

Drone Wars UK Researcher Post – Background Information

Drone Wars UK – Mission, Role and Strategic Aims

Drone Wars UK is a small NGO, founded in 2010, working towards a long-term goal of an international ban on the use of armed drones. While drone warfare is often presented as a precise and risk-free solution to international security threats, there are a number of serious concerns about the impact of armed drones on global peace and security. These include how drones are:

- lowering the threshold for the use of armed force
- expanding the use of targeted killing
- enabling greater secrecy and less accountability over military intervention
- rehabilitating the notion that armed force can solve political conflicts.

Remote 'risk free' intervention through using armed drones is in danger of becoming not the last option, but the first. Besides the direct consequences on the ground, the normalisation of this type of response means that underlying political and social causes of conflicts go unaddressed. This in turn drastically reduces the chances of achieving just and sustainable peace and security.

Our current strategic priorities are to:

- Undertake detailed scrutiny of the British use of armed drones.
- Educate a broad audience about the growing use and impact of armed drones.
- Increase understanding of the impact of the use of armed drones on peace and security.
- Undertake effective advocacy and campaigning to ensure the use of armed drones is regulated, controlled, and eventually ended.

DWUK's Research Work

While coming from a committedly nonviolent perspective, Drone Wars UK has become recognised as a crucial and reliable source of information on the use of armed drones, as well as providing credible and knowledgeable analysis. Our research is regularly used by journalists, MPs, campaigners and lawyers.

In a recent report by an external reviewer, our research work found particular praise:

"Interviewees and survey respondents alike identified the quality of DWUK's work as a USP and particular strength. Special mention was made of the degree of visibility, credibility and trust DWUK garners, its high quality research and dissemination, the timeliness of its work and the value for money the work represents. DWUK's research work was regarded as being of great value and importance with several interviewees identifying it as the highest priority area of all DWUK's areas of work."

Following a successful funding application we are now looking to expand our research and communications work. As part of this we are seeking to appoint a full-time researcher on a two-year contract to undertake a programme of research aimed at increasing knowledge of, primarily, the UK and the US armed drone programme. The purpose of the research is to enable a better understanding of the day-to-day use of armed drones in order to have a better informed and more effective critique of their use.

At a time when the use of armed drones is being expanded by long-term users and, through increased proliferation, by a second wave of operators, it is vital that there is a better understanding by both parliamentarians and the public of how these systems are being operated and the impact they are having.

For more information visit our website: www.dronewars.net