NON-MILITARY ALTERNATIVES

You can build your future without joining the military: National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY.org) gives state-by-state resources on alternatives to the military.

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (projectyano.org) because You don't have to join the military to learn valuable skills, find adventure, pay for college or serve others!

Center on Conscience & War | centeronconscience.org
Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft | comdsd.org
G.I. Hotline | girightshotline.org | 1-877-447-4487
INCITE! | incite-national.org
Iraq Veterans Against War | ivaw.org
Sylvia Rivera Law Project | srlp.org
YA-YA Network | yayanetwork.org

For many, joining the military means suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from combat, oppressing people & occupying their lands, and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST) from sexual violence:

- Over 1/2 of women, serving & veteran, experience PTSD & MST.12
- PTSD puts veterans at a higher risk for depression, anxiety & drug or alcohol abuse.
- Disability claims made by veterans for MST are granted at much lower rates than for PTSD unrelated to sexual trauma.
- Veterans with PTSD are at greater risk of being homeless. In 2012, 1 in 156 veterans was homeless & in a shelter.13
- 10% of trans veterans were turned away from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). 20% reported experiencing discrimination from VA doctors & non-medical staff.14
- Trans veterans are 20 times more likely than other veterans to commit suicide.15
- 22 veterans commit suicide every day in the US.16

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YOUR BODY ISN'T YOUR OWN

You might think joining the military will pay for college, build a career, make your body strong, buy your independence, or be an out from abuse. In reality, joining the military is selling your body to a culture that'll disrespect you & then throw you away.

You'll be subject to military law 24/7—living & breathing their rules, even when off-duty & off-base, until the end of your term. You have to act the way they tell you; do your hair & wear what they tell you to. Disobedience in the military can result in court-martial, prison, or a bad discharge. Even though you're held accountable 24/7, the military won't be accountable to you for the sexual & physical violence you face.

You might be a girl or gurl, a boi or queer or trans*. As gender & sexual minorities, our bodies are under attack on the street everyday. In the military, your body won't even belong to you—you'll be used for their agenda.

You deserve more than that.

*Trans* is one word for a gender identity spectrum that goes beyond the sex you're assigned at birth, such as transgender, transsexual, gender nonconforming. Two Spirit, cross dresser, AG etc. There is currently a ban on Trans people openly serving in the US military

WHAT RECRUITERS DON'T TELL US

Recruiters don't tell us about the violence that women & trans people disproportionately face during service. They also don't tell us:

- Even though there are more people of color in the military than in civilian population, more white people get promoted to senior ranks
- Recruiters target Black, brown & poor students (as young as middle school)
- Serving in the US military doesn't guarantee citizenship; many people serve & then get deported
- Though service just opened to a limited # of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, they won't accept you if you don't have papers
- Veteran women are 4 times more likely to have lower income
- Unemployment for young & women veterans is much higher than for civilians of the same age
- Department of Defense regulations prevent trans people from serving openly yet trans people are twice as likely to be recruited

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Everyone is at risk of sexual violence in the military, but women & LGBTQ* people are disproportionately attacked at higher rates than in civilian life. Those who are already vulnerable, bear the brunt of violence.

"I was raped twice in the military because I was butch/lesbian/gender nonconforming. The first time was a gang-rape."

Sexual violence in the military has been called an epidemic, with 70 incidences/day:

- 1/3 of women in the military have been sexually assaulted, making enlisted women twice as likely as civilians.
- 47% of LGBTQ people in military suffered at least one verbal, physical or sexual assault, 91% faced blackmail & 29% were mocked because of sexual orientation.
- 26% of trans soldiers experienced physical assault.
- Women are more likely to be assaulted by a fellow soldier than killed in combat.

Even though reports of sexual assaults are increasing, underreporting & retaliation for reporting are serious problems:

- 2/3 of women in the military who reported "unwanted sexual contact" experience negative consequences. Sometimes your commanding officer is your rapist.