

Ethics and War by Rowan Williams

A reminder that the MAW Remembrance Lecture 2026 will take place on Sunday, November 8 with Rowan Williams as our distinguished speaker.

He will talk on *The Changing Face of War: Thoughts on the Erosion of Ethics*.

The lecture will take place at 3pm, at Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

See page 2 for details of MAW's AGM to be held at the same venue earlier in the day

Take military action

Net Zero? Not without tackling military-related greenhouse gas emissions.

As our contribution to the Global Week of Action on Peace & Climate Justice in September, MAW, Tipping Point North South (TPNS) and Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) drafted a letter to Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero urging her to take account of these emissions and to use her influence to have them included in reduction plans and targets. The letter is open for signature by other concerned organisations and can be seen at <https://abolishwar.net/net-zero/>



Barking up the right tree! Thanks to Finley (pictured at the Anne Frank Tree in Covent Garden) and friends who took part in a recent Children's Mystery walk along the London Peace Trail. Children sought out clues which took them to sites including the Tree, the Edith Cavell statue and the Gandhi memorial in Tavistock Square.

How MAW has made its mark - 25 years of challenges and opportunities

The Movement for the Abolition of War is 25 years old this year and we warmly invite you to an online meeting to mark the occasion from **7.30 - 9pm on Thursday, 29 October** via Zoom.

Please register via the website -

abolishwar.net/happy-25th/.

The event will include a photo presentation looking back at some of our activities over the past 25 years and we have asked our speakers, including our President, Professor Paul Rogers, to tell us what they see as hopeful signs towards positive change.

Obviously, much work lies **cont on p4**



An institutional shift

Some of Pope Leo's 2026 encyclical letter, *Magnifica Humanitas* "on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence" speaks directly to the agenda of MAW. The section headed *The Culture of Power* provides a nuanced analysis of the factors by which war is being normalised, including the crisis of multilateralism, the shaping of public opinion by algorithms that prioritise conflict, the loss of historical memory about the horrors of war, the economic interests which thrive on rearmament, weapons and AI, the abandoning of disarmament agreements and much more, all well explained. Before going on to propose five pathways for peacebuilding, Leo makes explicit a shift which has been evolving in recent Church teaching on war:

"Today, more than ever, without prejudice to the right to self-defence in the strictest sense, it is important to reaffirm that the "just war" theory, which has all too often been used to justify any kind of war, is now outdated. Humanity possesses far more effective and capable tools for promoting human life and resolving conflicts, such as dialogue, diplomacy and forgiveness."

When this vast ship turns, the wake may rock some other boats.

Valerie Flessati

Legacies welcome

We're so grateful that people choose to include a gift to MAW when they make their will. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a real difference. Contact our Treasurer, Gill Hurlle - gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk - if you would like more information about how you can help.

Movement for the Abolition of War, Annual General Meeting 2026

Sunday, 8 November, 1.30pm. All welcome!

The AGM of MAW will be held at Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

It will include an annual report, the Treasurer's report, election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, plus an open discussion forum.

It will be followed by the MAW Remembrance Lecture, given by Rowan Williams (see page 1 for more details).

If you would like to nominate someone to stand for the Executive Committee (nominees must be MAW members) or, if you cannot attend the AGM but have any suggestions or concerns, contact us by Friday, 30 October at info@abolishwar.org.uk or in writing to 1 Old Mill Place, Haslemere, GU27 1NE.

If no nominations are received for the posts of Chairperson and Secretary, the current co-convening arrangements, agreed at AGM 2024 and confirmed at AGM 2025, will continue for another year, if members are in agreement.

Do come along and show your support, air your views and meet other members. We very much look forward to seeing you!

Prior to the AGM, all are warmly invited to attend the Annual National Alternative Remembrance Ceremony, 12noon - 1pm in nearby Tavistock Square. More details at www.ppu.org.uk/events

Chance to hear inspiring talks from Oxpeace Conference

St John's College Oxford hosted the annual Oxpeace Conference entitled *The Design of Peace: Re-imagining Directions for the UN at 80* in May.

An inspiring message from John Paul Lederach of Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, headed the programme: *"Remember that our most significant illusion is that we live at such great distance from the powerful actors and unfolding events that we are powerless. The inverse is true. We form part of the unfolding and as such we all have access to some piece of the great interdependence by which life happens and survives. Every daily conversation shaping meaning and response and seeking imaginative resistance and alternative to violence contributes to the shift toward dignity and care for humanity and this planet we share."*

Speakers included Professor Paul Rogers, Professor Sir Malcolm Evans, Rt Reverend Dr Rowan Williams, Dr Hugo Slim, Jane Kinninmont (CEO, UN Association-UK) Professor Richard Caplan and Professor Mark Owen and Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, former South African Ambassador to the United States and Rabbi Dr Judith Rosen-Berry.

The talks are available in full on the Oxpeace website:

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/oxpeace-2026-design-peace-re-imagining-directions-un-80>



Jaw Jaw: MAW executive members held their annual get-together in the summer and were delighted to be joined by Phil Gittins, (left) education director at World Without War, who offered many useful insights.

Threats of insecurity and conscription hang over us: Your chance to say No

For the first time in generations, the threat of conscription in this country seems very real.

Seemingly endless, heartbreaking, illegal wars, driven by unhinged leaders who despise the rules-based international order, together with a rise in extremism and populism, have led to increased feelings of insecurity among the population.

The solution for many political and military leaders is a dramatic hike in military spending, accompanied by talk of national service. Across Europe, conscription, or steps towards it, are on the rise. In Germany, men aged 18 to 20 are obliged to complete a questionnaire evaluating their physical fitness and other skills. Many are then required to attend mandatory military days with those deemed suitable being offered places in the army. As yet there is no obligation to accept the offers but the new law clearly facilitates future conscription. *Abolish War* readers involved in campaigning or conversations on security issues may find useful a new booklet, *Talking Points on Security Claims and Responses*, from Rethinking Security. It challenges the 'national security' orthodoxies, offering human security alternatives - <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/supporters/talking-points-on-security-claims-and-responses/>

The UK working group for International Conscientious Objectors' Day - a coalition of 13 peace organisations including MAW, has launched a petition calling on the UK government to rule out the introduction of conscription. It was launched on CO Day 2026 and will be collated and handed in to Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence on the following CO Day - 15 May 2027.

Please sign and share the petition now!

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-to-military-conscription-1>

Peacebuilding through truth and reconciliation

INMP conference report

The 12th International Conference of the International Network of Museums for Peace took place in August in Winnipeg. I felt very privileged to attend in person.

The theme was *Peacebuilding through Truth and Reconciliation*, a very apt focus given the global political climate in which we are currently operating.

The venue was the iconic Canadian Museum for Human Rights - purpose-built, the contemporary design incorporates several features that represent incompleteness to reflect the fact that tackling human rights and, indeed, social justice worldwide is never complete.

The conference was an opportunity to connect with like-minded people from across the globe, who are brought together by an overriding passion for seeking a peaceful world.

Much of the conference was expertly facilitated by Clive Barrett, former Chair of the Trustees of the Bradford Museum for Peace. Presentations were of a high standard, some based on individual research topics such as that on *Productive Discomfort* which was predicated on the premise that in order to grow, it is necessary to confront difficult experiences. The research explored the notion of confronting colonial guilt and shame. Leaving Winnipeg, I reflected on how much we have lost in terms of the connectedness to the natural world. Indigenous knowledge can teach us so much - the earth has the ability to sustain if only we treat it well and listen to it. The next conference will be in August 2029 in Cambodia.

Helen Horton

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, but to do this we need you. 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.net/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

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For an electronic version of this newsletter email Gill Hurle at gill.hurle@abolishwar.org.uk
The next edition of *Abolish War* will be published in February 2027.

Celebrating the Movement for the Abolition of War at 25



Join us online 7.30—9pm

Thursday 29 October 2026 for

Abolishing War—

Challenges and Opportunities

with photos telling MAW's story, and speakers
Paul Rogers, Mererid Hopwood, Khem Rogaly
Deborah Burton, and Valerie Flessati

Book at: abolishwar.net/happy-25th

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ahead for any campaign with the ambitious goal of helping to eliminate war.

Can you help? We want you to tell us what you think is a top priority. Write 'To abolish war we need to...' on a sheet of A4, then add your thoughts, take a photograph of yourself holding it and email the photo to us. Or just email us your completed sign. The deadline is Thursday, 15 October and the email address is info@abolishwar.org.uk

We will use the messages in the online meeting to show how a range of approaches can contribute to the abolition of war. We hope very much that you will join us for the **MAW at 25** celebration and thank you all for your ongoing support.