

The white poppy



What are the origins of the white poppy?

The white poppy was introduced by the Women's Co-operative Guild in 1933 and is now made and distributed by the Peace Pledge Union. It was created as a challenge to the continual drive to war and as a lasting symbol of peace.

What does the white poppy stand for?

The white poppy seeks to represent the effects of war that last long beyond the end of armed conflict for both the military and civilian populations. The white poppy also represents those on all sides who have died, been injured or still suffer in conflicts across the world. The white poppy represents the hope of peace. That passion for peace often arises from witnessing and actively remembering the acute pain of this wholly man-made devastation. Many wearers of the white poppy believe that remembrance, opposition to war and work for peace can go hand in hand. For them, the white poppy is both a symbol of remembrance and a commitment to the belief that armed conflict should not be seen as a means of resolving disputes.

How can I wear my poppy?

An increasing number of people are wearing white poppies. Most wear a white poppy on its own, as a symbol of both remembrance and peace, although some wear it alongside a red poppy. Many white poppy wearers find it a great way to promote thought and discussion about the complex issues and emotions surrounding war, peace, remembrance, and hope.

Where does the money go?

White poppies are more about the message of peace and remembrance than about raising funds. Money raised above the cost of producing, publicising and distributing white poppies goes to fund the Peace Pledge Union's education and campaigning work, thus promoting nonviolent approaches to conflict and challenging militarism.

Published in September 2017 by Quakers in Britain on behalf of General Meeting for Scotland. For more copies or information email Mairi Campbell-Jack, Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer, at mairic@quaker.org.uk or call 07419 991 246. Produced with the Peace and Justice Centre (www.peaceandjustice.org.uk) and the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (www.wilpf.org.uk).

www.quaker.org.uk

Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is a registered charity, no. 1127633.