

SHUT DOWN HECKLER & KOCH

Did you know that Nottingham is home to a major arms company?

What is Heckler & Koch?

Heckler & Koch is the world's 2nd-largest manufacturer of handguns, assault rifles, submachine guns, machine guns and grenade launchers. Millions of H&K weapons are in use in over 90 countries worldwide.

Where is Heckler & Koch?

Heckler & Koch's UK base is an unmarked industrial unit in Lenton, Nottingham; near the Queen's Medical Centre:



The Global Arms Industry

The arms trade fuels conflict and saps funds that should be spent on healthcare and education. In many countries, armed conflict prevents development and causes destruction, suffering and poverty. Small arms – the type of weapons made by H&K – are the true weapons of mass destruction: Each year, half a million people are killed by small arms, and another 1.5 million are wounded. Millions more have to flee their homes and become refugees to escape from small arms conflict.

The arms trade is inherently unethical: Legal loopholes, brokers and gunrunners make it easy to evade arms embargoes, and older weapons are often resold to countries with poor human rights. This is how Heckler & Koch weapons have come to be used by repressive regimes, terrorists, armed gangs and child soldiers around the world.



At a memorial rally for a schoolgirl who was fatally shot in 2004, the then Lord Mayor of Nottingham said:






“Guns have no place at all in our community – not in Nottingham, not in my city, nor any other city in Britain.”

Unbeknown to mourners, the church where the funeral was held is next door to Heckler & Koch – the world’s 2nd largest manufacturer of guns!

The Case Against Heckler & Koch

Heckler & Koch guns have caused an estimated 1.5 million deaths worldwide. They have been sold to repressive regimes and warzones:



-  In Darfur, the Janjaweed have been armed with H&K assault rifles.
-  In Kenya, H&K guns were used in the 2008 post-election massacres.
-  In Kosovo, Serbian police used H&K guns to kill Albanian villagers.
-  In Iraq, the notorious mercenary army Blackwater (which has shot and killed unarmed civilians) is using H&K machine guns.
-  In S. Ossetia, Georgian soldiers were illegally armed with H&K guns.

It is Heckler & Koch’s Nottingham office that is responsible for the company’s “international customer sales”!

“What about the jobs that Heckler & Koch provides?”

We don’t want jobs that are responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of people every year.

“Surely if H&K didn’t sell weapons, someone else would?”

That is morally indefensible. No-one would accept a drug dealer saying “If I didn’t sell heroin to children then someone else would.”

The Campaign To Shut Down Heckler & Koch

Outraged by the presence of such an unethical company, a group of Nottingham residents established a campaign called Shut Down H&K.

In a city that became infamous for gun crime, we think it’s obscene that this company is selling guns to customers around the world. If you don’t want Nottingham to be home to a company that profits from war, get involved!



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