Connecting, Sharing, Learning: Women, War and Peace

First World War munitions worker Lily Florence Curle. © The Devil’s Porridge Museum

Workers at a factory in Newcastle, Second World War. © Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums 2015.487

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- Age Exchange
- AgeUK Manchester
- Barchester Healthcare
- Believe in Me CIC
- Bodmin Keep, Cornwall’s Army Museum
- Claire Mead
- Cold War Conversations
- Devil’s Porridge Museum
- Greenham Control Tower
- Hastings Digital Museum
- Surrey Heritage
- Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums
- U3A Portsmouth
- University of Derby
- University of Manchester
- Women's Community Activism Project, University of Portsmouth (archived at Portsmouth City Library)
- Working Class Movement Library
In 2021 we mark the 40th anniversary of the creation of the women’s Peace Camp at Greenham Common. IWM worked with our project partners to share stories of Women, War and Peace from the First World War to today. Each story shows determination and courage to have their voice heard.

We encourage you to look at this activity booklet with a carer, friend or family member, and also explore:

- Story Cards of women’s experiences
- Podcast of Women’s Voices from Greenham Common Peace Camp, which has a duration of just under 10 minutes. There is also a transcript available.
- Timeline, which helps to understand some of the key names, places and events featured.
Activity 1: Story Cards

Have a look at the Story Cards.

• Which of the stories did you find the most interesting? Why?

• Make your own Story Card:
Think about a woman who has been important in your life. This could be a family member, a friend or someone famous. Use the next page to explain why they have made an impact on you.
Photo or drawing of the woman I have chosen

My inspirational woman is:

She is important to me because:
Activity 2: Greenham Common podcast

Listen to the podcast featuring the voices of women who protested at Greenham Common Peace Camp (10 minutes long). Look at the transcript to follow the words while listening.

• Do you remember hearing about the camp at Greenham Common?

• Can you think of something that you have done that makes a difference? It could be signing a petition, donating to a charity, or joining a protest.
Activity 3: Design a banner

Here are some examples of banners and badges that have been used by women to support their cause.

Women Against State Pension Inequality. © Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

Anti-Nuclear banner, Hulme and Moss Side (Manchester). © Working Class Movement Library

Greenham Common badge. © IWM EPH 3264
Use the space below to design a banner about something that means a lot to you. Think about using pictures, words and colours to show why it is important.
Activity 4: Make a rainbow

Rainbows are used as symbols of love, peace and hope, including:

• Celebrating the LGBTQ+ Community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer)
• The names of the gates at Greenham Common Peace Camp
• Showing support for the NHS during the coronavirus pandemic

The range of colours in the rainbow shows that whilst we may have different ideas, backgrounds or opinions, when we come together we can work to make life better.
Activity 4: Make a rainbow

Make a rainbow from objects you can find around you, like in this photo!
We hope that you have enjoyed exploring women's stories of war and peace. If you would like to find out more, here are some useful websites:

www.bodminkeep.org

www.bimcic.com/indian-women-and-war

www.coldwarconversations.com

www.devilsporridge.org.uk

www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk

www.iwm.org.uk

www.twmuseums.org.uk

www.womenscommunityactivism.projects.portsmouthuni.ac.uk

www.wcml.org.uk