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**VETERANS FOR PEACE UK**

**HANDBOOK 2022**

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**We, veterans of the armed forces,  
having dutifully served our nation, do  
hereby affirm our greater responsibility  
to serve the cause of world peace.**

**We are peaceful in our words,  
methods, and actions.**

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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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Veterans for Peace (VFP) was founded in the United States of America in 1985 and has over 100 chapters in the USA and a growing number of international chapters.

Veterans for Peace UK (VFP UK) was founded in London in 2011.

Veterans For Peace UK is a voluntary and politically independent ex-services organisation of men and women who have served in conflicts from WW2 through to Afghanistan.

As a result of our collective experiences, we firmly believe that “War is not the solution to the problems we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”.

This handbook is the governing document of VFP UK. For further information including contact, details please visit our website [vfpuk.org](http://vfpuk.org)

## SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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We, veterans of the armed forces, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace.

To this end:

- a. We will work toward increasing public awareness of the costs of war.
- b. We will work to restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations.
- c. We will work to end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organisation that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

We urge all veterans who share this vision to join us.

## SECTION 3: STATEMENT OF CONDUCT

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1. We are peaceful in our words, methods, and actions.
2. We will not assault, verbally or physically, in person or online, those who oppose or disagree with us, even if they assault us.
3. Our attitude, as conveyed through our words, symbols and actions, will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all people we encounter.
4. We will follow the directions of the designated coordinators during public actions.
5. We use consensus-based decision making within our groups.
6. We reject military clothing and symbols.
7. We speak as members of VFP UK but not for VFP UK, unless designated as a spokesperson.
8. Rank, unit, combat experience, age, gender, race, wealth, education, class, religion, and nationality carry no status within VFP UK.
9. Sexist, racist, homophobic, and other discriminatory language, and actions are common within the military; they are not acceptable within VFP UK.
10. Our words and actions will maintain the political and financial independence of VFP UK.

## **SECTION 4: MEMBERSHIP**

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### **4.1 Eligibility for membership**

- a) Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom.
- b) Veterans of the Armed Forces of other countries.

### **4.2 Definition of a veteran**

We use the official UK government definition; "Everyone who has performed military service for at least one day and drawn a day's pay is termed a veteran".

### **4.3 Conditions of membership**

- a) Members will provide proof of military service.
- b) Members will comply with the VFP UK Handbook.

### **4.4 Record of membership**

The Admin Group ensures the maintenance of an accurate record of the VFP UK membership.

### **4.5 Restrict or expel from membership**

The Admin Group has the authority to admit, restrict or expel to and from VFP UK.

The Admin Group shall state their reasons for any action taken under this section to the Annual General Meeting.

Any action taken under this section may be appealed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **SECTION 5: STRUCTURE**

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### **5.1 Outreach Groups**

Outreach Groups can be formed by members of VFP UK. They can be organised geographically or around a distinct project. Outreach Groups should report their activity to the Admin Group.

### **5.2 Annual General Meeting**

VFP UK is governed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is held in November.

Proposed changes to the Handbook are discussed and decided on during the AGM.

Priorities for the following year are discussed and decided during the AGM.

The Admin Group is elected as last item of the AGM.

The authority of the AGM is delegated to the Admin Group in between AGMs.

## **SECTION 5: STRUCTURE**

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### **5.3 Admin Group**

Comprises five members elected at the AGM.

Responsible for maintaining the integrity of VFP UK.

Responsible for decision making on behalf of the AGM.

#### **5.3.1 Chair**

Coordinates the Admin Group ensuring all roles and tasks are fulfilled.

#### **5.3.2 Administrator**

Responsible for day-to-day business and the delegation of administrative work required for VFP UK to function on the national level. Is the point of contact for outside organisations.

#### **5.3.3 Treasurer**

Ensures the integrity of our financial records,

#### **5.3.4 Membership Secretary**

Ensures the integrity of our membership records.

#### **5.3.5 Sweeper**

Carries out unforeseen tasks and assists where required.

## **SECTION 5: STRUCTURE**

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### **5.5 Trustees**

There are three trustees of VFP UK.

Each trustee has previously served on the Admin Group.

The trustees authorise the addition and removal of signatories to VFP UK bank accounts.

The Trustees hold the key passwords to VFP UK infrastructure.

In the event of a resignation from the Admin Group the trustees will appoint a VFP UK member to the Admin Group.

#### **5.5.1 Names of the Trustees**

John Bourton

Kathryn Piquette

Michael Elstub

## **SECTION 6: ELECTIONS AND POSITIONS**

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### **6.1 Qualification**

To stand for election to the Admin Group candidates will:

- Be a member of VFP UK for two years.
- Commit to being present at Admin Group meetings.
- Commit to taking part in day-to-day communication.

### **6.2 Election**

The election is held in November at our AGM.

Candidates will submit for election to a position on the Admin Group by 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

A list of candidates will be published before the AGM.

Each candidate may speak for two minutes at the AGM.

Members will vote at the AGM by choosing between the candidates for each position on the ballot paper.

The candidates with the most votes for each position will be elected to the Admin Group to serve in that position.

### **6.3 Term of office**

Members shall have a term of office lasting one year, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st, and be able to stand for re-election.

## **SECTION 7: INDEPENDENCE**

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### **7.1 Financial**

VFP UK does not apply for funding or accept donations from individuals or organisations deemed to speak or act in any way contrary to our Statement of Purpose.

The most effective way for VFP UK to maintain financial independence is through regular donations from our own members.

### **7.2 Political move up**

VFP UK is politically independent and does not:

Subscribe to any specific ideology or religion.

Endorse any political party or politician.

Enter into coalitions.

Endorse other groups.

Work for governments.

## **SECTION 8: LEGAL STATUS**

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### **8.1 Type of organisation**

VFP UK is an Unincorporated Association.

### **8.2 Regulations**

VFP UK have no legal obligation to any regulatory body.

### **8.3 Financial obligation**

VFP UK has no legal obligation to submit financial accounts or reports to anyone outside of VFP UK.

### **8.4 Contracts**

VFP UK cannot enter into contracts, own property, rent premises or employ people.

### **8.5 Liability**

As an unincorporated association VFP UK cannot sue or be sued.

## **SECTION 9: FINANCES**

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### **9.1 Accounts**

Policy Group shall ensure that annual financial accounts are published in accordance with standard accounting practices.

### **9.2 Transparency**

Copies of the annual accounts review shall be available on request.

### **9.3 Fiscal year**

The fiscal year of Veterans for Peace UK shall be from April 1 through March 31 of the following year.

### **9.4 Dues**

VFP UK does not collect membership dues, we encourage regular donations from our own members.

### **9.6 Expenses**

Wherever possible hosting organisations should pay members expenses. Members of VFP UK who have incurred costs on VFP UK business can apply to the Administrator for reimbursement if required.

## **SECTION 10: AMENDMENT OF HANDBOOK**

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### **10.1 Proposed amendments**

Amendments to the handbook should be submitted before the 15<sup>th</sup> of September to be considered for the AGM in November. Submissions can be made by completing the form on the VFP UK website; [vfpuk.org/handbook-amendments/](http://vfpuk.org/handbook-amendments/)

### **10.2 Additions**

Proposed additions are in green italics.

### **10.3 Subtractions**

Proposed subtractions are in red italics and struck through.

### **10.4 Approval**

Amendments must be approved by two thirds of verified VFP UK members in attendance at the AGM.

# VETERANS FOR PEACE UK

**“War is not the solution to the  
problems we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”**

**[www.veteransforpeace.org.uk](http://www.veteransforpeace.org.uk)**