

**The White Poppy***Compiled from the Peace Pledge Union website*

A message originally associated with Remembrance Day, after the First World War, was “never again”. This message slipped away. In response, White Poppies were developed in 1933 by the Co-operative Women's Guild to affirm the message of “no more war”.

**What do White Poppies stand for?**

White Poppies are worn in the run-up to Remembrance Day every year by thousands of people in the UK and beyond (*Ed. Note—in Canada too*). White Poppies have been worn in this way for ninety years. They are distributed globally by the Peace Pledge Union (PPU).

There are three elements to the meaning of White Poppies: they represent remembrance for all victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempt to glamorize or celebrate war.

**Remember all the victims of war**

White Poppies recall all victims of all wars, including victims of 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 and Canadian Legion, who produces Red Poppies. The Legions says that Red Poppies are to remember only British or Canadian armed forces and those who fought alongside them.

We want to remember British and Canadian military dead, but they are not the only victims of war. We also remember civilians killed in the bombings of London, Coventry, Belfast, Dresden, Hiroshima, New York, Baghdad, Kabul, Ukraine and Palestine and Israel and Yemen and the list goes on and on and on.

**Stand up for peace**

White Poppies symbolise the conviction that there are better ways to resolve conflict than through the use of violence. They embody values that reject killing fellow human beings for whatever reason.

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**(From last column) The White Poppy**

105 years after the end of the “war to end all wars” we still have a long way to go to put an end to a social institution that even in the last decade has contributed to the killing of millions.

From economic reliance on arms sales to renewing and updating all types of weapons, the UK, Canada and many other governments contribute significantly to international instability. The outcome of recent military adventures highlights their ineffectiveness and grim consequences.

The best way to respect the victims of war is to work to prevent war in the present and future. Violence only begets more violence. We need to tackle the underlying causes of warfare, such as poverty, inequality and competition over resources. A temporary absence of violence is not enough. Peace is much deeper and broader than that, requiring major social changes to allow us to live more co-operatively.

**Where to get White Poppies**

**In Grand Forks go to New West Trading Company, Joggas, the Women's Center or the USCC office. At \$2 each the proceeds cover the cost of the poppies we order from the PPU in the UK and gives the PPU funds to carry on. Thank you to all who support this endeavour. The BPI is grateful to all who continue to support our work for a peaceful world.**



## Mir Center for Peace Statement on Gaza

The Mir Centre for Peace's mandate is founded on research and teaching in peace and conflict studies, and it has academic freedom to make statements related to peace and conflict. These statements may not reflect the views of Selkirk College.

We are horrified and deeply distressed at the escalating violence in Israel and Gaza, which may very soon engulf several other countries in the Middle East. Our hearts are heavy with fear and deep concern for those caught in the conflict, and for those in our communities who have friends and family in the region.

We deplore the terrifying abductions and lethal attacks by Hamas on civilians in Israel, including rocket and grenade attacks, the brutal killings of dozens of elderly, whole families, and children at the Kfar Aza and Be'eri kibbutzim, and the massacre of hundreds of young people at an outdoor music festival. Deliberately targeting civilians, in any conflict, is unjustifiable, morally egregious and a war crime under international law. This is especially painful against the backdrop of centuries of anti-Semitism that has included horrific, unspeakable violence against Jews, including but not limited to the Holocaust, and that, regrettably, persists in other forms today.

We also deplore the actions of the Israeli state—the bombing of civilians and the total siege being imposed in retaliation right now, which is also a war crime and possibly an act of genocide. All this exists in the context of the original dispossession of the Palestinian people, beginning in 1948, decades of oppression, the 16-year illegal blockade of Gaza, harsh collective punishment, denial of Palestinians' basic human rights, detention of thousands of political prisoners, torture and years of impunity for crimes against Palestinians, including deadly violence by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and pogroms by settlers in the West Bank, which have increased dramatically in the past 18 months.

People will not bear conditions of illegal occupation, violent repression, profound inequality and hopelessness indefinitely; violent uprisings are inevitable. Suicide bombings and rocket attacks by militants have killed many Israelis over the years, but they are not likely to be ended by even more state violence. Previous bombing campaigns against Gaza have only strengthened Palestinian resistance and the desire to be free.

If we stand on principle, against violence, injustice and violations of human rights, we cannot use acts of grievous violence or injustice to excuse or encourage other such acts, no matter by whom or against whom they are committed. The end point of such escalation will be more horrific than anything we have yet seen. Nor should we allow such acts to make prejudice and hostility acceptable here at home. We must firmly oppose both anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim sentiment.

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## (From last column) Mir Center for Peace Statement

As with all wars, the majority of casualties have been civilians. But let us remember, too, those young people who have been conscripted into compulsory military service, and those who are recruited to fight and sacrifice their lives. Soldiers and guerrilla fighters are not expendable simply because they are not civilians. They are daughters and sons, brothers and sisters, loved ones who suffer and whose deaths cause terrible grief and compel even more strife. Every life matters.

Finally, let us remember that there are within both Israel and Palestine many people of good will who have been trying for years to create a democratic state in which all peoples live in freedom, equality and security. We must support such initiatives and groups if and when they are able to re-emerge. One example is Combatants for Peace, made up of former fighters on both sides who have chosen co-existence and a vision of a just peace for all. They are united in their resolve to continue this work.

There is a great deal of responsibility to be shared here, and some of it falls on those of us who have turned a blind eye to the grave injustices of Israeli apartheid. It is not non-violence that we should turn our back on now but complacency. Dr Martin Luther King Jr said it well in 1968 when he observed, following violent race riots in the US, that "our nation's summers of riots are caused by our nation's winters of delay. As long as justice is postponed we always stand on the verge of these darker nights of social disruption." This is a dark night indeed, one that will not end until there is justice, security, and freedom for all.

## US looks isolated after opposing UN resolution on Gaza truce

Patrick Wintour: The Guardian Diplomatic editor

*Only 12 countries joined Washington and Israel as Jordan's motion was passed at the general assembly*

The US has ended up looking quite badly isolated after only 12 countries joined Washington and [Israel](#) at the UN general assembly in opposing a motion calling for a sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

One hour after Israel had [extended its offensive](#) in Gaza, [Jordan's motion was passed](#) in New York by 120 votes to 14, with 45 countries abstaining. The outcome was remarkable for showing the limited direct support for the world's greatest superpower, with even France, Spain and the UK refusing to join the US in voting against the motion.

The splits inside the EU, visible over recent weeks, were also laid bare, with the 27-members of the bloc voting three different ways, but the majority abstaining. Six of the votes the US garnered were from Pacific islands: Fiji, Tonga, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

In the days leading to the vote, [Jordan](#) had adapted its initial resolution in an effort to secure maximum support

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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](http://www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org)

**For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email: [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).**

### UN International Days

**Nov. 2:** International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

**Nov. 6:** International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

**Nov. 9-15:** International Week of Science and Peace

**Nov. 10:** World Science Day for Peace and Development

**Nov. 16:** International Day for Tolerance

**Nov. 18:** World for the Prevention of and Healing for Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence

**Nov. 19:** World Toilet Day (Ed. Note: to help Establish safe and sanitary conditions)

**Nov. 20:** World Children's Day

**Nov. 25:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

**Nov. 29:** International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

**Nov. 30:** Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare.

When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.

*Abdu'l-Baha*

Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

### (From page 2) UN resolution on Gaza truce

by dropping its call for a ceasefire in favour of a sustained humanitarian truce, and it had added that the release of "captives" must be unconditional.

But Canada, with US backing, said these adjustments did not go far enough, since Jordan's motion did not name Hamas but instead simply condemned "all attacks of violence against Palestinian and Israeli citizens, including all acts of terror and indiscriminate attacks". It also did not describe the hostages held by Hamas as such, but instead said they were being illegally held as captives.

The US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas Greenfield, said that by refusing to name Hamas, the motion empowered the militant organisation that runs Gaza.

When Canada's amendment naming Hamas and describing those held captive as hostages was put to a vote, Canada and the US won the vote by 88 to 55, with 23 abstaining. All 27 EU states and the UK backed the amendment. But a vote at the general assembly, as opposed to the smaller UN Security Council, requires a two-thirds majority, meaning the Canadian amendment fell.

That left UN envoys with a choice: back the Jordanian call for a humanitarian truce, bereft of a reference to Hamas, or abstain or vote against it. Eight EU countries led by France backed the resolution. Among the big powers abstaining were Australia, India and the UK. The US alliance that voted against the resolution on one count represents only 7% of seats at the general assembly, bearing some resemblance to the diplomatic isolation Russia has experienced over Ukraine in the past two years.

Jordan was delighted by the outcome, with its foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, saying the general assembly had "spoken for justice". The resolution, he claimed, "is a clear stand against Israel's war, against the killing of Palestinians, against war crimes, on the side of international law".

It certainly makes clear that Israel has an imperative duty in international law to ensure civilians are not deprived of objects indispensable to their survival.

But the resolution is non-binding, more a snapshot of world opinion. The Security Council, which can pass binding resolutions, has been unable to pass a motion on the crisis without either Russia or the US wielding its veto.

If you love your enemies, you will have no enemies.

*Leo Tolstoy*



The most perfect among men is he who loves his neighbour without thinking about whether the person is good or bad.

*Mohammed*

## WHAT'S UP?

**Survivors** of Doukhobor children taken to the New Denver **Residential School** in the 1950s are asking for our support for their deceased family members, for survivors and themselves to have a voice at the Government table.

They are asking that the promised apology also include the implementation of the recommendations put forward by the Ombudsperson's report.

**For a digital copy of a template letter and more information please email:**

[lostvoicesofnewdenver@gmail.com](mailto:lostvoicesofnewdenver@gmail.com)



Pick up **White Poppies** @ New West, Joggas, Womens Center and USCC office in Grand Forks.

On the BPI website will be a list of articles to explore about Palestine/Israel.

The BPI address is:

[www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org](http://www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org)

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 email and phone contact at:

<http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles 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 an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000, CNANW and works with various local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups such as Jewish Voices for Peace.

## Two Trains

By: *Ehab Lotayef* October 19, 2023

Two trains  
traveling in opposite directions  
on the same track  
west of the Dead Sea

Under the rainbow that follows the storm,  
there are no survivors.

Except those who exchanged their tickets  
for European passports

But those who sold their organs on the black market  
to buy food for babies famishing in the cold  
and those who wear the cloak of entitlement  
perish together.

I may give you love,  
if you give me hope.  
I would love you not,  
I will give you hate  
when you burn my fields  
when you starve my kids.

We ride the wave  
to the depth of doubt  
to the summit of fear.

To the pit of Hell

## Infinite Sink

By: Janet Mancini Billson (1992)

Nature abhors a vacuum,  
but people abhor peace.  
It is too easy, too quiet,  
begging for some tyrant or other  
to fill it,  
sucked in by fantasies  
of palatial wealth and  
adoration of the masses.

Even as war ends,  
and chaos subsides,  
internal war breaks the calm,  
as those who sup  
at the tyrant's table,  
are tricked by rhetoric  
of a new world order and  
illusions of grandeur.