

## **Declaration of Sanctuary for US War Resisters**

Whatcom Peace & Justice Center Board of Directors

February 12, 2008

It is the mission of the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center to further peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence. We oppose war in all forms and work to transform aggressive US foreign policy. We recognize that war injures civilians and soldiers. We recognize that US soldiers are victims of an unjust, immoral, and illegal occupation of Iraq. In light of these foundational beliefs, WPJC affirms support for Conscientious Objectors and other military personnel who refuse to participate in war because of their moral, ethical, religious, or political beliefs.

We support military personnel as they examine their conscience, and we seek to nurture them in this process of discernment and conversation. We pledge protection, advocacy, and support to those who, after individual examination of conscience, are unable to participate in the armed forces of the United States or combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We obviously can neither make decisions for individuals, nor protect them from the legal consequences of their decisions — but we pledge our support, counsel, and love to any who refuse to participate in war.