

2. CURRENT ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY SERVICE

Alternatives are offered to service in the SADF in terms of an amendment to the Defence Act passed in 1983. This amendment broadened the category of persons who could be recognised as conscientious objectors to include all universal religious pacifists.

In terms of this legislation religious objectors can apply to the Board for Religious Objection to do either non-combatant service in the SADF or non-military community service in a government department for one and a half times the length of military service due.

No provision is made for those who object to service in the SADF on moral, ethical, humanitarian or political grounds. Conscripts who object for any one of these reasons face a jail sentence of one and a half times the time owed to the SADF, a six year sentence for those who have not done their initial two years.