Conscience and peace tax international (CPTI) has Ecosoc status since 1999.

We advocate for the right of conscience not to pay taxes for military activities and purposes and for conscientious objection to military service.

We have closely studied the draft convention and generally find it excellent, wishing for its prompt coming into force.
We laud the courage and the dedication to peace found in article 21.

However, we do think that to reach gender balance, harmony and equality, discriminations and violence against women and men alike must addressed.
As we advocate for conscientious objection, we so often defend or support men victims or embrodied in war-like or military violence done against men.
Therefore, may we suggest that article 16 reads as follows:

“Article 16 – Gender equality
1. States Parties, in accordance with their obligations under international law, shall ensure full gender equality ~~for all women and men~~, and undertake to take measures, including through temporary special measures as and when appropriate, to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and men and boys everywhere so as to ensure their full and equal enjoyment of the right to development.
2. To that end, States Parties undertake to take appropriate measures, separately and jointly, inter alia:
(a) To eliminate all forms of violence and harmful practices against all women and girls or men and boys in the public and private spheres;
(b) To ensure women’s and men full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels in the conceptualization, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in political, economic and public life, and within legal persons;
(c) To adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the peaceful and equal empowerment of all women and girls and all men and boys at all levels;
(d) To mainstream gender perspectives in the formulation, adoption and implementation of all national laws, policies and practices and international legal instruments, policies and practices;
(e) To ensure equal and equitable access to resources necessary for the full realization of the right to development by women and girls everywhere.”

We deeply consider, from our hearts and consciences – and in accordance with the aforementioned article 21 – that teaching war and war means to men and boys, that tolerating violence by men and done to men is contra-productive in the search for gender equality and for the well-being of all, and so forth that the right to development should mention both genders in their repective search for gender equality and development.

Hoping our point of view will be shared, and in due time by the majority and will taken in acocunt in the next version of the draft or of the final proposal, we send you our support and our gratitude for your work for a sustainable and happy future for each and all, and development.
Peacefully and humanly yours,

Christophe Barbey
Representative at the UN in Geneva

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*« If we are to create peace, we need to pay for peace, not for war »*

