## IS THIS THE BEST THEY HAVE TO OFFER?

**Bullying** — 43% of soldiers say it's a problem.

**Suicide** — 1.5 x the usual rate among teenage soldiers; 21 British soldiers have killed themselves since coming back from Iraq. 2500 are being treated for mental illness.

Drug Addiction — Class A drug use doubled in 2005

Debt, Divorce and Criminal Convictions — your life after leaving the army - STILL WANT TO JOIN?

Don't turn a blind eye to the facts.

These days you can't board a bus, use a public call box or even watch some telly without being told about the "respectable career" that awaits you in the British Army. We are told that we can make our families proud, make our friends proud, make our politicians proud, even make our country proud by signing up. We are told that we can gain **respect**.

Respect is something lacking in all of our lives. We are pushed around at work, pushed around by our landlords, by the council, talked down to by politicians and policemen. We are treated with contempt and indifference by those in power. They don't care about our everyday struggles, how we make ends meet, our own health or our welfare.

Their message becomes clear - you sign up. You sign up and you will earn your respect. You will no longer be side-lined or ignored. You will be doing your duty to society, you will be treated with honour and admired for your sacrifice. You will be entering a world of opportunity and adventure. You will learn self-respect and find fulfilment. Or will you?

Soldiering is not a career; it is a passport to a miserable life. The army doesn't treat its soldiers with respect. The army isn't like any other job. Once you are in you can't simply hand in your notice. Soldiers routinely face bullying, racism and humiliation as part of their "training". They are trapped. It is a sink or swim career, and for those who can't "swim" the situation can become unbearable. Drug addiction, mental illness and, tragically, suicide can follow.

And all of this sacrifice for what?

What do you gain from this? What does your family gain from this? Is it worth risking your life so British and American politicians can secure their "special relationship"? So Western Big Business can make massive profits from foreign oil you will never gain a penny from?

It has been proven that the War in Iraq has increased, not decreased the risk of Britain becoming another target for a terrorist attack. You are no longer even protecting your friends and families anymore.

All across the world there are workers looking for respect. They are fed up with low-paying, dead-end jobs, they are sick of being lied to by their leaders, they are tired of being pushed around, ignored and exploited. THIS is what unites us. This is a frightening notion for those in power. As long as we go on killing each other and hating each other nothing will ever change. Business carries on as usual ... and war is big business. But if we unite. If we realise that our interests are not with those who would send us to die for their own lies. If we realise our interests are not with those who would put ourselves and families in danger for their own greed. If we unite with those who share our struggles. Then, and only then, will we gain the respect we deserve.

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