



BOUNDARY
PEACE INITIATIVE

**Mothers' Day Proclamation:
Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870**

Mother's Day was originally started after the Civil War, as a protest to the carnage of that war, by women who had lost their sons.

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonour nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

The "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world" (later known as "Mother's Day Proclamation") by Julia Ward Howe was an appeal for women to unite for peace in the world. Written in 1870, Howe's "Appeal to womanhood" was a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War. The appeal was tied to Howe's feminist conviction that women had a responsibility to shape their societies at the political level.

In 1872 Howe asked for the celebration of a "Mother's Day for Peace" on 2 June of every year, but she was unsuccessful. The modern Mother's Day is an unrelated celebration and it was established by Anna Jarvis years later.

**BCSIPC Statement on April 13th 2018 U.S.-U.K.-
France Missile Attack on Syria**

Composed from discussions at April 14th conference. This statement was sent to all MPs as well as local media outlets.

The BCSIPC member groups and individuals attending a peace meeting in Kelowna on April 14th 2018, condemn the joint U.S.-U.K.-France missile attack on the Arab Republic of Syria on April 13th 2018. The attack overrides the will of the people of Syria and their choice of government. The Arab Republic of Syria is a member state of the United Nations. The U.S.-U.K.-France attack was an illegal act of aggression under the terms of the UN Charter.

The attack took place as the war was ending and a diplomatic path to peace for the people of Syria and all countries involved was appearing.

The attack occurred when the UN agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was en route to Damascus to investigate an alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian city of Douma [1] and to determine whether or not chemical weapons had been used. BCSIPC is disappointed and dismayed that the joint U.S. - U.K. - France attack interfered with the OPCW investigation and took place before it could begin its work and report its findings to the UN.

The U.S.- U.K.- France aggression was carried out in spite of Russian government warnings it would retaliate against any attacks on its military forces, in Syria at the invitation of the Syrian government to fight terrorists. The fight against terrorists is ostensibly also the goal of the U.S. government that also has military forces in Syria. The attack ran the risk of a military confrontation between nuclear powers.

Prime Minister Trudeau was briefed by the U.S. government of its intention to attack Syria and gave his full support. [2] By giving full uncritical support to the joint U.S., British, French action, the Canadian government waived the opportunity to act independently of U.S. foreign and military policy and weakened the Prime Minister's stated policy of not committing Canada's military to the conflict in Syria.

Canadian government support for the U.S. - led coalition attack on Syria does nothing to hasten the end of the war and reduce war tensions in adjoining countries, and makes Canada complicit in a violation of international law.

We call upon our government and all MP's to uphold Canada's responsibilities as a member state of the United

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Nations, to actively promote and support all diplomatic actions and initiatives to end the war and permit the people of Syria to live in peace, rebuild their country and decide their own future without outside interference.

[1] <https://www.opcw.org/news/article/opcw-will-deploy-fact-finding-mission-to-douma-syria/>

[2] <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/syria-attack-chemical-weapons-trudeau-1.4619883>

Signed on behalf of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition: Laura Savinkoff, Mark Haley and Don Currie

Voice of Women for Peace Statement on Syria
Submitted by Hannah Hadikin

On April 14, 2018, the United States, the United Kingdom and France, three of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, attacked Syria with over a hundred missiles in the absence of a Security Council Resolution to support the bombing. We, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW), are deeply saddened by this.

Voice of Women opposes the use of chemical weapons, as we also oppose the use of all destructive weaponry against the people of Syria, weaponry that has devastated this country since 2011. Bombing will not bring an end to the use of chemical weapons. Nothing in the international agreements prohibiting chemical weapons, or in international law, authorizes the airstrikes that have just been carried out. Indeed, these attacks risk further obstacles on the road to peace in Syria.

The route to peace is through sustained, meaningful dialogue and multilateral diplomacy for a negotiated, political solution with all parties involved in the conflict. Meetings towards this end were attended by the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, less than two months ago: in Vienna, Austria, on January 25 and 26, and in Sochi, Russia, on January 30, 2018.

Continuing diplomacy must engage Syrian women and civil society in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which Canada has incorporated into its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The Resolution mandates the inclusion of women at every stage of dialogue and peace building both during and post conflict. When women are included, talks are more likely to lead to a lasting peace agreement.

Voice of Women opposes the ongoing and interlocked wars ravaging Syria and its neighbours, including the participation of Canada in Operation IMPACT. Since October, 2014, the Canadian military has been refuelling US-led coalition fighter jets as they continuously bomb targets that they identify as ISIL/Daesh.

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According to recent figures, the Canadian Air Force has provided more than 57 million pounds of fuel to these bombing missions, polluting with massive CO2 emissions and deepening a severe humanitarian crisis.

Canada must support a foreign policy of disarmament and peace, not involvement in confrontation and war.

VOW calls on the

Government of Canada and all Canadian MPs to condemn acts of war, to work towards ending hostilities in Syria through diplomacy, and to allow Syrian people to begin re-building their war-devastated nation.

Say NO! To Imperialism's War on Syria

Issued by the Executive of the Canadian Peace Congress, April 19, 2018

The Canadian Peace Congress unequivocally condemns the brazen aggression of the United States, Britain and France against the Syrian Arab Republic on April 14. These imperialist powers launched over 100 cruise and other missiles at three alleged but unproven chemical weapons facilities in Damascus and Homs, under the pretext of punishing Syria for its alleged use of chemical weapons in Douma, on the outskirts of the capital city. This military assault, without the prior approval of the Security Council was a gross, undeniable violation of the UN Charter and international law. It has been roundly condemned by many countries around the world, and has created divisions within the NATO bloc itself.

Once again, these NATO powers – led by U.S. imperialism – arrogantly assign themselves not only the role of the ‘world policeman’, but also that of ‘judge, jury and executioner’ on behalf of all humanity. French President Emmanuel Macron incredibly argued that because these three states have permanent seats in the Security Council, their aggression was ‘legal’. One wonders if he even heard of – much less read – the UN Charter.

Once again, they have dragged out the discredited doctrine of the “Responsibility to Protect” (RoP) in order to justify flaunting international law to serve their own interests, as they did previously against Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere.

Once again, they claim to have “solid evidence” to back up their allegation that the Syrian government and armed forces used chemical weapons against its own citizens. And yet, these NATO powers have not provided a single shred of real evidence to prove their allegations, relying instead on photos and video clips provided by the notoriously pro-jihadist,

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Western-financed and directed “White Helmets” group. Indeed, this missile attack came six hours before the OPCW’s fact-finding mission arrived in Syria to begin its onsite investigation in Douma. Why was this aggression launched *before* this OPCW inspection? Was it to pre-empt revelations that the alleged Douma chemical attack was a sham?

Once again, Western mainstream news services act as an uncritical mouthpiece – a corporate controlled echo chamber – for this interventionist ‘regime change’ strategy, silencing any perspective, analysis or factual revelation that challenges or contradicts the dominant discourse on the Syrian conflict.

The Real Motives for this Attack

There has been wide speculation internationally about the real motivations behind this illegal and unjustified aggression. Some suggest that it serves to distract domestic public attention from the continuing difficulties facing the respective government elites in the U.S. Britain and France, and to bolster their sagging political fortunes at home. Others argue this aggression is nothing more than another ‘fundraiser’ to justify and further increase their bloated military budgets. Still others point to an attempt to divert world attention from the most recent atrocities of the Israeli regime, killing dozens of unarmed protesters in Gaza, and injuring hundreds more.

No doubt all of these objectives played a role in spurring this attack. The primary motivation however lies elsewhere. The simple, inescapable fact is that the strategy waged by U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies, and supported by Saudi Arabia, the reactionary Gulf States, Turkey, and Israel, to overthrow the duly-elected Assad government in Syria has been an abject failure. The conflict in Syria – now well into its eighth year – was never a ‘civil war’ at all, but rather a cynical attempt at “regime change” with the intent of carving up Syria into smaller mini-states which could be more easily dominated and exploited.

As many as 400,000 have perished and millions more internally displaced and/or forced into exile as a result of this foreign-financed and orchestrated war. But the Syrian people have persevered, the jihadist terrorists (ISIS, Al Qaeda, and related groups) have been systematically defeated, and the country’s sovereignty and independence defended. The US and its allies however refuse to recognize this reality. They are desperately searching for any pretext to maintain their ‘proxy war’ on Syria and their illegal presence inside the country (including more than 2,000 US troops and over 5,000 paramilitary “private contractors”) which clearly violates Syria’s sovereignty. Israel has stepped up its direct aggression as well, and Saudi Arabia has just offered to send its own military forces into Syria to “protect US-held” occupied territories inside the country.

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This is the real underlying strategy driving the propaganda ‘war’ and military attacks on Syria.

Canada’s Role

Sadly, Prime Minister Trudeau supports this aggressive and illegal attack that threatens to ignite further destruction and possible direct confrontation with Russia and Iran as well. The Peace Congress condemns this dangerous policy and calls on the Canadian government to end its support for foreign aggression, illegal occupation, and the ‘proxy’ war which has been waged for more than seven years to overthrow the legitimate government of Syria. More than ever, Canada needs an *independent foreign policy* based on peace, disarmament, and respect for international law, not on the promotion of war and aggression.

We further demand that Canada:

- accept the will of the Syrian people to determine their own future without foreign interference in accordance with the UN Charter, and formally withdraw from the US-led military coalition in Syria and Iraq;
- end the economic sanctions on Syria that punish ordinary Syrians by driving up the price of essentials, and block the flow of remittances;
- reopen the Syrian embassy in Ottawa and normalize diplomatic relations with the internationally recognized Syrian government;
- commit funding for the peaceful reconstruction of that once-beautiful country that has been devastated by years of foreign imposed war; and
- cancel all military contracts with Saudi Arabia – *materiel* which is then channeled to terrorist groups in Syria, and used in the continuing “dirty war” on the people of Yemen, and on its own oppressed national minorities

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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

What's Up?

Mothers Day Peace Walk on May 13th in Osoyoos, B.C: meet @ **1 pm at Haynes Point** or at 2 pm at the Border. (Canadians, you don't have to cross into the USA, park and follow directions from the border guards).

*Mothers
hold their
children's hands
for a while,
but their hearts
forever.*

Mothers Day Vigil on May 13th in **Nelson**. For details contact Madelyn at madelynmackay@hotmail.com or Sandra at sandra@netidea.com

Coming to Grand Forks on **June 24th**--a film **The Living Salish Sea**. The film maker will here. Watch for posters and details in the next issue.



Video of the Sept. 21, 2017 Walk the Drum and Peace Concert are available for \$10 a set. To order call Laura at 250-442-0434 or email at L4peace@telus.net

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

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The Canadian Peace Congress conveys its internationalist solidarity with the government and people of Syria in their heroic struggle against terrorism, and in defence of their homeland. And we urge all peace-loving individuals and organizations across Canada to re-double efforts to end all foreign intervention, and to support a just, negotiated resolution ending this ghastly war, one which fully recognizes the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Syria.

Hands Off Syria!

Canadian Peace Congress

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"Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience. Therefore, (individual citizens) have the duty to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring."
Nuremberg War Crime Tribunal, 1950

"An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law."
Martin Luther King Jr.

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-442-0434** or email **L4peace@telus.net**.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.