

There is another way

One hundred years ago, Europe found itself at the beginning of what would be a catastrophic war. Hopes that it would be quick were left in tatters four years later as the world took stock of an horrendous toll of death and injury. The legacy of unresolved enmities and industrialised militarism cast a shadow across the rest of that century.

As we contemplate how such a brutal and devastating chain of events could have come about then, we are compelled also to look with alarm at our much more recent history. Our country has waged unnecessary wars which have ruined lives and sown the seeds of yet further violent conflict.

We remain encouraged, as Quakers were 100 years ago, by the dedication and vision of so many people who are committed to playing their part in laying the foundations of peace, and in resisting contemporary militarism and bigotry. We appeal to all to seek opportunities to help build a legacy of peace and justice for our children, our grandchildren, and for all humankind across the planet.

We know that justice, truth and equality are cornerstones of good relations between people, from neighbours to nations. We know too that the world 100 years on is much better equipped with the skills of peace-building. All these must be promoted, resourced, learned and put into practice.

There is another way. We must relearn the ability to live in harmony in this fragile and endangered world.

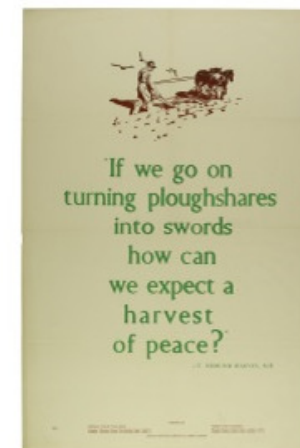
“Let us then try what love can do.” (William Penn, Quaker, 1693)



From a leaflet published by Northern Friends Peace Board on 6th August 1914:

“The war we trust will be short, but if prolonged how great is the danger - the unemployed crowd, hunger and desperation, panic and destruction, crime and misery. We must do our share by organisation and personal effort in preventing such a set back to barbarism. If the worst comes we shall be needed to spend days and nights in works of help and relief. And there may yet be need for a Quaker corps to carry the message of love and goodwill, to convey hope and material sustenance to the war ravaged districts of Europe...”

(for the full text of the leaflet, visit: www.nfpb.org.uk/1914)



Further information...

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