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WAGING PEACE

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PEACE & JUSTICE NEWS

Q1 2019

DON'T FEAR
IMMIGRANTS...
FEAR LIARS

**The Fear of Immigration and its
Common Misconceptions**

Green Economy or Green Grabbing?

**Book review: *How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent
Direct Campaigning***

Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre

Working in Scotland since 1980 to promote:
Nonviolence ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Human Rights ♦ Ecological Sustainability
Creating a Culture of Peace

Opposing War Memorial Edinburgh Campaign – Diary of Events

Cooperative Games and Conflict Resolution for Primary Schools Programme - Advocacy on Refugee Issues Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament - Origami Cranes Project - Questioning Militarism – Mailbox facility for Centre Users - Postcards, badges and books available - Desk & meeting space available – Peace & Justice News

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Editor's Introduction

In Centre News this month there's an update on our proposal for a Memorial to Conscientious Objectors and all who oppose wars. The Memorial has been enthusiastically approved by the Transport and Environment Committee of the City of Edinburgh and endorsed by 26 MSPs at Scottish Parliament. We're continuing to raise funds for casting the bronze Peace Tree sculpture which will be located in West Princes St Gardens.

Our feature article addresses some of the main misconceptions about immigration. Closed societies are poorer and less tolerant, and Western countries are becoming increasingly more closed. There is the urgent need to discuss immigration without the common prejudices and fears that have been poisoning public opinion for the last years.

In "Green Economy or Green Grabbing?" our intern Hsiao- Wei Chen examines how the argument of preservation had been leading to the appropriation of nature, especially in developing countries.

Our book review is of activist George Lakey's "How we win: a guide to nonviolent direct-action campaigning", which is a very interesting reading to all those who wonder how ideas can

effectively turn into real change in the world.

We are also hoping that you join us in our upcoming Peace & Justice Burns Supper! You can find out more about it in Centre News.

As always, we thank you for your support and readership, and hope you enjoy this issue!

The Editors.

Contents:

<i>Editorial: The Lack of Concern with Saudi Arabia.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Centre News</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Article: Green Economy or Green Grabbing?</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Article: The Fear of Immigration and its Misconceptions</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Book Review: "How We Win: a guide to nonviolent direct action campaigning</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>News from Around the Movements.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Reflection</i>	<i>23</i>

Editorial: The Lack of Concern with Saudi Arabia

This past September, I had the opportunity to represent Peace & Justice Centre in a very interesting meeting in the Scottish Parliament and to hear about the amazing efforts of a number of people from various countries in the Middle East who, with the support of Scottish politicians including Bill Kidd MSP and local and international NGOs, are working to promote a weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East. Sharon Dolev, founder and Director of Israeli Disarmament Movement talked about the urgent need to do so and the many steps and challenges of such a project. But her few remarks about Saudi Arabia caught my attention because I had recently written a report about the sales of arms made in Scotland and about how these arms are being used in humanitarian crimes in Yemen. Sharon noted that there wasn't enough international concern about Saudi Arabia. It wasn't part of the so-called "axis of evil", and it has long been considered a special ally of the West in the Middle East. It was basically regarded as a friendly country with no nuclear weapons program, which makes it no danger at all. But, as Sharon reminded us, Saudi Arabia has invested in Pakistani nuclear weapons projects and NATO intelligence reports confirm that the two countries have agreements that would allow the Kingdom to get such weapons delivered at any time. The Western allies have been arming Saudi Arabia for many years, without regard for the danger a heavily armed Kingdom presents in the region as our report on Yemen shows. I left the meeting hoping that what seemed to be a wolf in sheep's clothing would end up being just a sheep in the end.

But only one month later, the news broke of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident journalist who was murdered in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, with the very likely involvement of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. Sharon's words came back to my mind: "No one worries about Saudi Arabia because it is considered 'one of the good guys'". Now the world



Photo: Alisdare Hickson
-CC License -

had a reason to start worrying and maybe wonder about all the arms we have been giving to this prince. Until this happened the terrible crisis in Yemen was being successfully ignored by his Western allies, but they were now obliged to respond appropriately to the journalist's murder, especially since the CIA reportedly concluded that the Saudi Crown Prince ordered the assassination of Khashoggi.

This turn of events should be the perfect opportunity to finally hear the many international appeals and stop the sales of arms to Saudi Arabia, a country that presents itself as progressive but has been acting in ways that disregard many international humanitarian rules, being the main party responsible for causing "the worst man-made humanitarian crisis of our time", according to the United Nations. And yet, responses have been far from appropriate. The UK is lightly "considering the next steps" after expressing concerns about the event to Saudi Arabia. And the US, although initially considering taking some action, is now worried about the maintenance of its "strategic relationship" with the Kingdom. Sadly, that means that the arms sales will continue as usual, the journalist will be forgotten, Yemen will remain ignored, and the wolf might soon realise it is free to wander around.

Anelise Vaz

Centre News

Opposing War Memorial News

Key City of Edinburgh Committee Approves the Memorial



Our proposal for a Memorial to Conscientious Objectors and all who oppose war has been enthusiastically approved by the Transport and Environment Committee of the City of Edinburgh. Peace & Justice Centre Coordinator Brian Larkin outlined why there should be a Memorial to COs in Princes St Gardens. Artist Kate Ive described the design and the concept behind it. St Andrews

University Lecturer Dr. Chris Ogden, a local supporter, emphasized that the

Memorial would represent values of tolerance, diversity and the important role of conscience.

Councillors unanimously supported the proposals. Green Cllr Chas Booth said: “I think it’s fantastic. It’s clearly beautiful and it encourages thought, it encourages respect for those who showed the bravery to stand up in the past to war.” Conservative Cllr Nick Cook praised “the consideration and the thought that has gone into this”. Transport and Environment Convener, Cllr Lesley Macinnes who formerly worked for a landmine and cluster munition NGO said: “I was tasked with dealing with those weapons and the impact of those weapons both during conflict and post-conflict. I’ve witnessed and understood very clearly the impact of war on human lives. I think it’s very important that the voices that represent opposition to that can be heard in Scotland’s capital city.”

A full transcript of our deputation is available at www.opposingwar.scot. Our testimony can be viewed starting at 40 minutes into the webcast of the Committee meeting at <https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/>.

A further meeting with officials has confirmed our choice of location for the Memorial between the Ross Bandstand and the Ross Fountain in West Princes St Gardens, subject only to archeological investigation of the ground.

Motion in Scottish Parliament:

MSPs from all parties Support the Memorial

A motion by Alison Johnstone MSP supporting our proposal for an Opposing War Memorial was debated by Scottish Parliament in early December. There was support from all parties and from Scottish government. Several MSPs made very moving contributions recalling past COs who were ostracized, treated harshly and even died in prison, noting Conscientious Objection as a human right, and calling



attention to contemporary COs around the world. Many MSPs congratulated the Peace & Justice Centre for our work on this. The debate was Live Streamed on BBC Scotland’s Holyrood Live. Watch the full debate on www.scottishparliament.tv/

***This Evil Thing* Fundraiser performance raised £1,000 for the Memorial.**



Audience waving Hankies at *This Evil Thing*.
Photo: Brian Larkin

We are very grateful to Michael Mears for the donation of a performance of his one-man play about First World War Conscientious Objectors. In one scene the audience was involved in re-enacting a meeting of the No Conscription Fellowship where the audience waved handkerchiefs instead of

applauding speakers in order not to aggravate a hostile mob outside. That episode inspired Kate Ive to design a bronze handkerchief peace tree for the Memorial a fantastic moment of synergy between these two projects.

£18,000 Raised in October / November Crowdfunder. Donations still

welcome. Thanks to all who have donated & helped raise £18,000 for Opposing War Memorial doubling donations received so far to £36,000. Now we can get technical drawings, engineer certification & planning permission and deliver workshops so people can be involved in the project.

We're over halfway to goal of £59,000 in private donations. The support shown by City Council, Scottish Parliament and so



many donors will help us

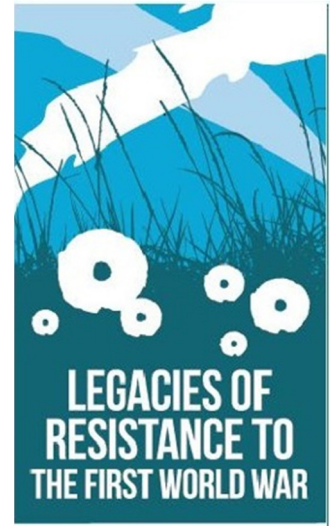
raise the balance of the full budget of £168,000 from grants.

We're continuing to raise funds for casting the bronze Peace Tree sculpture. Anyone who wants to support the Memorial can still donate at: [www/opposingwar.scot/donate/](http://www.opposingwar.scot/donate/)



Legacies of Resistance

As a project partner P&J staff delivered workshops to the WEA Scotland HLF funded Legacies of Resistance to the First World War project. We are preparing materials for a final exhibition and an associated website. **Exhibition Launch event. Friday 25 January. 1:30 – 3:30pm. St Mungo Museum, 2 Castle St, Glasgow G4 0RH. The exhibition will come to Edinburgh at a later date in connection with the CO Memorial launch.**



Peacebuilding for Schools Programme

We completed an Evaluation of the programme which concluded we are meeting targeted outcomes in line with the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence and identified areas of improvement. The Evaluation is available on our website. On the back of this we have received grants from Pumphouse Trust, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and Fellowship of Reconciliation in support of our Peacebuilders Schools Programme enabling us to continue working in schools and further develop the programme. WE engaged **Emma Quayle as Project Development Worker** and Louise Smith as **Project Coordinator**.



Twelve people attended Facilitator Trainings in October. Our Facilitators and new trainees have worked in two schools this term - Hermitage Park and Bonaly Primary. We have been invited back to Hermitage Park and

hope to continue this pattern of working intensively in certain schools where Head Teachers are fully supportive of the approach we are bringing in order to develop a culture of peace. Emma has attended workshops and visited a number of peer programmes. She facilitated creation of Purpose and Values statements, revised our Facilitators Manual. She and Louise are working with Facilitators to shore up programme systems and reporting that will substantially improve our ability to target and evaluate achievement of outcomes. In the coming year we plan to develop and incorporate a Restorative Practice component and introduce a Whole School approach to conflict resolution.

White Poppies Our volunteers distributed about 700 white poppies to six City Centre venues including Central Library.



Origami Cranes Workshops & Storage Needed. Can you help?

We now have 100,000 origami cranes. Can you offer a place to store a big box of cranes until August 2020 when we plan to mount an exhibition?

Come along to a workshop at the Centre , second Saturday of each month. If you can't make that can you make cranes at home or organize a workshop?

Email origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk for more info or to offer a home for these birds!

Don't Bank on the Bomb

The P&J continues to take part in the network, campaigning for divestment from nukes. The network met with Gil Paterson MSP a Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme Trustee to discuss ways we can work to promote divestment. An article by Linda Pearson, author of the Stop Funding the End of the World report appeared in Common Space. The report is available from our website.

Intern Hsiao Wei from Taiwan joined us in November - December. Barbara Stankova, a graduate of St Andrews University is joining us in January.

Volunteer Opportunities, Student Work Placements and Internships:

Volunteers needed: Photographer – Videographer - Graphic Artists - Fundraising - Stalls - Posting Flyers.

Internships and work placement opportunities:

Conscientious Objectors: Memorial Researcher & Project Assistant

Event's Organisers; Bloggers, Writers, Formatters, for P&J News.

Social Media Person - Fundraising Researcher - Policy Researcher and Writer

Project Co-Coordinators: Origami Cranes & Countering Militarisation of Youth

Other Projects: *We open to ideas and can support projects in the area of sustainability, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, nonviolence, anti-militarism, human rights and refugee issues. If you have an idea get in touch.*

Premises: Low Cost Hot Desk & Full time Desk Rentals & Meeting Space

low cost. Contact admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk for more info or to book.

Upcoming events

Peace & Justice Burns Supper



Help raise funds to support all our work and enjoy a Traditional Burns Supper with **Lesley Orr giving the Immortal Memory, Gerda Stevenson, Toast to the Lassies, A.L. Kennedy, Reply from the Lassies, and To a Haggis, by the incomparable Stan Reeves.**

Full three-course Burns Supper with *local cheeses, Breadshare oatcakes, Macsweens meat and vegan haggis, local organic neeps and tatties, and cranachan. Local and organic wines, beers and single malts from the cash bar.*

Local folk roots band Dowally with their own songs and tunes. Old-style ceilidh

with guests encouraged to offer a turn and bring a song, poetry or story to share (well save dancing for our wilder ceilidh nights!).

Doors open. 6pm. Piping in of the haggis 6.30pm. Places limited to 100 so reserve your tickets in advance. <https://burnssupper.brownpapertickets.com/> or from the Peace & Justice Centre.

Legacies of Resistance Event & Exhibition

Presenting research by Workers Education Association Adult learners in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee on Conscientious Objectors of the First World War.

Friday 25 January. 1:30 – 3:30pm.

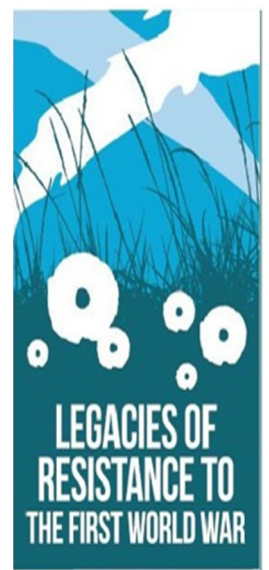
St Mungo Museum.

2 Castle St, Glasgow G4 0RH.

Booking Required. Email a.campbell@wea.org.uk with

“Legacies of Resistance to the First world War: The Stories of Conscientious Objectors - Event and Exhibition” in Subject line.

A WEAScotland project with support from the Peace & Justice Centre.



Green Economy or Green Grabbing?

By Hsiao-Wei Chen

In Mozambique, 19 percent of the country's territory (15 million hectares) was under negotiation with a British company for its potential carbon stock that can be traded in the prevailing carbon markets. In Madagascar, the Corridor Ankeniheny-Zahamena REDD project was investigated for restricting villagers from using the forest where they grew food and gained natural resources. In Liberia in 2008, a UK-based Carbon Harvesting Corporation was interested in buying 400,000 hectares of rainforest.

As global warming is increasing since Anthropocene, extreme weather and natural disasters can be seen in the very corner of the world. In some parts of the world, unusual weather is witnessed every few years. Areas where it is not supposed to rain in some time of the year are flooding and areas where it is not usually sunny are having droughts. The planetary-scale changes in the Earth system are believed to be the main reasons of climate change, and since human society is included in the Earth system, large scale changes in society can also lead to intense global change. The impact of climate change is becoming obvious for human beings and especially serious for other creatures. Animals are losing their habitats directly because of human activities, such as industrial pollution, logging, deforestation, or indirectly because of global warming and extreme weather, which are also results of human activities. It is not surprising that there is a great decrease in biodiversity. Furthermore, natural resources are also becoming scarce due to large-scale extracting and climate changing. Sustainable development therefore has become a critical goal for human society.

Green economy has been largely promoted since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. There are three aspects of Sustainable Development: Economic, Environment, and Social. To promote sustainable development, green economy is proposed as a means to achieve a resilient economy that is environmentally friendly - "low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive". The United Nations Environment Programme Green Economy Report in 2011 has emphasised the importance of fairness while applying green economy. "To

be green, an economy must not only be efficient, but also fair. Fairness implies recognising global and country level equity dimensions, particularly in assuring a just transition to an economy that is low-carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive.” Nevertheless, there is the dark side of green economy. Some scientists argue that green economy is creating green grabs and at the same time postponing real solutions for climate change. Green Grabbing was a term created by John Vidal, a Guardian journalist, and later used by James Fairhead, Melissa Leach and Ian Scoones in their article “Green Grabbing: a new appropriation of nature”. They suggested that ecosystems are put up for sale and that selling nature is no way to save it. Green grabbing can be just another form of land grabbing but legitimated by the claim of protecting the environment. Isn’t this another way of colonialism—and this time—eco-colonialism?



Conservation is getting easier, and even easier if you have money. Hundreds of trusts, charities, and individuals are buying beautiful mountains, forests, fields and lands to save it from destruction and encourage others to buy the environment too. It could be a whole acre of elephant corridor, 50 acres of the Amazon rainforest or 1000 acres of a woodland that is rich in carbon storage. These areas are bought to be protected

areas, for instance, national parks or natural reserves. Sometimes they can be also explored for food or fuel that are “green”. In the developed world, these conservationists are fairly welcomed by the governments because they help them maintain or increase the market price of the land. But it is much more complicated than market price in most developing countries, especially in rural areas, where they are displacing indigenous people, who are marginalised from the nearby community, and even threatening the countries’ sovereignties. Such consequences are definitely not written on the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Click! I have just bought 10 sq cm of rainforest for a few pennies on the net. Click click! That’s 0.2 sq ft of Patagonia coastline saved from mining. Click click click! A friend has just given me as a present 1 sq m of the Palmyra atoll, wherever that is.” — John Vidal

The Fear of Immigration and its Common Misconceptions

By Anelise Vaz

In late November, as the migrant caravan coming from Central America approached northern Mexico, the Trump administration announced they were prepared to send 15,000 troops to the US border, a number that would be roughly equivalent to the size of the US military's presence in Afghanistan. The situation was portrayed as a national threat, an attempted invasion of violent criminals among which were - nonexistent - dangerous "unknown Middle Easterners". The success of such fear mongering is just another sign of the fear of immigration that has been poisoning Western politics.

Unquestionably, every country is entitled to control the movement of people through its borders, but there is now a tendency to view immigration as something completely undesirable that should be avoided at all costs. There is an emerging national panic about the issue, and the victory of Trump, Brexit, and nationalists taking power in Italy, Hungary, Poland and Austria all confirm that. Advocates of liberal immigration are losing the debate, and that is partly because they need better arguments and policies and partly because of the massive public misperception about the issue. The logic behind the anti-immigration public discourse relies on the following assumptions: the government has lost control of the borders; immigrants will drain welfare systems; immigrants will undercut local workers; and the fear of being absorbed by alien cultures and manners.

Let us start the belief that there is a lack of control of the borders. Anyone who has ever tried to get a visa to the US or to the UK knows that the borders are very well controlled, and that there is a huge bureaucracy that makes it nearly impossible for anyone without exceptional skills or family ties to migrate legally to either country. As for the illegal option, it is even tougher, and the ones who risk such a venture suffer all the trade-offs involved, such as no access to many public services and the constant fear of being deported. This erroneous feeling that the borders are "out of control" can be largely attributed to the media. A Canadian study ^[1] has demonstrated that negative portrayals of immigrants in the press can dehumanize them and create a sense of a false social crisis. A similar report by the University of Oxford ^[2] has found that the portrayal of immigration in the news is largely negative, and "exacerbates" a level of uncertainty in public opinion around the issue in order to sell more papers.

Politicians have also been widely and strategically using this uncertainty and fear in their favor. In fact, net migration in the UK is much lower than voters think. A survey conducted in 2016 by Ipsos ^[3] showed that the public believed that 15% of the population were non-UK EU nationals but the official number at that time was close to 5%. People also assumed that most international students remained in the country after graduating, but border checks have shown that 97% of them leave when their studies are completed. Many other opinion polls have consistently confirmed that the general public overestimate the percentage of foreigners living in the UK and have false assumptions about their impact in the economy.



The concept that immigrants cost taxpayer billions of pounds per year is pure speculations and has not been supported by official data. It is a highly debatable issue because establishing the fiscal impact of immigration is a challenge. The overall impact depends on the characteristics of individual immigrants and what they do. Young and skilled people are more likely to be working in

highly-paid jobs and make a more positive net fiscal contribution to the economy and that can lead to assuming that some immigrants are “more desirable” than others. However, reports from OECD have estimated that households headed by immigrants in the UK pay more in taxes than they take in benefits ^[4], which means that immigrants are helping to reduce the budget deficit rather than worsening it. It is also a fact that most Western countries have ageing populations and need more migrants (and their children) to be able to sustain their economies.

As for immigrant “stealing” jobs, studies ^[5] have demonstrated that areas of the UK with large increase in EU immigration did not suffer falls in jobs and pay of UK-born workers. And although this is also very hard to establish, for the same reasons mentioned in the previous assumption, the same is probably true for all immigrants. Actually, many immigrants create new jobs and opportunities when they open businesses and increase general productivity and innovation in their areas. Besides, “jobs” is not a fixed resource that people can come and “take”. Actually, the more people there are in any economy, the more jobs will

be created, because people need services and housing and businesses. Economy, markets and employment rates change because of a number of factors and blaming “immigrants” for unemployability is just as unreasonable as not acknowledging their positive contribution the economy.

In the matter of cultural objections, it is more difficult to address concerns because they are usually very personal and subjective. New-comers bring new colours and flavours to their host culture, and some will inevitably dislike it and fear that their own culture might be swallowed by that of foreigners. However, the Oxford Report has also shown that people who live in places with large immigrant populations are far less likely to react negatively to immigration and to cultural differences. It is then safe to conclude that the more contact people have with “the different” the less afraid and resistant they become, and they learn to appreciate the cultural nuances that foreigners can bring into their culture while also noticing how their own culture is incorporated as immigrants adjust and integrate to the country.

The unreal fears of “an invasion of immigrants who are coming to take all the jobs and benefits and vanish our culture away” must be tackled not only with the facts above but also with empathy. Even in war-torn and impoverished places, it is very difficult to emigrate. People leave their homes, properties, friends and families reluctantly, abandoning their sense of belonging and the comfort of everything that is familiar to them. It is extremely difficult to relearn all the new codes of a culture, sometimes a new language, having to figure out how everything works in a new place. Some people also have to overcome extreme economic or physical duress and prejudice. Few immigrants feel completely “at home”, and this should be facilitated, if not for the many reasons in which they are valuable members of our society, for the sake of our shared humanity.



^[1]Esses, V. *Uncertainty, Threat, and the Role of the Media in Promoting the Dehumanization of Immigrants and Refugees*. Journal of Social Issues, vol. 69, Issue 3, 2013. ^[2]The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford. *UK Public Opinion Toward Immigration: Overall Attitudes and level of Concern*. 7 June 2018. ^[3]Ipsos Mori. *The Perils of Perception and the EU*. 9 June 2016. ^[4]OECD. *The fiscal impact of immigration in OECD countries*. International Migration Outlook. ^[5]Wadsworth, J. et al. *Brexit and the impact of immigration in the UK*. Centre for economic performance. London School of Economics and Political Science, 2016.

Book Review: “How We Win: A guide to nonviolent direct action campaigning

by George Lakey. Melville House, Dec 2018.

Reviewed by Anelise Vaz

George Lakey has been an active campaigner and activist for years, and the main argument in his new book, to be released in the UK this month, is that our political moment of extreme polarization requires new conducts of campaigning in order to achieve real progressive change. The author lays out movement-building strategies that may be applicable to a variety of causes.

He claims that protests, although emotionally satisfying, rarely produce change. Marches and rallies are good for mobilising numbers of people, but they are also likely to raise questions in participants and observers minds about the effectiveness of what is being done: ‘How is this march going to change anything?’ Also, in an increasingly polarised world, there are higher chances of conflict with other activists of opposing causes, that can even escalate to a physical confrontation. It is important to acknowledge this new polarised and radical political setting and shift from one-off protests to campaigning. He cites the US civil rights movement, which was surrounded by violent extremists and powerful opposition but succeeded by strategically focusing on campaigns rather than episodic protests. He describes the difference between a protest and a campaign: a “one-off protest is for venting, not for exerting power.” Campaigns, on the other hand, “are built for sustainability and escalation.” But they should develop and follow a clear goal rather than an overall general concern “like climate or war or poverty” or ending racism. It is much more effective to identify a specific demand for change, a target and an escalating series of actions that build the campaign - “a series of actions over time that will build power.”

The civil rights movement, in which the author actively participated, used this method: each campaign had a clear target, like a restaurant, a department store or a political entity. Sustained direct actions bring more allies into the struggle. “As the civil rights movement matured, it was able to force the federal government to become, against its will, a movement ally through campaigns designed with that effect in mind. Birmingham in 1963 and Selma in 1965 are examples.” The Birmingham campaign started as a commercial boycott, aiming to pressure business leaders to open employment to people of all races and end

segregation in public facilities, restaurants, schools, and stores. It then progressed to peaceful walks of students to the City Hall. The police responded with mass arrests and the use of water hose and attack dogs on the students, mainly children and teenagers. The movement caught attention of both national and international media, forced the city administration to end segregation laws and paved the way to the Civil Rights Act bill, which passed into law in the following year. In 1965, the march from Selma to Montgomery, to register black voters in the South, started with violent resistance as Alabama state troopers met the group with whips, tear gas, and beat them back to Selma. The brutal scene was captured on television and enraged many Americans. Hundreds of activists headed to Selma to join the voting rights march, which then had the protection of federalized National Guard troops. British anti-slavery activists also used the power of direct action campaigning to force their country to abolish the slave trade in 1807 after strategies that included a boycott. He cites many other historical and contemporary examples: "British direct-action campaigners forced the cancellation of the 1970 South African cricket tour by disrupting the previous year's tour by the Springboks." "In 2014, the University of Glasgow became the first university in Europe to divest from fossil fuels after a year's direct-action campaigning by students."

Non-violent action campaigns are not guaranteed to succeed but have higher chances than protests. Additional activities related to the campaign are also needed to make a fundamental change, such as promoting economic and social alternatives and stimulating cultural and personal transformation. It is also essential, to gather support, that a group's actions and goals are expressed in ways that make sense to people outside of the group because awakening public support is one of the most important strategies of successful campaigns. "When a campaign inspires other campaigns on the same issue, the sum of them becomes a *movement*." Campaigns are important not only because of their possible achievements, but also because they encourage the growth of movements, and movements can go "well beyond what any campaign or single movement can do."

This book is an inspiring and useful guide to community organizers, activists and those interested in social movements and on how ideas can turn into actions able to promote real change in the world.



News from Around the Movements

Manchester, the first European city to formally support the TPNW



Manchester City Council has passed a resolution to support the International Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on the 28th of November 2018 and became the first European city to formally support the Treaty. 122 countries agreed on TPNW at the UN in 2017, including the Republic of Ireland, and the Treaty is being ratified currently. The International Campaign to

Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the organisation that promotes and campaigns for the TPNW, has received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work. ICAN encourages cities to speak up against nuclear weapons and calling on the national governments to join TPNW. Los Angeles, Baltimore, Sydney, Melbourne, Fremantle and Toronto have also made resolutions to support TPNW earlier this year. Multilateral nuclear disarmament is a concerted attempt of the Treaty, but it is opposed by nuclear weapon states, including the UK.

Source: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/>

North and South Korean soldiers shook hands after crossing over the world's most heavily armed border

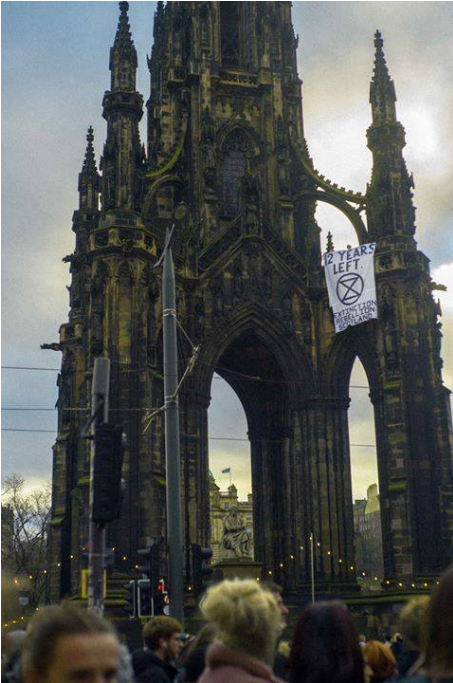
On Wednesday, 12th of December, dozens of North and South Korean soldiers exchanged cigarettes and chatted after crossing the border. The troops were inspecting the sites of their rival's frontline guard posts to verify they had been removed, as part of inter-Korean engagement efforts that come amid stalled US-North Korea nuclear disarmament talks. increasingly powerful weapons and threatened Seoul and Washington with war.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/>



Extinction Rebellion Drop Banner from the Scott Monument warning the seasonal shoppers there are only Twelve Years Left

Echoing the recent UN IPCC report published in November that warned the world that we have just twelve years to reverse climate change activists in 35 countries are coming uniting and taking direct action under the banner of Extinction Rebellion.



Extinction Rebellion is calling on governments to tell the truth about climate change and the wider ecological emergency, reverse inconsistent policies and work alongside the media to communicate with citizens, enact legally binding policy measures to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and to reduce consumption levels and convene a national Citizen's Assembly to oversee the changes, as part of creating a democracy fit for purpose.

4,000 activists block German coal trains for 24 hours



On 27 October, 6,500 people took part in the action at Tagebau Hambach, a large open cast coal mine near Cologne, Germany, where highly-polluting brown coal (lignite) is extracted by German energy company RWE. The coalmine occupies some 80 percent of the ancient Hambach Forest and RWE are intending to clear half the remaining forest for their operations.

For more than 24 hours, 4,000 activists blockaded the tracks that take coal from the mine to nearby RWE power plants. Some activists chained themselves to the tracks and thus prolonged the occupation until 4.30pm on Sunday. Climate activist group Ende Gelände described its occupation in late October as the 'largest action of civil disobedience for climate justice that Germany has ever seen'. Source: <https://www.ende-gelaende.org/en/>

Remembrance and peace: UK peace groups mark 100th anniversary of First World War armistice

Over 200 people assembled to remember all victims of war, laying wreaths of white flowers, and committing themselves to the objective: 'No More War: let's make peace happen.' Representing the First World War Peace Forum coalition, which organised the day, Marigold Bentley reminded the gathering that in every conflict 'there are always people working for peace – whatever the media tells you – remember that humanity may be capable of the most terrible things but there are always people who are protesting, challenging and engaging in policy to make the world a better place. And those people are probably you.'

Source: <https://peacenews.info/>

Carols Not Barrels Protest at National Portrait Gallery

Climate activists occupied the lobby of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery urging people to tell the gallery that we don't want oil in our art. You can contact the gallery at: <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/content/contact-us>

White Poppy sales break records

Sales of white poppies are higher this year than they've ever been – since the Co-operative Women's Guild created the symbol in 1933 to remember all those killed in war. The Peace Pledge Union – the pacifist organisation that supplies and distributes white poppies in Britain – has sold 119,555 white poppies this year, as of the end of Wednesday 7 November. The previous record was 110,000 white poppies in 2015. Until 2014, the record was around 80,000 in 1938. Last year, the figure was 101,000.

Source: <https://ppu.org.uk/>



World summit brings surge of new commitments to protect human rights defenders

In Paris, Human rights defenders from across all corners of the world gathered for the Human Rights Defenders World Summit, to develop a plan of action for how to protect and promote the work of activists fighting for rights, 20 years on from the first UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Speakers included UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International's Secretary General. Source: <http://cpnn-world.org/>

In Berlin, hundreds of thousands march against racism

Last October, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched through Berlin in protest against the far right, racism, and xenophobia. Organisers said 242,000 people across Germany took part in the rally, making it one of the biggest in recent years. Source: <http://cpnn-world.org/>



Interfaith Leaders Arrested at the US-Mexico Border for bearing prophetic witness against the mistreatment of refugees and asylum seekers

On the 70th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10th of December, interfaith leaders went to the US-Mexico border by the hundreds. They flew in from around the country and intentionally trespassed the highly fortified southern border, bearing what they called "prophetic witness" to the mistreatment of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

They sat, they sang, they prayed. They carried banners saying "El Amor No Conoce Fronteras," or "Love Knows No Borders." And they patiently waited to be arrested. Their support crew, about 500 volunteers from churches, mosques, and synagogues around the country, stood on the other side of the federal no-trespass signs. Each time a military moved to make arrests, frog-marching the



non-resisting arrestees, including a blind woman, up the hill to waiting vehicles, the crowd cheered for the person taking the arrest, while also civil-rights spirituals. Roughly 30 people were arrested. They have all been later been released.

Source: www.thenation.com/

Reflection

“Yet another explanation for the deadening of our survival is that the changes in living that would be required are so drastic that people prefer the future catastrophe to the sacrifice they would have to make it now.”

“If I am what I have and if what I have is lost, who then am I? Nobody but a defeated, deflated, pathetic testimony to a wrong way of living.”

“Our conscious motivations, ideas, and beliefs are a blend of false information, biases, irrational passions, rationalizations, prejudices, in which morsels of truth swim around and give the reassurance albeit false, that the whole mixture is real and true. The thinking processes attempt to organize this whole cesspool of illusions according to the laws of plausibility. This level of consciousness is supposed to reflect reality; it is the map we use for organizing our life.”

“Those who unconsciously despair yet put on the mask of optimism are not necessarily wise. But those who have not given up hope can succeed only if they are hard headed realists, shed all illusions, and fully appreciate the difficulties.”

— Erich Fromm, “To Have or to Be?” (1976)





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