

NO MORE WARS

scottishpeacenet.org.uk



Wars are rarely fought in self-defence or just to rescue oppressed and threatened peoples. The UK has taken part in the recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria because of its close alignment with the US, both through the “special relationship” and through membership in NATO. These wars have resulted in enormous loss of civilian life and have given extremists more fuel for their fire.

They have also had a hugely negative effect on how we see our global neighbours and have encouraged many to resort to simplistic notions of “good” people and “bad” people and to see people of different races and faiths as the dangerous Other.

This is why events such as Armed Forces Day are so deeply insensitive and ill-timed; why it is so offensive to make the weapons of war central to a celebration, even to allow children to play with them as if they were not the things that rip human flesh apart but merely some neutral item of technology.

Instead of glorifying the militarist strand of Scottish heritage that has encouraged so many young men and young women to enlist in the British armed forces, we should be praising the voices of peace, such as the conscientious objectors imprisoned during the First World War, John Maclean who was jailed for his condemnation of that war as a bloody struggle of imperialist rivals, trade unionists who stuck to the principles of international brotherhood and organised

on the Clyde, and women like Helen Crawford who worked for peace and social justice throughout the First World War. We look forward to a day when Scotland will be known worldwide for the skill and commitment of its peacemakers.

Weblinks to other peace organisations:

Veterans for Peace - vfpuk.org

Forces Watch - forceswatch.net

Scottish CND - banthebomb.org

Trident Ploughshares -
tridentploughshares.org

Campaign against the arms trade -
caat.org.uk

