

## Take action on Yemen

In June members of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Yemen, Alison Thewliss MP and Keith Vaz MP, along with Andrew Mitchell MP, wrote to PM Theresa May regarding the Saudi-Emirati offensive on Hodaydah Port. In addition to the three co-sponsors, the letter has now been signed by over 65 MPs of all parties including leader of the Lib Dems, Sir Vince Cable, plus Tom Tugendhat, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The letter urges the PM to “*use all available means to end the catastrophic military assault on Hodaydah Port by the Saudi- and Emirati-led coalition. This includes removing material support from combatants. We implore you to make a statement condemning an attack on Hodaydah and calling for an urgent ceasefire*”.

The letter is still open for signatures so check if your MP has signed and, if not, ask her/him to support this cross-party initiative.

See the APPG website for details:  
<http://www.yemenappg.com/pmletter>

■ **Cynhadledd Hanes Heddwch - which we are sure you all know means Peace History Conference. See the leaflet included with this newsletter and we hope to see you in Wales (September 21 /22).**  
<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/>

For an electronic version of the newsletter email Gillian Hurle,  
[gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk)

The next edition of *Abolish War* will be out on November 1.



MAW members turned out to protest the visit of Donald Trump - a busy day that ended with a MAW committee meeting. We know how to have a good time - join us!  
<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/join.html>

## It's time for the UK to ratify UN nuclear weapon treaty

122 countries voted for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons last summer. To date, 59 have officially signed the Treaty; only 11 have ratified it. The UK has shown nothing but contempt and not done any of those three. Why not us too?



Replacing Trident will cost over £200 billion - but nuclear weapons do nothing for our real security. The money would be far more sensibly spent on genuine needs - the NHS for instance.

Our nuclear weapons are far from independent. We borrow from the US, on a regular rotating basis, the missiles on which to put our warheads. Getting rid of them would be a major step on the road to a war-free world. We only ever got them out of a sense of national vanity. It's time to grow up. **Bruce Kent**

## Movement for the Abolition of War - Annual General Meeting

11am, Saturday, November 3, St John's Waterloo, London SE1 8TY

Including: chair's report, election of committee members and officers and open discussion forum. Details of those standing in the elections will be available on the MAW website from October. [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

If you would like to nominate someone to stand for the committee (nominees must be MAW members) or, if you cannot attend the AGM but have any suggestions or concerns you would like raised, contact us by September 30 in writing to 11 Venetia Rd, London N4 1EJ.

Our vice-president, Martin Bell, has penned a verse for Syria.

*A Syrian infant dies a  
poisoned death,  
The missiles strike, the whole  
world holds its breath:  
Would that we had the  
commonest humanity  
To put an end to  
all this armed insanity.*

### Putting their message out there

World BEYOND War has been putting billboards up in many places in the US. It is fundraising to carry on this work and other campaigns. For more information see <https://actionnetwork.org/> - or how about planning something similar in your neighbourhood?



## Campaigners celebrate revamped peace garden for Manchester

Lincoln Square is set to become home to Manchester's new Peace Garden in a £4m overhaul designed to make the neglected plaza a calm space symbolising regeneration after disaster. The council and surrounding landowners have agreed to put money into remodelling the area to include a new garden to replace the one removed from St Peter's Square during a revamp. The scheme will feature trees planted from the seeds of a Ginkgo tree damaged in the Hiroshima nuclear bomb but which regrew the following year, intended to represent "the regeneration after the disaster, and of peace". The Friends of Manchester Peace Garden campaigned

tirelessly for the reinstatement of a city centre peace garden. The existing Abraham Lincoln statue will be the focus of the square. The Lincoln Statue - given to Britain as a symbol of 100 years of peace between the US and Britain and placed in Manchester due to the city's support for the abolition of slavery - will be moved slightly. There will also be an area for plaques, either in tribute to particular people or on the theme of peace, a move that will be developed in conjunction with the Friends' group. ■ An updated Manchester Children's Peace Trail can be seen here - <http://www.manchesterpeacetrail.org.uk>

■ Peace Action Durham had a good day at the Miners' Gala reports member Heather Speight. She says people agreed that selling arms to Saudi Arabia is a bad idea. The group did a roaring trade in badges and booklets and met a group from Veterans for Peace.

## Focus on Conscientious Objectors in N and S Korea

Ceremonies and protests took place around the world on Tuesday 15 May - International Conscientious Objectors' Day - calling for the release of hundreds of people imprisoned in the two Koreas for refusing to join the armed forces. Despite moves towards peace in the region, over 250 conscientious objectors are held in South Korea with an unknown



of COs contributes to peace on the peninsula. After a minute's silence white flowers were laid

number in North Korea. Conscription is in force in over 60 countries worldwide and has recently been reintroduced in Sweden. In London, a ceremony in Tavistock Square was addressed by Eritrean human rights activist Selam Kidane, who campaigns against conscription in Eritrea, and by Hannah Brock of War Resisters' International, who read out a statement by its South Korean affiliate *World Without War*, explaining why we need to take action and why supporting the rights

on the Conscientious Objectors' stone. The ceremony was organised by the peace campaigns, human rights organisations and faith groups which make up the First World War Peace Forum. Postcards were also handed in at the South Korean embassy by members of the Peace Pledge Union and WRI, urging the South Korean President, Moon Jae-in, to act on his election promise to recognise the right to conscientious objection.

■ **DATA PROTECTION:** If you are a MAW member we keep a record of your name, address, telephone number(s) and email address, if you have supplied this to us. We need this information so that we can send you this newsletter and other important news relating to the organisation, such as notification of the AGM and other important MAW events. We never pass any of this personal information to external organisations, apart from sending a list of names and addresses to our printer who organises the distribution of *Abolish War*.

In order to comply with the new GDPR regulations, we are informing you that we hold your details electronically and giving you the chance to ask for them to be removed. Of course we hope that you don't!

If you have given us an email address we will use this to communicate important events, in order to save postage. If you have not yet replied to the email sent regarding GDPR, we would be grateful if you would email [gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk)

## Dangers facing teen recruits

Young people considering a military career face misinformation, weak consent arrangements, routine ill-treatment during training and a risk of mental health problems as a result of joining too young, according to experts.

A report, *Why 18 Matters*, by human rights group Child Soldiers International shows how some nations capitalise on social, economic and psychological vulnerabilities of disadvantaged adolescents to meet recruiting targets. The report's authors claim these states may be violating their commitments under international law. Campaigners have challenged the UK Government on the ethics of recruiting minors for many years, but this is the first time the fundamental legality of the practice is being questioned.

Rachel Taylor, Director of Programmes at Child Soldiers International, says: "The popular myth of the army as a benevolent institution which 'saves' disadvantaged and vulnerable people from an uncertain future remains pervasive. But research shows military life is profoundly unsuitable for adolescents."

<https://tinyurl.com/yahbu66j>

## Make a date with the peace movement – AND make plans!

Serious remembrance of wars calls for serious work for peace.

If you agree, make a date with the peace movement.

Get out diaries and let's start making plans!

The First World War Peace Forum is organising several

several

events for November 11 - Remembrance Day 2018.

At 12.30pm in Tavistock Square, London WC1, a

ceremony of Remembrance and Peace with speakers will take place to mark 100 years after the end of the First World War.

From 2 - 5pm in Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ, people are invited to drop by to talk to peace activists and find out about current peace campaigns. There will be a café,



music, films, books, stalls and a children's programme led by Woodcraft Folk.

As well as the organisations which make up the Forum - including MAW - other organisations including CAAT, CND, ForcesWatch, WRI and Housmans Bookshop will be represented.

Everyone is welcome. Organisations and local groups are also encouraged to plan their own events. The special poppy/dove design pictured left is available on the MAW website for groups to download and use as they wish on leaflets, posters, banners, flags and more. More details on the website:

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk>

The FIRST WORLD WAR PEACE FORUM is an umbrella group comprising the Anglican Pacifist

Fellowship, Conscience, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Movement for the Abolition of War, Network for Peace, Pax Christi, Peace News, Peace Pledge Union, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Right to Refuse to Kill Group, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

### The Movement for the Abolition of War – join us, or renew your membership

We aim to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution. Working through education and dialogue, nationally and locally, we have the tools, skills and laws that we need, but we also need you - ordinary people can help us realise our goal, the abolition of war.

To join MAW or renew your membership, complete this form or download the membership and standing order forms from our website at <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/join.html>.

Send the completed form (and cheque if applicable) to: Movement for the Abolition of War, 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE

#### Membership application / renewal

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Tel no. ....

Email .....

Type of membership (please tick):

Life £100  Individual £15  Unwaged £5

Household (2 or more at same address) £20  Group or organisation £25

I enclose: Membership £ .....

Donation £ .....

Total £ .....

Please make cheque payable to Movement for the Abolition of War

OR Please send me a standing order form

**Membership subscriptions:** If you received this newsletter by post the label on the envelope shows your membership status: the date to which you are paid up, eg 2018; 'Life', if you are a life member; 'SO' if you pay by standing order or 'Comp' if you receive a complimentary copy.

To join or renew your membership complete the form in this newsletter or download the forms from our website at <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/join.html>. If you would like to receive email notification of the newsletter availability, instead of a hard copy, please email [gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk)

**Abolish War** is published by the Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ

### Join Caroline for MAW talk



A reminder that Caroline Lucas MP will give the 2018 MAW Remembrance Day Lecture on Saturday, November 3, 2pm, at St John's Waterloo, London SE1 8TY.

Book tickets via the MAW website and also display the poster which will have arrived with this issue of *Abolish War*.