, and trauma experienced by affected populations. Great Britain emphasizes the importance of practical policies that provide support and resources for post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation, and the reintegration of affected communities. Rehabilitating infrastructure, providing healthcare, education, and mental health services, as well as promoting truth and reconciliation processes, are vital initiatives that should be supported in any resolution.

#### **Conclusion:**

Great Britain believes that counterculture movements such as the New Left, with their emphasis on anti-war activism, play a critical role in shaping societies' responses to conflict. By prioritizing practical policies that recognize the historical context, uphold freedom of expression and assembly, promote international cooperation and dialogue, invest in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and address the aftermath of war, we can foster a more just and peaceful world. We strongly advocate for these policies to be included in any resolution on counterculture and the New Left's anti-war practical policies.