

Movement FOR THE Abolition of War

New President, new website - and a call for support

1st March 2021

Dear friend/colleague,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the arrival of a new President at the helm of the Movement for the Abolition of War, taking over from our founder, Bruce Kent.



Paul Rogers is well known in the peace community, in the UK and overseas, having worked in the field of international security, arms control and political violence for some 40 years. He is Emeritus Professor of [Peace Studies](#) at the [University of Bradford](#) and International Security Advisor to Open Democracy. For many years Paul wrote the Monthly Briefings on International Security for the Oxford Research Group. These remain available and a new series is now published by Rethinking Security. Paul trained originally as a biologist, has a PhD from Imperial College in plant pathology and later lectured there as well as being seconded as a Senior Scientific Office in crop research in Uganda. He subsequently worked in environmental science, developing research in resource conflict before moving to Bradford in 1979 where he worked for the next forty years. He has written or edited 30 books including *Losing Control: Global Security in the 21st Century*, published in 2000, which predicted a catastrophic attack in the United States followed by a “war on terror”. A

new edition will be published by *Pluto Press* later this year. Paul is a past Chair of the British International Studies Association, and has lectured for many years at defence colleges. We are indeed fortunate to have such a distinguished analyst as our President!

Paul writes:

“It is an honour to follow Bruce Kent as Honorary President and to support MAW. Its work has never been more important. The past two decades have seen failed and failing wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Syria, as well as bitter insurgencies across the Sahel region of Africa. In Afghanistan, whatever agreement comes out of the current talks, the Taliban will end up controlling much of the country, and in Iraq and Syria coalition forces are still bombing insurgents where 10,000 ISIS paramilitaries are either active or have gone underground. Libya remains a focus for arms transiting south and insurgents are active in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Chad, Nigeria and elsewhere with western states using drones and special forces in efforts to maintain control. The US is still active in Somalia and Russia in Syria, while the UK continues its support for Saudi Arabia in its disastrous war in Yemen. Beyond all this, the current world-wide challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic shows that “old thinking” on security is simply irrelevant. You can’t “nuke” a virus, the pandemic has killed nearly twice as many people as all the civilians killed in aerial bombardment in the UK throughout the 2nd World War, and the global death toll is already two and a half million. Beyond that we have the even greater challenge of preventing climate change where, as with the pandemic, fighting wars is obsolete. We just have to change our thinking and come to terms with the realities of the world we live in. There is much work for MAW to do.”

About MAW:

War has today become an industry which benefits the rich and powerful, while consuming the impoverished, the deprived and the marginalised, and inflicting devastation on our planet. MAW's prime purpose is to rid the world of this terrible scourge. Our current campaigning priorities include:

[Climate change & military emissions](#) – to raise awareness of military-related greenhouse gas emissions and to push for their inclusion in the CEE bill and at COP26

Support for the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) – to continue as an active ICAN partner; having celebrated the entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January 2021, to campaign for government acceptance of the new Treaty

[United Nations](#) – raising awareness of the ideals and work of the UN among the public, in schools and among MPs

[Rethinking Security](#) – to promote a new definition of security not based on military expenditure but focused instead on human and planetary well-being.

[Global Campaign on Military Spending UK](#) – to support the campaign which aims to cut military spending, in order to fund human need.

Our Call for Support

Given the challenges we face and the multiplicity of possible responses, **MAW is now issuing a call to all supporters and friends to join with us to lift the level of our activity.** We encourage you to support us in a number of ways:

- send us suggestions for actions/initiatives that can be taken in the short- or medium-term; and even better, offers to help organise them!
- join MAW as a member (there are [6 categories of membership](#))
- publicise our work through social media, newsletters, e-mailings etc.
- help us reach out, both to the more obvious colleagues in the peace movement and to faith communities, trade unions, educational bodies, the media etc.
- [make a donation](#), ideally on a regular basis. MAW has no staff but to make our work more professional we need to hire people with specialist skills from time to time.

New website

MAW's new website is at www.abolishwar.org.uk – early visitors like it:

“Wonderful! It's all so clear, well explained, and looks beautiful.”

“It looks great - fresh, clear messaging, easy to move around”

Be sure to visit soon!

To contact us please see the options at: <https://abolishwar.org.uk/support-us/contact-us/>

Looking forward to your response,

Yours in peace,

Tim Devereux

Chair,

Movement for the Abolition of War