

Barry Ladendorf serves on the Board of Directors for Veterans For Peace and was the president of the Board from 2015-2017. From 2015-to the present, he is one of four VFP representatives to the United Nations Department of Public Information. Barry will provide an update on the Veterans International Peace Conference.

Ellen Barfield, the long-serving Head Representative for VFP to the UN Department of Public Information, will discuss VFP's relationship to the UN and how so-called civil society interacts with the nation-state members of the UN. She will also explore how VFP might upgrade its UN affiliation and the benefits of having access to UN events and personnel.

Marjorie Cohn is a professor emerita at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and member of the VFP advisory board. The former president of the National Lawyers Guild and criminal defense attorney is a legal scholar and political analyst who writes books and articles, and lectures throughout the world about human rights, US foreign policy, and the contradiction between the two. She has testified before Congress and debated the legality of the war in Afghanistan at the prestigious Oxford Union. Her columns appear on Truthout, HuffPost, JURIST, Truthdig, Portside, Alternet, CommonDreams and Consortium News, and she has provided commentary for CBS News, BBC, MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, NPR and Pacifica Radio.

Phyllis Bennis is the author of books on both the potential and limitations of the United Nations, will discuss the long history of US domination of the UN, including the contradiction between democracy and power in the global institution. She will talk about the legacy of Washington's use of the UN as an instrument of U.S. imperial policy, but also about the potential for the UN to function as part of global movements against "the scourge of war" -- including in the run-up to the US war in Iraq in 2002-03. Phyllis is also a member of the VFP advisory board.