

# Have you heard about the White Poppy campaign?

The first White Poppy campaign was launched in England in November 1933 by the Cooperative Women’s Guild (CWG). Through this 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.

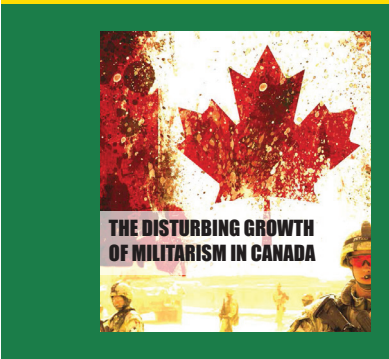
Nowadays, the Red Poppy campaign and official commemoration ceremonies seem to forget that the worst scourge of modern warfare is that many more civilians are killed than combatants. More than 200 million people were killed in 20th century wars, most of them women and children, to say nothing of the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



*From the International Day of Peace, September 21, to Remembrance Day, November 11, wear a white poppy in memory of all victims of war.*

Canada is increasingly a party to military interventions that violate international law. In solidarity with all victims of war, the majority of whom are civilians, and as a sign of opposition to Canada’s militaristic policies, the *Collectif Échec à la guerre* calls on you to wear a white poppy for Remembrance Day.

Every year since 2011, *Échec à la guerre* has launched the White Poppy campaign on the International Day of Peace, September 21. The campaign ends with a silent vigil in memory of all victims of war on Remembrance Day, November 11. You can order white poppies online or from distributors throughout Quebec (see [echecalaguerre.org](http://echecalaguerre.org)). Each year, *Échec à la guerre* also publishes a related statement paid for by its signatories in a major daily newspaper.



**L’État islamique et la guerre en Irak et en Syrie**  
• 2016 (French)

What can explain the rise of ISIS and its rapid success in Iraq and Syria in the Summer of 2014? The glaring contradictions of the “war on terror”.

**The Disturbing Rise of Militarism**  
• 2014 (French or English)

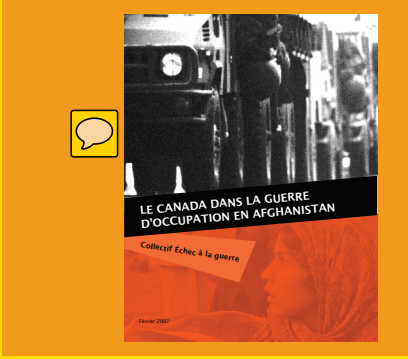
With this 44-page booklet, the *Collectif Échec à la guerre* draws attention to the new aggressive role of the Canadian forces overseas, and points out ways in which Canadian society has been increasingly militarized.

**Responsabilité de protéger**  
• 2012 (French)

On March 19, 2011, Canada gave its forces a combat role in Libya as part of the mission conducted by NATO supposedly to “protect Libyan civilians and residential districts from the forces of the Gaddafi regime”. But was this intervention really designed to protect civilians?

**ONU**  
• 2010 (French)

In 2003, the United States invaded Iraq. One year later, the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, confirmed that this invasion had been illegal. But the U.S. pursued its control over Iraq, with the collusion of the Security Council, in violation of international law.



**Politique étrangère**  
• 2009 (French)

In 2008, the Harper government adopted a new defence policy, *Canada First*, which set in motion an unprecedented militarisation of Canadian society.

**L’OTAN**  
• 2009 (French)

Does the fact that a war is conducted by NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) give it legitimacy? This pamphlet shows how NATO, far from being an engine of peace, is an instrument of war.

**Défendre les droits des femmes?**  
• 2009 (French)

The liberation of Afghan women was presented as a major argument for the war against Afghanistan, launched after the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. This pamphlet argues that this was merely a convenient pretext.


**Canada’s Role in the Occupation of Afghanistan**  
• 2007 (French or English)

Eighteen questions and answers about the war in Afghanistan, its status under international law, the disastrous situation five years later, and why it was important to call for the immediate withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan.



# About the *Collectif Échec à la guerre*?

*Échec à la guerre* was formed in the Fall of 2002 as a broadly based coalition of organisations (student, labour, women’s, community, international solidarity and faith-based groups) concerned about the then imminent threat of war against Iraq. Today, *Échec à la guerre* comprises groups and individuals engaged in opposing war and militarism.

*We must renounce the humanitarian pretexts invoked to wage war!* 

## Highlights of *Échec à la guerre* activities

-  **rally** in Montreal to protest the CANSEC arms-trade fair in Ottawa (2016)
- **conferences** on global issues, e.g. in 2016, Syria, Iraq and ISIS
- **call-outs and statements** published in daily newspapers, in particular for Remembrance Day (2011- today)
- **weekend seminar**: the People’s Summit Against War and Militarism (2010)
- **mobilisation** and call to have George W. Bush declared *persona non grata* in Montreal (2009)
- **public hearings** on the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan (2008)
- **publications** to raise awareness of and deconstruct military propaganda (2004-today)
- **over twenty demonstrations** to denounce Canadian participation in spurious wars (2003 - today)
- the **annual White Poppy campaign** against militarism and in memory of all victims of war, mainly civilians (2011- today)



Street theatre by the group UTIL during a demonstration, March 2004.



Demonstration in front of the Longue Pointe Military Base in Montreal, October 2008.




Remembrance Day vigil in memory of all victims of war, Novembre 2014.



Malalai Joya, Afghan MP, in Montreal on a Canada-wide conference tour, Nov. 2009.

## To get involved...

Join the *Collectif Échec à la guerre*.  welcome groups and individuals.

Sign up for our email messages, follow us on Facebook, forward the posted articles and info, join the working group or offer to help with specific tasks (translation, organizing, technical support).

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LE COLLECTIF  
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