

On November 11

In memory of all the victims of war and to show our opposition to current wars and our desire to put an end to war



**Wear
a white poppy**

For information:
www.echecalaguerre.org

The first white poppy campaign was launched in England in November 1933 by the *Cooperative Women's Guild* (CWG). This organization – consisting of mothers, sisters, widows and sweethearts of men killed during the First World War – did educational work on the socio-economic and political conditions that promote wars 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 vindicated the use of military force.

In 1934, the initiative of the CWG was supported by a newly formed peace movement in Great Britain, the *Peace Pledge Union*, which took up the production and sale of white poppies from then on.

Nowadays, the Red Poppy campaign and official commemoration ceremonies seem to forget that the most terrible consequence of contemporary warfare is that it kills many more civilians than soldiers. We know that the wars of the 20th century killed more than 200 million people, most of them women and children, not to mention the physical and mental trauma sustained by survivors, the refugees, and all the destruction.

At a time when Canada more and more often engages on the path of war (Kosovo, Afghanistan, Libya, and soon Syria?), and when military and “security” spending are spiraling out of control, commemorating past deaths should not be used as a guise to quietly justify the deaths of recent years and those which will occur inevitably if the militaristic trend continues.

