

- **Career in Peacemaking:** Any job that does not harm others and that promotes cooperation and the building of a just society.
- **Career in Social Change:** A job that is a peacemaking job and also seeks to change policies and attitudes that are the cause of social problems.

## FEELING GOOD ABOUT YOUR WORK

Looking for a job is probably one of the most difficult things that you will ever do in your life. You need money, but you also want to have a job that makes you feel good about yourself and your abilities.

If you want to feel good about your job, it's important to look for one that challenges you, teaches you new skills and uses some of the ones you already have. These may include your physical abilities as well as your thinking skills. You will also want a job that agrees with your values, something you can believe in. You need, therefore, to carefully choose the career you will pursue.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: EXAMINE THEM CAREFULLY!

Sometimes it's hard to find a job that fits in with your beliefs. For example:

- You might be skilled with computers and have a chance to work for a company that uses them. On the other hand, you might also be concerned about the environment and discover that, unfortunately, the company offering the job does computer work for a firm that is polluting the ocean. You might decide then

that another job would be better for you, perhaps working for a company that is doing something positive for the environment.

- You might be interested in being a truck mechanic and also be opposed to nuclear power. You might find out that the company you are applying to work for transports nuclear materials. An alternative is to find a job repairing trucks that carry other things, like food. By choosing this alternative, you might be happier about your contribution to society.
- Some people join the military because they believe it offers them a job opportunity. But, once they're in, they sometimes find that they cannot support what they are being ordered to do, or realize that they don't believe in killing or harming people in any way. This is, of course, an issue that everyone has to decide for themselves, but you need to consider the fact that if you don't like your job in the military, you won't be able to just quit as you could in other jobs.

By thinking carefully before making any job choice, you can avoid making a serious mistake.

## WHY A PEACEMAKING JOB?

Many people seek jobs in the area of peacemaking because they believe in promoting cooperation and building a just society. They want to contribute something useful to society by being, for example, a job counselor or a solar energy equipment installer. They want jobs that make life better for others, like a doctor or a nurse. They also want personal satisfaction in their jobs. It feels good to know that you



have a job that is not destructive or meaningless, and that your work helps your community. There are many occupations that can offer you a chance to do this; for example: artist, teacher, mediator, paramedic, recycler, organic farmer or social worker.

## WHY A SOCIAL CHANGE JOB?

Many people seek careers in social change because they not only want a peacemaking job, but they also want to influence government policies and change the attitudes people have that are the cause of many problems. They want to work as an environmental educator, lobbyist, union organizer, attorney, journalist or anti-racism organizer. These people often are employed by, or volunteer with, social change organizations.

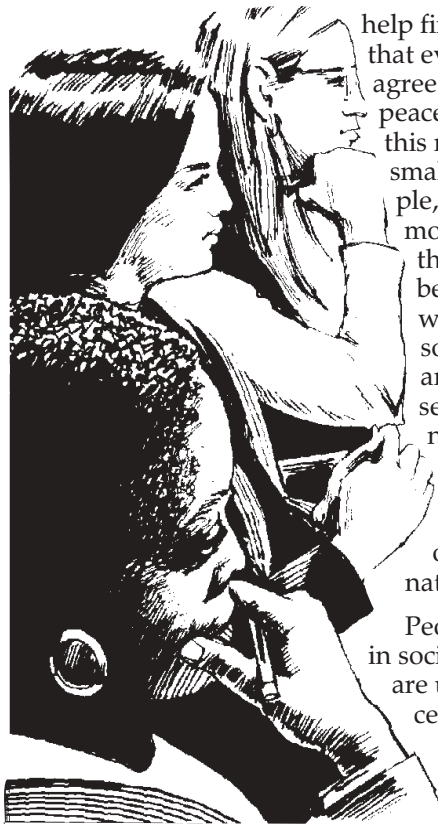
## DO YOU NEED SPECIAL SKILLS FOR A CAREER IN PEACEMAKING OR SOCIAL CHANGE?

Perhaps the most important requirement for peacemaking and social change work is that you be concerned about the welfare of others and believe in the worth and dignity of all people. It also helps to be creative, patient, and able to solve problems and conflicts through cooperation and understanding.

These are general skills that can be used in many different jobs, but when you use them to promote cooperation, fairness and peace, you can turn your job into a peacemaking job.

For example, if you work in a restaurant and are trying to be cooperative with other workers, you are peacemaking. If there is a conflict and you try to





help find solutions that everyone can agree on, you are peacemaking. While this may seem like a small, simple example, it is really more important than it sounds, because unless we can learn to solve conflicts among ourselves, we will never be able to get rid of conflict in our communities or between nations.

People interested in social change work are usually concerned about a specific issue or problem, and finding a solution might

require special knowledge or training. Often you can learn the necessary skills, like community organizing, while on the job; or you might be able to use skills you have already learned in school, like how to search for information and write about a topic. A lot of social change work can be done without a college degree, but education is always a useful tool that can make you a more effective social change activist.

### HOW TO FIND A PEACEMAKING OR SOCIAL CHANGE JOB

An important first step in finding a peacemaking or social change job is to figure out what is important to you. You will have to think through your beliefs and values. For example, in our society money often says how important you are in other people's eyes. You have to decide for yourself whether this is a good way to judge people and whether you should make your job choices based on this.

If you are specifically looking for a job in social change, look for peace, social justice and environmental organizations to work for. They are sometimes listed in the yellow pages of the phone directory. Often the best way to get a job with such a group is to work as a volunteer for awhile.



Hospitals and schools are two obvious sources of jobs for people who want to help their community and society. There are also foundations and private clinics, research labs and even small companies that are involved in work that benefits other people, from developing new types of high-yield crops for poor countries, to studying ways to make peace among nations and people. They hire a variety of individuals, from scientists to secretaries.

There are also many small businesses and groups with a humanitarian focus. These range from vegetarian restaurants to food cooperatives, from women's centers to community newspapers.

You can find out about jobs like these in many places, including your school career center, employment agencies, church agencies, youth centers and newspapers.

Remember, work that contributes to the well-being of society is the most important and rewarding job anyone can do!

Local Contact:

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## Choosing a Career that Pays in *Many* Ways

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