

COP26 - can you volunteer with us?

MAW is planning to have a street presence in Glasgow during COP26, with the message that war and the climate crisis are intimately and dangerously linked.

We intend to be on the streets from Sunday, 31 Oct - Friday, 12 Nov - if we can find enough volunteers! We will have a banner and will be leafleting.

If you can help, please email Tim Devereux, MAW Chair, info@abolishwar.org.uk
See p3 for more on COP26.

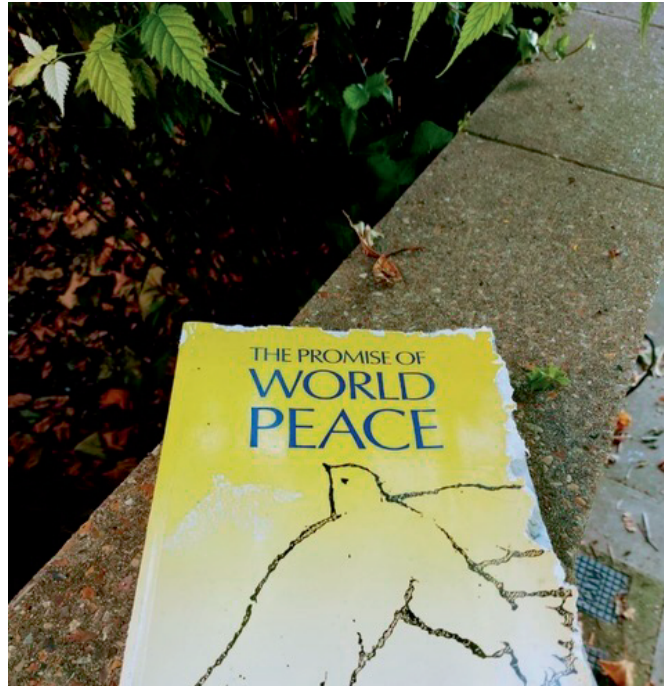
Keep in touch

Would you like to be able to comment on or discuss current events with other MAW members? We have set up a Google Group called **Friends of MAW**.

Anyone who joins will be able to respond to emails sent to the group and also to send information that other members may find interesting and useful.

You do not need to have a Google account to join the Group. Email gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk - to be added to the list. Note that your email address will be accessible by others in the group.

To receive an electronic version of the newsletter email gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk
Abolish War will next be published on December 1. Please like our Facebook page and share our posts - facebook.com/abolishwar



Peaceful spot: Lockdowns led to 'little libraries of the street' - with books being offered on garden walls. It's a good way to spread the word and find common cause in our local areas.

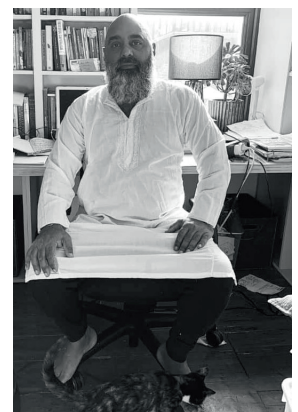
Registration is now open for this year's Remembrance Day Lecture

We are delighted to announce that this year's Remembrance Day lecture will be given by Asad Rehman, Executive Director of War on Want. It will be a Zoom event and held on Sunday, 14 November from 2-30pm. Having worked tirelessly in the non-government and charity sectors for over 25 years, Asad's expertise has led him to be today at the forefront of the climate justice movement in the UK and around the world.

Previously the head of international climate at the major environmental NGO, Friends of the Earth, Asad is now the Executive Director of War on Want, a movement which is committed to ending poverty and inequality.

Register for the lecture here:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2021-maw-remembrance-lecture-asad-rehman-tickets-168973900485



MAW on Afghanistan

MAW views with great concern the situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has seized power. We hope against hope that the people of Afghanistan will not have to suffer again the cruelties previously meted out by the fundamentalist regime. But even before the takeover, there was evidence of Taliban brutality and murder of Afghan civilians and surrendered soldiers - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-16/taliban-militants-afghanistan-civilian-torture/100300730>

Whatever gloss is put on the situation by the governments of the US and UK, yet again, going to war has failed. MAW President Prof Paul Rogers writes about this and the other three failed wars pursued by the US and its allies since 2001:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/17/afghanistan-iraq-libya-islamic-state-western-intervention-failure-taliban>
The MAW statement can be seen here - <https://abolishwar.net/afghanistan-maw-statement/>

Our President Emeritus, Bruce Kent, offers his thoughts on the situation here <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42886>

Books: Losing Control - Paul Rogers (updated edition Pluto Press)

Written in the late 1990s, *Losing Control* was years, if not decades, ahead of its time, predicting the 9/11 attacks, a seemingly endless war on terror and the relentless increase in revolts from the margins and bitter opposition to wealthy elites.

Now, in an era of pandemics, climate breakdown and ongoing crises in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, MAW President Prof Paul Rogers has revised and expanded the original analysis, pointing to the future that will see a showdown between a bitter, environmentally wrecked and deeply insecure world and a possible world order rooted in justice and peace.

Colin Archer

London now home to first UK site named after the UN

To mark the 75th anniversary of the first meeting of the UN General Assembly, held in Methodist Central Hall in 1946, the green space between Central Hall and the Queen

Elizabeth Conference Centre - and opposite Westminster Abbey - has been renamed **United Nations Green**. Apparently, it is the only location in the UK to be named after the UN.

In the words of David Wardrop of Westminster UNA whose vision and hard work drove this initiative: "Unlike so many monuments in London which record occasions

of conflict and loss of life, United Nations Green will create a space which encourages us to look forward, committing ourselves to reconciliation and dialogue. It makes a statement for peace, re-emphasising the purpose of the United Nations."

At a celebration of the launch, doves of peace were released and the first Minute Book of the UN was displayed in Methodist Central Hall.



Movement for the Abolition of War Annual General Meeting

Saturday, November 27, 11am, via Zoom
Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maw-agm-tickets-168980636633>

Including chair's report, election of committee members and officers. Details of those standing in the elections will be available on the MAW website from October - www.abolishwar.net

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, contact us by November 1.

Email info@abolishwar.org.uk or write to
11 Venetia Rd, London N4 1EJ.

MAW makes big plans to get its peace message across at COP26

UNFCCC COP26 Climate Change Conference, Glasgow, 31 Oct - 12 Nov

In January 2020, MAW applied for accreditation as an NGO to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference COP26 in Glasgow, but in July 2021 was refused because MAW isn't registered with the Charity Commission. This condition, which is specific to UK organisations, was not in the UNFCCC advice to applicants. Charity Commission Regulations might attenuate MAW's freedom to challenge government policy on war. This decision does not restrict our planned activities at COP26. We have submitted a

joint application with Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) and other peace organisations to make a presentation at the *People's Summit* which is being held in parallel to COP26 in Glasgow from 7 - 10 November, plus an application is in progress for a presentation in conjunction with Veterans for Peace USA and VfP UK. MAW committee members David Collins and Hilary Evans have already committed to attending several days at the COP, together with other members of MAW and with the objective of speaking at events, plus providing a street presence with banners and handouts for the public and the thousands of delegates gathering in Glasgow.

How anti-war statue points the way

MAW Committee member and Policy Group member of Veterans for Peace (VfP), David Collins, was in Margate in April with other VfP veterans for the unveiling of an anti-war statue of a British soldier who served in the Iraq War.

The statue is in dialogue with the Surfboat memorial figure of a lifeguard who gazes out to sea to rescue people. It is overlooked by the shelter where TS Eliot wrote part of *The Waste Land* while recovering from a nervous breakdown 100 years ago and from which Iraqi-American sculptor Michael Rakowitz took his work's title - *April is the Cruellest Month*. Rakowitz's sculpture is modelled after his friend Daniel Taylor, a young soldier who served with the Royal Artillery in Basra, Iraq. The figure is cast out of an



aggregate of concrete, calcite, sand and earth from Basra plus chalk from Margate studded with items that embody trauma: military medals and other votive offerings donated by Taylor, members of VfP UK and by residents of Kent. Giving up the medals of war follows the example of poet-officer and pacifist Siegfried Sassoon, whose words are etched at the sculpture's base: "I am a soldier, convinced that I am acting on behalf of soldiers. I believe that this war, on which I entered as a war of defence and liberation, has now become a war of aggression and conquest."

Linking militarism to the climate crisis

MAW's President Emeritus Bruce Kent highlights the connections between climate change and the scourge of war

In our work to eliminate war we don't make enough of the United Nations. MAW offers an A4 card, ideal for noticeboards, which carries the Preamble to the United Nations Charter, signed in June 1945. It is very clear. The UN is to save succeeding generations "from the scourge of war".



The current climate change crisis offers many opportunities to do just that. Yet much climate change discussion sidelines the simple fact that world militarism is also a major cause of this crisis. Making and using tanks and bombs is also a major cause of the carbon gases which now threaten us all. Governments do not want the public to be too aware of the massive cost and dangerous consequences of world militarism. COP26 is an opportunity we must not miss to put this right. We will have active members spreading our message in Glasgow and we also have useful resources. How about ordering a batch of our popular postcards to hand out at events and street stalls - or to send to policy makers? The postcard reads '*War Causes Climate Change - Climate Change Causes War*' and gets our message over very well. Individual copies cost 25p plus postage. But quantities are much cheaper - £2.50 for 25, or £5 for 50, including postage. Order via <https://abolishwar.net/shop/>

Remembering Becky

The delightful photos of former MAW Vice-Chair which greet visitors to the Becky Garnault website -

www.beckygarnaultfund.co.uk - remind us of Becky's active, vibrant and purposeful life and will bring a smile to the face of anyone who knew her.

The fund was set up by her family in Becky's memory and young people aged 18 - 30 are invited to apply for grants to enable them to continue the type of work that Becky was passionate about, particularly in relation to peace and reconciliation. The website has examples of the range of proposals the fund will consider.

Becky was also remembered by Quakers at their annual gathering when a testimony to her life was read out at Britain Yearly Meeting. Her cheerful determined conviction shines through in a moving and thoughtful tribute which can be found on p22 at www.quaker.org.uk/documents/testimonies-2

Peace education - what is it and why does it matter?

MAW committee member Helen Horton makes the case for Peace Education

Peace Education is increasingly entering the discourse of education but remains complex to define.

Arguably, there are two approaches in Peace Education; we can teach 'about' peace and we can teach 'for' peace.

Both approaches have their intrinsic value and they are not mutually exclusive. 'About' peace is learning about, for example, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, important peace treaties and how nations have resolved conflicts both internally and externally.

Teaching 'for' peace, however, is the key to evolving a world

where conflicts can be resolved without weapons.

A core principle of Peace Education is that of building from the inside outwards. Learning to achieve inner peace leads to a greater ability to resolve conflicts at family and community levels and thus to national and international levels.

There are excellent examples of programmes in schools, predicated on developing the skills of conflict resolution through such processes as mediation, restorative justice and negotiation. Some are taught internally, others provided by outside agencies.

Peace Education should be embedded in the National Curriculum and set at the core of teaching at all levels of the education system.

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/support-us/join-us/>
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 2020; '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, you can complete the form above, or go to www.abolishwar.org.uk/support-us/join-us/ and complete the form there, either online or by download.

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

Books: *Why War?*

- John Scales Avery

Avery discusses why the institution of war continues to threaten human civilisation and the biosphere, plus steps that might be taken to rid the world of war.

The book (359pp, illustrated) is wide-ranging with a wealth of references. It can be downloaded and circulated free from:

<https://eacpe.org/app/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Why-War-by-John-Scales-Avery.pdf>

John was part of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. He is also Chairman of the Danish Peace Academy.

Colin Archer