Put an end to war - you have the power!

Summer is in full swing and the time is right for...demanding an end to war.

MAW’s vice-president, Bruce Kent, is urging people to step up their efforts for peace. Bruce says: “We need to keep up the pressure, - and there is plenty YOU can do.”

Here are MAW’s top tips on how to get the abolish-war message across:

1. Wear a MAW or other peace badge and put a sticker in your car or on your bike.
2. Put up a MAW information notice in your workplace, church, library, trade union office, school...or anywhere else people might see it.
3. Read the papers and every time you see an item about poverty, send a letter to the editor pointing out that the world spends almost $2 trillion every year on war, weapons and militarisation. President Eisenhower called this “theft from the poor”.
4. Whenever you are asked for a donation by development or aid charities such as Oxfam, Christian Aid, CAFOD and Save the Children, ask why they say almost nothing about the national and global cost of war. £100 billion is the approximate cost of a new set of Trident nuclear weapon submarines which Britain is about to build. With a few honourable exceptions the anti-poverty organisations have said little, if anything, about this.
5. Climate Change is one of the new perils facing us all. Militarisation, war, and CO2 emissions are a major cause of climate change. Get in touch with climate change campaigning groups and find out what they are doing about this issue.
6. Get a Housmans

Movement for the Abolition of War - Annual General Meeting

Including: chair’s report, election of committee members and officers and open discussion forum. Details of those standing will be on the MAW website from mid-September: www.abolishwar.org.uk

If you would like to nominate someone for committee (nominees must be MAW members and have agreed)
or
if you cannot attend the AGM but have any suggestions or concerns, contact us by Friday, October 16, via the website or by writing to 11 Venetia Rd, London N4 1EJ.

Sunday, 8 November, 11.15am, The Imperial War Museum, London

MAW demands: no more bombs in the Middle East

The Movement for the Abolition of War has called on the UK government to rule out further bombing in Syria. In a statement, MAW chair Tim Devereux accused the government of trying to subvert democracy and said aggression in the region only makes matters worse.

“The British Government is intent on signing us up to more violence despite the fact that bombing has always failed and simply created more chaos. “The Government has shown contempt for democracy by first flouting the clear instruction of our Parliament not to get involved in Syria and then by announcing on American TV that it will support such action. “This attempt to push through a policy of dropping bombs on Syria is an attempt to subvert Parliament.”

Peace Diary and Directory, check out the many pages listing all the UK peace, justice, development and human rights organisations - and decide which one to join.

Attend the MAW Peace History conference and learn what our predecessors over the centuries have done to make this a more peaceful world - and hear
Diary Dates

● 3 – 10 October - Drones Week of Action. Organisations and individuals throughout the UK will be undertaking actions, events and. This will include a ‘Sones not Drones’ event from 12-3pm, on Saturday, 3 October at RAF Waddington, near Lincoln. https://dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com
● Saturday, October 10, Manchester, the MAW Peace History Conference. More details available soon on www.abolishwar.org.uk
● Sunday, October 25, 6.30pm - UN Peace Service and procession, Canterbury Cathedral. All welcome.
● Sunday, November 8, 3pm, Imperial War Museum, the MAW Remembrance Day Lecture given by Professor Paul Rogers.

MAW has produced new materials to help members win hearts and minds and put the case against war. A striking postcard (above) shows the MAW banner with the legend: War causes climate change, climate change causes war”. It is available via the website - www.abolishwar.org.uk - or from the MAW address at 20p per card plus postage.

New postcard sends a clear climate message

Form of address
If you receive your newsletter by post the address label shows the date to which you are paid up – ‘2014’, ‘Life’, (for life members), ‘SO’ (if you pay by standing order) or ‘Comp’ (if you get a complimentary copy).

Mabel Cluer 1911- 2015
We were saddened to hear of the death earlier this year of Mabel Cluer aged 103.

A dedicated campaigner, Mabel is pictured at a Wimbledon Vigil for Peace just after her 100th birthday.

Her children Edwin (also pictured right) and Dilyys said: “She wanted to make the world a better place.”
How do Morris Dancers, a Hindu ladies group, the Boys’ Brigade, a left-leaning theatre workshop, the local Mosque, Boy and Girl Scouts, the Royal British Legion, Hare Krishna chanters and a Christian theatre company find a way to share their various responses to the theme of peace in an Anglican Parish Church?

In June, these and others came together at All Saints with Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough, to do just that in a community Vigil for Peace, which was created as part of Charnwood Great War Centenary Project. Extensive consultation, preliminary to a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, showed how the community wanted the desire for peace to form part of remembering the events of 100 years ago. Starting with the Council of Faiths and visiting various clubs, or a ‘chat in the pub’, each group was invited to contribute something of their own tradition.

On the evening, the church was resonant with the sound of lines chanted from the Bhagavad Gita soaring to the heights of the angels in the rafters (also called “devatas”), the thundering impact of Morris Dancers who literally broke sticks used in a “war dance” and then burnt them, the solemn lowering of flags and formal exaltation of “We will remember them.” and a poignant rendition of Michael Morpurgo’s story of Private Peaceful. The event forged new connections, co-operation and understanding.

How better to reflect on the true cost of war - the impact of lives lost and a legacy shared beyond boundaries - and what better call to nations to live in peace could there be?

Madeleine Coburn

Put an end to war, cont. from page 1.

about problems they faced.
8 Visit your local school and lead a discussion on ending war and building peace. Show senior students one of the MAW DVDs. Organise a school group to go to the UN in Geneva or New York. Take in some copies of the UN Charter which starts with the hope of freeing the world from “the scourge of war.”
9 Find out who the conscientious objectors of WW1 were in your local area and organise an event to commemorate them for their courage in the face of immense pressure.
10 Visit your MP and ask why we promote the sale of weapons to nearly any country with the money to buy them through the Defence and Security Organisation.

Finally, what ideas do you have? Email us at info@abolishwar.org.uk
Vets return war symbols

Three members of Veterans For Peace UK were pictured handing back symbols of war at Downing Street. The veterans put their army caps, oaths of allegiance and medals down to show their rejection of militarism.

“The Oath of Allegiance was a contract between the Monarchy, the British Government and a 15-year-old boy,” said Keiran Devlin, one of the men taking part in the protest. The other two who made this symbolic gesture were VIP founder Ben Griffin and John Boulton.

It’s a timetable for peace...

The programme for the 2015 Peace History Conference in Manchester has been announced, with a fascinating array of talks, theatre and plenty of networking opportunities for all. Booking will open in the summer. Look out for details on the MAW website at www.abolishwar.org.uk

Friday 9th October
2.30-5.00pm: A guided walk along parts of the Manchester Peace Trail covering sites connected with the growth of Manchester as the world’s first industrial city and its importance as a centre for radical political activity, led by campaigner Steve Roman - www.discoverpeace.eu
7pm: Eloquent Protest

Saturday 10th October
9.30-10.30am: Registration and Welcome
11.30am-12 noon: Break
12-1pm: Listen to a talk by representatives from the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
1pm-2pm: Lunch and stalls
2-2.20pm: Living Along the Fence Line - a film
2.20pm-3.45pm: Arming All Sides with Kat Hobbs, Campaign Against the Arms Trade
3.45-4.15pm: Break
4.15-4.50pm: The arms trade now and questions from the floor. Kat Hobbs (CAAT) 4.50pm: Summary and close.

Abolish War

The next edition of Abolish War will be published on October 30. Send your news and views to helenriley@abolishwar.org.uk

Time for UN to act on its original principles

People who support the ideals of the United Nations are only too aware of some of the urgently needed reforms which would allow the UN to pursue its founding aims more effectively. An excellent little booklet of reform proposals has been produced by The Dag Hammarskjold Foundation in co-operation with UNA Sweden - http://www.daghammarskjold.se
Now YOU have the chance to make a difference by supporting the 1 for 7 Billion campaign to find the best UN Secretary-General in 2016. The UN has virtually no formal established rules for selecting the Secretary-General: no proper selection criteria, timetable or scrutiny of candidates. Candidates are nominated by governments, after which the Security Council agrees on one final nominee by a majority vote.

A more open and inclusive selection process would improve the chances of finding the best person for the job, give him/her a stronger mandate and so help revitalise the UN.

See www.1for7billion.org and join this valuable campaign. There is scope for change: much of the current system does not require amendment of the UN Charter.

Hilary Evans

Jeremy Corbyn MP - pictured above with MAW vice-president Bruce Kent and others - is the only one of the four candidates standing for election as the new leader of the Labour Party who is opposed to Trident renewal.

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