

Bid for bigger role for Court of Justice

LAW not War is a new civil-society-led campaign working with like-minded countries to enhance the jurisdiction and use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to help resolve international disputes peacefully rather than through recourse to the threat or use of force. The principal objective of the campaign is to increase the number of States accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, with the aspiration to achieve universal acceptance of jurisdiction by 2045, the 100th anniversary of the United Nations. The campaign will work to enhance ICJ jurisdiction through other means, including encouraging more frequent use of the ICJ as a dispute resolution mechanism provided in international treaties and appealing to states to make use of ICJ jurisdiction through mutual agreement for specific disputes.

MAW representative calls for action on climate and militarism

Sponsored by MAW, Deborah Burton of Tipping Point North/South spoke at two official side events and actively participated in four more events as an accredited delegate at COP28 in the UAE.

MAW was one of the first peace organisations to launch a public campaign demanding that governments account for - and reduce - the vast emissions and expenditure of the military in both war and peace.

In November 2019, at the COP25 in Madrid, MAW picketed the entrance to the conference centre for ten days with its banner and leaflets which declared "War Causes Climate Change and Climate Change". Thus the idea and concept started to sink into the minds of the many 1,000s of delegates from all over the world.

This success was repeated by a much larger MAW team outside the gates of COP26 in Glasgow and, for the first time, military emissions were debated at several events outside the COP and incorporated into the huge marches and vigils around the city.

In 2022, COP27 was held in Sharm-El-Sheik, where it was no longer feasible to send a team with a banner, which is when we teamed up and sponsored Deborah, who took part in the first official side event on military emissions ever staged at a COP.

Finally, at COP28, the issue was accorded a prominent role in a whole series of events, with the further objective of forming a partnership with existing groups of nations such as "Small Island States" whose collective voice will be heard at international fora including COPs.

The scope of the debate on military emissions has broadened hugely to include climate damage caused in conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and the question of vast global military expenditure directly detracting from climate finance and loss and damage restitution.

We hope that these issues will feature on the main agenda of the next COP, which is predicted to be in Europe and accessible to us once again.

David Collins



Chanting in the rain: Durham peace campaigners made the links between climate change and military emissions during COP28.



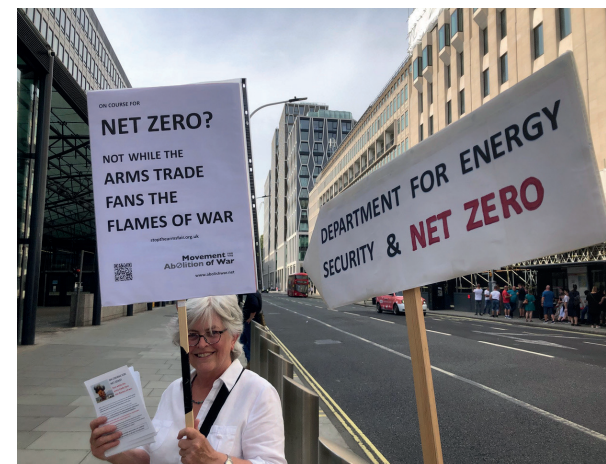
The art of peace: Michael Mears (left) and Tim Devereux at the MAW Remembrance lecture.



Objecting to war: MAW was one of many peace organisations represented at the Alternative Remembrance ceremony in Tavistock Square, London, in November. Committee members laid a wreath at the Conscientious Objectors' stone.

MAW highlights absurdity of Net Zero against backdrop of UK arms

Highlighting the rampant iniquities of the arms trade which fans the flames of war worldwide is an important concern for MAW in its goal of abolishing war - so we willingly organised two events as part of the network resisting DSEI, the massive biennial arms fair held at the ExCeL Centre in East London in September. Taking our message to central London for greater exposure, we leafleted and engaged with passers-by in Victoria Street outside the UK Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, asking how we can hope to be on course for net zero while promoting the arms trade with its associated immense but barely acknowledged greenhouse gas emissions. On a second day, we stood with banners and placards at the edge of Trafalgar Square close to the UK Department for Business & Trade, whose Defence & Security Exports Unit is responsible for promoting the arms fair. Our leaflet this time drew attention to what has been described as "one of the most corrupt businesses in the world", facilitated by our government and subsidised by taxpayers. Both events were well supported by campaigners and aroused much public interest. MAW members also participated in a number of other activities including walking from Stratford Station to the ExCeL Centre leafleting enroute, the eve-of-fair vigil, and the No Faith in War day where our vice-president Diana Francis was arrested and detained for several hours for blocking the vehicle entrance at the Centre.



Hilary Evans (pictured top)

Lessons to be learned from Italian activism

Francesco Pugliese is a veteran writer and activist with a deep understanding of Italy's peace and anti-war movements, whom MAW members will wish to know better. His travelling exhibition of illustrated panels, *Abbasso la Guerra* (Down with War), has been shown on numerous occasions since 2003. His book with the same title is a fascinating illustrated account of the history of peace activism in Italy from the 19th century to the present.

An educator with long experience, Pugliese stresses the need to communicate effectively. His latest book, *Parole di Cittadinanza* (Words of Citizenship) is an informative glossary of legal, economic and practical words and phrases relevant "for the rights of humanity and the world". While there is still much peace activity, Francesco tells me that unlike in past decades "one cannot talk of a real organised movement". However, there remains "a significant pacifism kept alive by many initiatives". I have translated part of an essay by him, together with a list of individuals, organisations and media in this field - see it on the MAW blog at <https://abolishwar.net/francesco-pugliese>.

I can supply the full essay for any readers of Italian who would like it.

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