

Media Release



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The dilemma that has dogged generations; when is war supportable?

On **July 28** at **Melbourne Town Hall**, *Intelligence Squared* proposes *There is No Justification for Risking Australian Lives in Afghanistan*.

With a mounting death toll and no end in sight, why is Australia at war?

When Operation Enduring Freedom began the war in Afghanistan in 2001, its aims were clear: to locate Osama bin Laden; to bring democracy to Afghanistan; and to dismantle Al-Qaeda. Ten years on, Osama bin Laden has only just been found (in Pakistan), Afghani democracy is fledgling at best and Al-Qaeda is far from gone. Should we persevere?

In defence of Australian involvement, world-renowned philosopher **Peter Singer** is joined by Afghan business woman **Sonia Ziaee** and retired Major General **Jim Molan**. Across the floor, former advisor to Kevin Rudd, **Raoul Heinrichs**, lawyer **Kellie Tranter** and sociologist **Eva Cox**, make the case for getting out of Afghanistan.

Thursday 28 July 2011, 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Intelligence Squared debate, *There is No Justification for Risking Australian Lives in Afghanistan*

Melbourne Town Hall, corner of Swanston and Collins streets, Melbourne

\$20/\$12 concession, bookings through wheelercentre.com

Intelligence Squared is a provocative and informative series of live debates on hot-button issues. The format is the traditional Oxford-style debate, with one side proposing and the other side opposing a sharply framed motion. After the formal arguments, the debate is thrown open to the floor. The live audience votes on the motion both before and after hearing the arguments, so there is a clear measure of how far people have actually been swayed. *Intelligence Squared* in Melbourne is a project of the St James Ethics Centre and the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.

More about the speakers

For: **Kellie Tranter** is a lawyer and commentator who ran as an independent candidate for the NSW seat of Maitland.

Raoul Heinrichs is a scholar, editor of the Lowy Institute's *Strategic Snapshots* and former foreign and security adviser to Kevin Rudd while in Opposition.

Eva Cox has been an academic, political adviser, public servant, and runs a small research and policy consultancy. A sociologist by trade, she promotes ideas widely and eclectically in books, online, in journals and other media.

Against: **Sonia Ziaee** is an Afghan businesswoman, Flinders University student, and Afghani student community activist.

Jim Molan is a retired major-general of the Australian armed forces who, from 2004, oversaw a multinational force of some 300,000 troops in Iraq as the country undertook the first democratic elections after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Peter Singer is a philosopher and author of over 25 books on ethics. He is best known for *Animal Liberation*, a book widely credited with starting the animal rights movement.

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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.