

Fellowship of Reconciliation

FoR is an international movement of people who commit themselves to active nonviolence as a way of life and as a means of personal, social, economic and political transformation.

Based in the Christian tradition, it was founded in 1914, and has permanent representation at the UN.



Aims

On the eve of the First World War, the former chaplain to the German Kaiser, a Lutheran called Friedrich Siegmund-Schültze and an English Quaker, Henry Hodgkin, parted at Cologne Station with the words, “We are one in Christ and can never be at war”.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation began as a result of this meeting and, perceiving the need for healing and reconciliation in the world, the founders of FoR formulated a vision of the human community based upon the belief that love in action has the power to transform unjust political, social, and economic structures. This work continues in over 40 countries today.

Work

FoR’s current work centres around equipping its members to promote nonviolence in their own churches, to send the message that Jesus was a radical peacemaker and that Christianity is a faith of nonviolence and of love in action.

FoR and its members are active in bearing witness against war and its preparation. They champion disarmament and are focusing especially on nuclear weapons and armed drones.

They also offer support for community conflict transformation projects overseas. Through their International Peacemakers’ Fund they support worldwide projects and non-profit organizations that promote nonviolence and make vital contributions to peace. The International Peacemaker Fund provides financial support to grassroots initiatives that are working towards peace and reconciliation in war-torn communities around the globe.

More Information

Website: for.org.uk

Twitter: [@forpeacemaker](https://twitter.com/forpeacemaker)

Facebook: [forepeace](https://www.facebook.com/forepeace)

Pax Christi

Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is the International Catholic Movement for Peace.



The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Its vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work.

Aims

Pax Christi works for:

- Peace – based on justice: a world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met and people feel safe and valued in their communities.
- Reconciliation – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute.
- Nonviolence – a way of living and making choices that respects others, challenges what is not fair or just, and offers alternatives to violence and war.

Work

Pax Christi educates for peace. It supports teachers, chaplains, and youth workers in promoting a culture of peace in schools and amongst young people. Pax Christi works in schools and colleges throughout England and Wales helping young people to explore the vocation to Christian peacemaking and how they can work for peace in their day-to-day lives.

Pax Christi promotes solidarity between people working nonviolently for justice and peace. This is done through joint actions for peace in Israel-Palestine, encouraging international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, and celebrating the life and witness of peacemakers.

Pax Christi campaigns for peace. It promotes an understanding of sustainable security where human needs are met and the environment is protected, rather than seeking security through weapons and warfare. Pax Christi campaigns against military spending, the arms trade and nuclear weapons.

Pax Christi prays for peace. Its work is rooted in Gospel nonviolence and activism of members is inspired by their daily prayer. Often Pax Christi's work of campaigning and solidarity takes the form of public prayer vigils, including regular events outside the Ministry of Defence in London.

More Information

Website: paxchristi.org.uk

Twitter: [@paxchristiuk](https://twitter.com/paxchristiuk)

Facebook: Pax Christi UK

Peace Pledge Union



The Peace Pledge Union (PPU) is the oldest secular pacifist organisation in Britain.

Aims

Since 1934 the Peace Pledge Union has been campaigning against war. Today their priority is to challenge aspects of our society that contribute to the view that war and armed force are effective agents of social change; such belief impedes the emergence of nonviolent approaches to conflicts.

Members joining PPU agree to this commitment:

'War is a crime against humanity. I renounce war, and am therefore determined not to support any kind of war. I am also determined to work for the removal of all causes of war.'

Work

The PPU is best known for distributing the white poppies that are worn in the run-up to Remembrance Day every year by thousands of people in the UK and beyond. White poppies have been worn in this way for over eighty years.

There are three elements to the meaning of white poppies: they represent remembrance for all victims of war, a commitment to peace, and a challenge to attempts to glamorise or celebrate war.

The PPU is involved in educating for peace to promote a better understanding of the causes of war and the many alternative strategies to resolve conflicts nonviolently. It also campaigns against military involvement in schools and the militarisation of wider society.

The PPU project *The Men Who Said No* tells the story of those World War One conscientious objectors who resisted the war, tried to stop it happening, and refused to participate in it. PPU continues to support conscientious objectors around the world today and promotes International Conscientious Objectors' Day on 15 May each year.

More Information

Website: ppu.org.uk

Twitter: @PPUToday

Facebook: Peace Pledge Union

Stop the Arms Fair

Stop the Arms Fair, formed in January 2011, is a network of groups and individuals campaigning to put a stop to arms fairs in the UK, and in particular DSEI – the largest arms fair in the world.



DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International) allows arms buyers and sellers to meet, view each other's military products, and make deals. It happens every two years, in the second week in September, at ExCeL – the huge exhibition centre in London Docklands.

Aims

Stop the Arms Fair peacefully protests against the DSEI Arms Fair with the aim of shutting the event down. They say:

'It may sound like a pretty big ask: shutting down a heavily policed, multi-million pound arms fair.

'Still, it is possible. In 2008, the Asia-Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition was cancelled due to "the cost of security" and "the possible threats of violence" – apparently the irony of accusing the people peacefully protesting an arms fair of violence was lost on them.'

Work

During a week of action in the lead up to DSEI the Stop the Arms Fair coalition organises creative, colourful, and striking protests outside the EXCEL Centre to disrupt the set-up of the event and draw attention to what is happening there.

Protests are organised that focus on particular issues such as nuclear weapons or the links between war, the arms trade, and the plight of refugees. The *No Faith in War* day of action sees people of faith gathering in prayer and protest. The *Art at the Arms Fair* event in 2017 encouraged people to use their creativity to make the arms fair visible to a wider audience.

Alongside the protests, legal and political challenges are made. In 2011 it was found that cluster munitions – illegal under international law – were being traded at DSEI and there are ongoing objections to weapons being sold to countries with poor human rights records.

In 2009 a group of students at a nearby school researched the arms trade and the associated protests and made this film: <https://youtu.be/KsB0YZk-VrY>

More Information

Website: stopthearmsfair.org.uk

Twitter: @stopthearmsfair

Facebook: Stop the Arms Fair

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

The Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) is an international feminist non-governmental organisation (NGO).



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM
UNITED KINGDOM

Founded in 1915, WILPF is the oldest international women's peace organisation active today.

Aims

WILPF links human rights and women's participation with disarmament, justice, and development. It also links local, national, regional and international work. This is an integrated approach to peace. WILPF's mission is to end and prevent war; to ensure that women are represented at all levels in the peace-building process; to defend the human rights of women and men; and to promote social, economic and political justice.

Work

WILPF advocates a human rights approach to preventing and confronting war. Members track the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and work with asylum seekers, refugees and trafficked women.

Through its *Peacewomen programme* WILPF seeks to ensure that women's rights and participation are not disregarded in international peace and security efforts. (peacewomen.org)

During periods of transition or conflict, WILPF reacts by developing responsive projects with three current projects focussing on the Middle East and North Africa, Bosnia and Serbia, and Ukraine.

WILPF also campaigns for disarmament. It works to highlight environmental impact of war, and tells the often overlooked stories of how these issues impact on women around the world. In *Voices of African Women* the particular issues faced by diaspora, refugee, and immigrant African women are raised at national and international level.

More Information

Website: wilpf.org.uk

Twitter: @ UKWILPF

Facebook: UKWILPF