

**For November 11
Wear a white poppy!**



**In memory of
all victims of war**

Against war and militarism



**LE COLLECTIF
ÉCHEC à la GUERRE**

www.echecalaguerre.org

The first white poppy campaign was launched in England in November 1933 by the Cooperative Women's Guild (CWG), an organization of mothers, sisters, widows and sweethearts of men killed during the First World War. It worked to raise awareness of the socio-economic and political factors that promote war, and led a campaign against the arms trade. Through its white poppy campaign, the CWG wanted not only to commemorate all victims of war, but also to proclaim its rejection of war and dissociate itself from commemorations that vindicate the use of military force.

In 1934, the initiative of the CWG was supported by a newly formed British peace organisation, the Peace Pledge Union, which has produced and sold white poppies ever since.

Today, the Red Poppy campaign and official commemoration ceremonies forget that the worst scourge of modern warfare is that many more civilians are killed than combatants. More than 200 million people lost their lives in 20th century wars, most of them women and children, to say nothing of the physical and mental trauma endured by survivors, the plight of thousands of displaced persons and refugees, and all the related destruction.

Lately in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Libya, and now in Iraq, Syria and Ukraine, Canada increasingly participates in military interventions that contravene international law. The millions of refugees currently fleeing war in Afghanistan, Libya and Syria have shed light on the horrendous, often concealed, consequences of these wars.

In solidarity with all victims of war, particularly the millions of current refugees, and as a sign of opposition to the rise of militarism in Canada, the *Collectif Échec à la guerre* calls on you to wear a white poppy for Remembrance Day.