

The Movement for the Abolition of War

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 23 October 2014

Author Michael Morpurgo to speak for peace - and against flag waving

Award-winning author Michael Morpurgo will be the guest speaker at the annual Remembrance Day lecture held by the Movement for the Abolition of War on November 9.

He is concerned that the centenary events marking the start of WW1 should promote peace and reconciliation not "flag waving".

Writing in The Guardian newspaper earlier this year he said: "If people gave their todays for our tomorrows then, I am sure, after all they went through and died for, they would wish to see us doing all we can to create a world of peace and goodwill, a world that one day will turn its back on war for good.

He added: "There should be no flag waving, unless it be the lowering of flags for all the nations who lost their sons, unless it be to celebrate the peace we now share together, unless it be to reaffirm again our determination to guard our freedom, but, as far as humanly possible, to do it in peace.

"And when we sing anthems, let them be anthems of peace and reconciliation."

ends

Notes to editors

The Remembrance Day Lecture will be held on Sunday November 9 at the Imperial War Museum in south London. It will start at 3pm and entrance is free. Donations to promote MAW's work will be welcome.

About MAW

The Movement for the Abolition of War aims to challenge popular thinking about the acceptability of war and raises awareness of constructive alternatives non-partisan, of all political and religious persuasions. MAW was formed in 2001 following the Hague Appeal for Peace in 1999. The founder president was Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat FRS, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder chair was Bruce Kent.

For more information

Please contact MAW publicity officer Mark Whitehead on
0208 348 3103
markwhitehead@headlinemedia.co.uk

www.abolishwar.org.uk