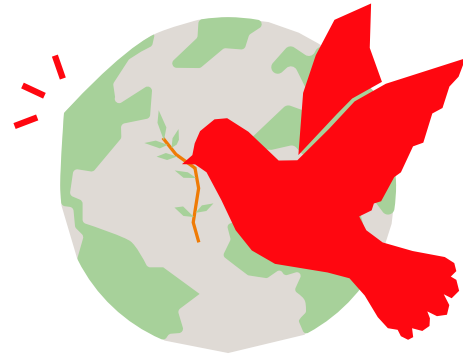


# The need for peace – cribsheet



## Key things to know about peace in this general election year

Today, the need for peacebuilding is more urgent than ever.

### 1 Prevention first

At Christian Aid, we believe conflict needs to be tackled by dealing with root causes.

Action to tackle the climate crisis and address economic inequality would go a long way to ensuring peace. We also need to invest in targeted, community-led conflict prevention approaches.

### 2 Drastic cuts to peacebuilding in the UK aid budget

The proportion of the UK aid budget spent on peacebuilding and conflict prevention fell by half during the ten years up to 2020. Steep cuts to such prevention work in many of the countries where Christian Aid works, like South Sudan and Afghanistan, have undermined the road to peace.

### 3 UK military spending\*

Meanwhile, UK military spending remains at 2% of UK gross national income, and the UK is one of the world's biggest exporters of military equipment and training. British arms have been at the heart of war in some of the poorest places in the world.

Being a force for peace is incompatible with permitting UK-based firms to sell arms to parties involved in conflicts where there is evidence or risk of violations of international law.

### 4 The UK can do better

Ultimately, the UK hasn't done enough to promote peacebuilding and has played a role in perpetuating some of the root causes of conflicts – not least through building much of its wealth on the extraction of resources from conflict-affected countries.

Yet, as one of the richest countries in the world, with influence in global fora such as the United Nations (UN) Security Council, **the UK can play a positive role in building a more just and peaceful world.**

#### \*Example

Since 2015, the UK Government has licenced approx. £450 million of arms either directly to Israel or states manufacturing arms for Israel.<sup>1</sup> This is despite concerns about violations of international law through Israel's blockade and bombardment of Gaza.

<sup>1</sup> [caat.org.uk](http://caat.org.uk)



# Put peace first

## What to call for

Christian Aid is calling for the next UK Government to use its voice, money and influence to **be a force for peace in the world**. For example, by:

- Addressing the root causes of wars by tackling economic inequality and the climate crisis.
- Spending more of the UK aid and defence budgets on peacebuilding.
- Voting for peace at the UN.
- Stopping arms sales to governments or groups who are violating international law or human rights.

**Whether in government or opposition, your future MP can play their part.**

**Talk to your general election candidates now.**

**More information:**  
**Read Christian Aid's manifesto in full –**  
[caid.ie/manifesto24](https://caid.ie/manifesto24)

There are more violent conflicts than at any time in the last 30 years.

Wherever violent conflict occurs, it traps communities in poverty through repeated cycles of violence and exclusion.



Women gather at a peace conference held by the South Sudan Council of Churches and Christian Aid.

## Case study

South Sudan is one of the world's youngest nations. This year, the country will hold its first elections since gaining independence.

The country is highly vulnerable to the climate crisis and to widespread conflict. Both have displaced communities and caused a persistent and recurring hunger crisis, making the path to peace harder.

The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) is one of Christian Aid's key partners. The Council has played a critical role in restoring peace at both a local and national level by facilitating dialogue between communities.

Christian Aid is calling on the next UK Government to support the delivery of funds into community-led conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives such as those run by SSCC.

