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"The costs of these wars [are] actually all around us if we look at it that way. It's like putting on a different pair of glasses. You will see: Here are the veterans. Here are the families of the veterans. Here are the infrastructure projects that we could have built. ... Here are the investments in alternative energy that we could have used to decrease greenhouse gases. Here is the world we could have made better." [i] ⸺ Neta Crawford

Uncover the cost of the Iraq war in your community

Host a meeting with your neighbors, friends, community, coalition or classroom.

Figure out the numbers

1. Go to National Priorities Project website[ii] and find out how much money each person has sent out to the Department of Defense for defense contracts from 2007 to now.
2. Do the math: Per Person Cost x Community Population = Defense Contracts Cost to your community
   a. Don't know how many people live in your city/county? You can find out at the Census Bureau[iii].

Note: This cost does not include federal jobs and compensation for the military, "indirect," or hidden costs.

3. What are the hidden or "indirect" costs of war in your community?
   a. For example: resources needed/spent on caring for people with trauma from war, the impacts on society's ideologies, the normalization of violence; lives lost; militarized police, divestment from communities; mental health problems, PTSD, inadequate local healthcare institutions, lack of funding in local schools, environmental impacts; etc.
   b. How has this war impacted you? Ex. (are you a student with debt, are you an alumni with student debt, do you have healthcare related debt, is your health impacted by this war, etc.)

How would the money that went to war have better served your community?

- Is there money needed for your neighborhood/city/county schools/public university/roads/disability-accessibility?
- Is there affordable health care offered by the government?
- Is there affordable housing?
  - How many homeless people live in your city? You can look up homelessness in the 25 highest populated metro areas in the U.S. at National Alliance to End Homelessness website [iv]
- What is the poverty % in your city/community? What's the educational attainment % in your city/community?
  - Look it up at the Census Bureau[v]
- Is the public transportation in your community accessible? Is it consistent? How could your community improve its transportation system?
- Do seniors lack support in your community?
- Can people in your community afford paying for funeral and burial expenses in your community?
- Do you need a Civilian Oversight Board to review local police activity?
- Does your community need rehabilitation centers?
- Does your community need a restorative justice center?
- Does your community need farmer's markets or more super markets in general?
- Find out what some more trade-offs of war are in the National Priorities project website[vi].

Together, create a list of the costs. (You will find so many more!)

- Add stories of what it is like to live with those costs/impacts. You decide how to send us your testimony. It can be in the form of a written document, video, infographic, drawing, poem, song, etc.
- Send it to **Tribunal@codepink.org**
- It will be gathered with testimony from other cities and communities and will be presented at the tribunal.
- Learn more about the Tribunal on Iraq War at http://www.codepink.org/iraqtribunal

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After sending in your testimony:

- Do a press release to let your local media know. Check out our [media outreach guide](vii) for support.
- Share the process, the learning, and what you can do locally to create change!

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[i] Fighting Terrorism with a Credit Card. Uri Friedman. September 12, 2016.
http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/09/cost-wars-iraq-afghanistan/499007/

[ii] National Priorities Project. Data/Tools: Local Spengin Data. https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/database/

[iii] Census Bureau. Fact Finder. http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

[iv] National Alliance to End Homelessness website. http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/homelessness-in-americas-25-largest-metro-areas

[v] Census Bureau. Fact Finder. http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

[vi] National Priorities Project. Data/Tools: Trade-offs. https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/

[vii] CODEPINK's Media Guide. http://www.codepink.org/media_guide