

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE



Welcome to the Peace Pledge Union

From Peace Pledge Union at: www.ppu.org.uk/

The Peace Pledge Union is the oldest secular pacifist organisation in Britain. Since 1934 it has been campaigning for a warless world. From anti bombing campaigns during WW2 to protest at the remote controlled military drone assassinations of today. Campaigning against the militarisation of Armistice Day in the 30s to the militarisation of society today.

'War is a crime against humanity. I renounce war, and am therefore determined not to support any kind of war. I am also determined to work for the removal of all causes of war.'

So why, in the 21st century, with all our skills, knowledge and resources, are we still waging war?

Human security we believe means individual freedom from basic insecurities. Human beings have a right to live with dignity and security, and an obligation to help each other when that security is threatened. All human life is of equal worth, and it is not acceptable that human lives become cheap in desperate situations. War - we say no.

If this reflects your vision of the future, work with us to make it possible.

Remembering all victims of war

White poppies commemorate all victims of all wars, including wars that are still being fought. This includes people of all nationalities. It includes both civilians and members of armed forces. Today over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians.

In wearing white poppies, we remember all those killed in war, all those wounded in body or mind, the millions who have been made sick or homeless by war and the families and communities torn apart. We also remember those killed or imprisoned for refusing to fight and for resisting war. We differ from the Royal British Legion, who produce red poppies. The Legion has traditionally said that red poppies are to remember only British armed forces and those who fought alongside them. In 2019 they shifted their position to say that they "acknowledge" civilian victims of war, but did not extend their remembrance to all nationalities.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Peace Pledge Union

We want to remember British military dead, but they are not the only victims of war. We also remember the many civilians who have died or suffered in war, both those from the past and those in the midst of war today, in Syria and Yemen and many other violent conflicts around the world. Suffering does not stop at national borders, and nor should remembrance.

Challenging militarism

The white poppy challenges attempts to glorify or celebrate war, as well as nationalist narratives of remembrance that focus mainly on military victims on one side. By encouraging us to resist the normalisation and promotion of military values at remembrance time, the white poppy helps build a culture of peace.

The message originally associated with Remembrance Day after the First World War was "never again". White poppies were developed in 1933 by the Co-operative Women's Guild to reaffirm this message.

Many of the activities around Remembrance Day are detached from any meaningful attempt to learn the lessons of war. Politicians who plough billions into weapons lay wreaths at the cenotaph. Arms dealers sponsor Remembrance events even while their work makes war more likely.

In 2014 for example, the British Legion Young Professionals' ball was sponsored by Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest arms companies. Lockheed Martin plays a major role in manufacturing the Trident nuclear weapons system. Each Trident missile is capable of killing far more people than the 888,000 people represented by the red poppies that were displayed at the Tower of London at the time.

You can find out more about what the PPU is doing to resist militarism on our Everyday Militarism campaign page.



{Editors note: The PPU packages and shipped out over 100,000 poppies per year, over the last few years. Working together we can increase that number to millions. Find a place to buy one or two and if not order some from the PPU on their website as listed above.}

Majority of British public back white poppy messages

(From Peace Pledge Union News & Comments)

An opinion poll conducted by Populus has revealed that most UK adults agree with messages associated with white poppies. Participants in the poll were asked if they agreed or disagreed with certain statements, without white or red poppies being mentioned.

It **turned out** that 83% agreed that victims of war of all nationalities should be remembered on Remembrance Sunday. An even higher figure, 86%, agreed that civilians should be remembered as well as armed forces personnel.

Perhaps most strikingly, 85% agreed that “Remembrance Sunday should primarily have a message of peace”.

The poll was published just after the Royal British Legion revealed a change of policy, saying for the first time that civilians killed in war should be “acknowledged” as part of Remembrance. The Peace Pledge Union has long called for the inclusion of all victims of war in Remembrance. We **welcomed** the Legion’s step in the right direction, but said that much greater change is needed.

“It is now clear that the British public want a more inclusive Remembrance that carries a message of peace,” said Geoff Tibbs, Remembrance Project Manager at the PPU. ***“Politicians and local communities should not be afraid to put peace and inclusivity at the centre of Remembrance events this year.”***

After Remembrance: still resisting militarism

From 23rd to 29th November, younger people around the world will be taking part in the International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth. Peace Pledge Union members are making plans for several types of activism. If you want to get involved, or to plan an action in your own area, please get in touch at mail@ppu.org.uk or on 020 7424 9444. We would love to hear from you!

In late November and early December, peaceful campaigners will go on trial for their role in resisting the DSEI arms fair in London in September. PPU Campaigns Manager Symon Hill will be tried in Stratford Magistrates’ Court in east London on Friday 6th December, accused of unlawfully obstructing the highway. PPU members and allies will be there to support him. Watch out for more details on the PPU website.

Visit our website for PPU events, as well as other events that PPU members and supporters are involved in: <https://ppu.org.uk/events>



SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH

MEMORIA Y RESISTENCIA: CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Central American University (UCA) massacre. On the **morning of November 16, 1989 the Atlacatl Battalion of the Salvadoran Army, led by 19 School of the Americas (SOA) graduates, entered university grounds and brutally assassinated Elba Ramos, her 16-year old daughter, Celina Ramos, and six Jesuit priests--amongst them, Father Ignacio Ellacuría, an outspoken critic of El Salvador’s military dictatorship.** The SOA Watch movement initially formed to denounce this massacre -- one of the many atrocities that occurred in Central America as the United States funded civil wars and trained military at the SOA/WHINSEC.

We estimate that more than 83,000 Latin American state forces have been trained at the SOA/WHINSEC in counterinsurgency techniques (i.e. civilian-targeted warfare), sniper tactics, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence, interrogation tactics, and torture. Graduates of the SOA have consistently used these tactics to wage war against their own people -- resulting in massacres, assassinations, torture, forced disappearances, the destabilizing of economies, land grabs by corporations that pillage the earth and value profit over people, and forced migration of millions throughout the hemisphere. Additionally, in September 2019, **US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shared that Fort Benning, GA, home of SOA/WHINSEC will be the new location of an “urban warfare” training facility that is expected to include “hyper-realistic” simulations of homes, hotels, and commercial buildings in Chicago and Arizona.** (Continued page 3)

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. To commit call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

(From page 2) **School of the Americas Watch**

This means that ICE, in addition to US Border Patrol agents already being trained at the SOA/WHINSEC, will have access to similar training to use on communities within the United States. **Border Patrol, which operates with impunity**, is accused of serious human rights violations, including murder, rape, and destroying critical humanitarian aid.

Seeking to bridge the intersections of the past with the present in memory and resistance, we invite you to join us this November 15-17th for a Commemorative Gathering at the gates of Ft. Benning. While this Commemorative Gathering will have a scaled-back program compared to previous Encuentros and Vigils, it will undoubtedly be a powerful and intentional space for community organizers, students, workers, and members of the SOA Watch family - old and new - to come together in community and resistance. Together, we recommit ourselves to never forgetting as we continue to resist the violence that our communities have been subjected to, not only in word, but in action.

Participating in the Commemorative Gathering is free! We also invite you to make a symbolic tax-deductible donation to support the logistics and facilitation of the Commemorative Gathering whether or not you are able to attend!

Over the next few days, we will be posting more information regarding logistics, panelist profiles, and the latest updates on the **2019 Commemorative Gathering section of the SOA Watch website.**

We hope to see you at the gates of Ft. Benning next month! Simultaneous events are being planned and encouraged in various cities throughout the Americas! If you are not able to join us, but interested in organizing or attending an event in our city, **please email us at:** info@soaw.org

In memory and resistance,

Brigitte, Candice, Dévora, Pablo, Roy and the 2019 Commemorative Gathering Working Group **SOA Watch**



SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH

MEMORIA Y RESISTENCIA: CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.

Buddha



Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace.

Nelson Mandela

What's it going to take?

By: Julie Pebbles, Regina, Saskatchewan: Spring 2019

I was so enjoying my day, now my heart breaks and aches...

Whilst entering Safeway this afternoon I engage in conversation with a Male youth perched outside under the overhang. He asks me very politely if I have any spare change. I then engage in a private conversation with him as to life situations & ask if he is hungry. He tells me that he is, so I offer to share some food with him on exiting as I had less than \$10 on me for my own groceries.

As I go to enter Safeway, an employee approaches me in a neon vest saying very emphatically...Do not give him any money! To which I respond. "I'm not; I'm going to give him some food." He then raises his voice at me and tells me that I am not allowed, repeatedly, several times. I enter shakily into the Safeway and order my son a hot chocolate. Suddenly the supervisor & Baker came running to the front door, the employee had summoned them to shoo away 'the beggar' as they called him.

Well in that moment I saw clearly what ignites my Spirit as I intervened and confronted those in charge as to what was going on. I said this situation involves me. Your employee is interfering in a private conversation and now you are yelling at someone outside of your store who is waiting for me. Have you approached and assessed effectively if this person is in need? Everyone leaves as I turn around to pick up the hot chocolate. Now I'm shaking & sweating Full on PTSD. Which then finds me in a very surreal moment of heading towards customer service and asking to speak to the person in charge.

The employee, supervisor & myself sat & spoke for 3/4 hr. I approached things from a conflict resolution perspective in wanting to listen to what they are experiencing on a store level that would warrant such a reaction, while really getting them to listen to some uncomfortable perspectives. I was told that the more mature/ middle age people find it discouraging to have people asking for money outside... to which I replied Because they feel unsafe? Or because it's an inconvenient truth that no one wants to face?

Silence!

I ask what if it had been me perched out there with a health condition, how would you have responded? What's your protocol? How would I be treated?

I said to the supervisor, "What if I had been a human rights lawyer...? This situation would have really bit you on the bum.

I leave the store. Young man is not in sight. His ethnicity..? Must a really tell you? He definitely wasn't white...

I head home without any food, after being gone 2 hrs crying, sweating up the hill by Thom... Feeling traumatised

What's it going to take?



WHAT'S UP?



White Poppies in Grand Forks available at **New West Trading** for \$2.00; proceeds to the BPI.

No events are planned for now, but watch for announcements on the BPI website, other social media sites & around town.

Grand Forks & Boundary Regional Agricultural Society meeting on **conservation, sustainability and food security** on **Nov. 21st, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.** at **Selkirk College**, in the downstairs conference room.



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 **250-444-0524** or **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.

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>

To all Our Volunteers

By: Angela Nichols on behalf of Grand Forks & Boundary Regional Agricultural Society

The Grand Forks & Boundary Regional Agricultural Society would like to thank our garden projects' coordinators for the 2019 year. They have both volunteered their time, knowledge, and skills in sustaining and enlivening our gardens this year.

We thank you both for your efforts:

Jamie Stewart—Hanneke's Place, Kettle and the River Community Garden

CloAnne Morasse—The Learning Garden

We also acknowledge the work of all the fabulously, dedicated volunteers in enriching and transforming our gardens. There are many who've contributed along the way, and we are thankful to you.

On behalf of Hanneke's Place, we would also like to take the opportunity to address an oversight within the article of the previous issue. We recognize the important impact of Rotary International's contributions in the community garden. The irrigation has made gardening so much easier for our clients, and far more gentle on the earth with the water conservation. Thank you.

The Ag Society would like to invite those whom may be farmers, growers, gardeners, or people interested in land conservation, plant sustainability, or food security to join us in our discussions and endeavours. Our next meeting will include an up-to-date presentation on the "Food Hub". Vicki Gee, RDKB Area 'E' West Boundary Director along with Sandra Mark, West Boundary Community Services Co-op will be delivering the presentation.

The meeting information is as follows: Thursday, November 21st, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M. at Selkirk College, in the downstairs conference room.

The Grand Forks & Boundary Regional Agricultural Society welcomes you.

Friendship depends on trust, not money, not power, not mere education or knowledge. Only if there is trust will there be friendship. Trust is related to whether we have a sincere motivation. If we are sincere in taking care of others, if we protect their lives and respect their rights, we'll be able to conduct our lives transparently and that is the basis, isn't it, of trust, which in turn is the basis of friendship.

Dalai Lama

War is Expensive: Peace is Priceless (off a fridge magnet)