

Peace Round-up – 9 December 2019

A selection of items from a range of sources. Inclusion here does not imply full endorsement, but is based on current concerns of NFPB and its members.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for these mailings, please contact nfpb@gn.apc.org

Extinction Rebellion protester, 91, 'wanted to be arrested' because he 'trembles' for future generations

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/extinction-rebellion-climate-protests-court-a4305881.html>

Threats from emerging weapons technologies

As NATO marks its 70th anniversary, Dr Stuart Parkinson, SGR, highlights the serious risks from the race for new weapons technologies. Examples include cyber weapons, hypersonic weapons and directed energy weapons.

<https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/threats-emerging-weapons-technologies>

Scottish church leaders urge truthfulness in political debate

Ten Scottish church leaders have joined together in calling for a respectful tone in the ongoing political debate - that recognises the human value in all people.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2019/scottish-church-leaders-urge-truthfulness-in-political-debate>

Home Office unlawfully imprisoned asylum seekers, supreme court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/nov/27/thousands-of-asylum-seekers-may-be-due-damages-after-court-home-office-ruling>

This election, let's bring peace home

As the UK General Election gets down and dirty, we all need to get serious about civil peace.

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/transformation/this-election-lets-bring-peace-home>

Pope Francis calls for a 'world without nuclear weapons' during Nagasaki visit

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/24/pope-francis-calls-for-a-world-without-nuclear-weapons-during-nagasaki-visit>

Churches' plan for new President falters because of equal marriage

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/churches-plan-for-new-president-falters-because-of-same-sex-marriage>

War and the imagining of alternatives: some questions for politicians

<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/29088>

Extinction Rebellion protest: Met accused of 521 abuses of power

Network for Police Monitoring collated reports by XR protesters who took part in 'autumn rebellion'

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/20/extinction-rebellion-protest-met-accused-of-521-abuses-of-power>

Quakers condemn irresponsible US announcement on Israeli settlements

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-condemn-irresponsible-us-announcement-on-israeli-settlements>

Britain's approach to security and war needs a radical rethink

Diana Francis and Richard Reeve respond to an article by Simon Jenkins

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/18/britains-approach-to-security-and-war-needs-a-radical-rethink>

Why we must all reduce our moral certainties

If we want to live in a democracy, we have to reach compromises that make everyone feel secure.

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/transformation/why-we-must-all-reduce-our-moral-certainties>

International Criminal Court may investigate UK 'war crimes cover-up'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50455077>

The US and Britain face no existential threat. So why do their wars go on?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/15/britain-and-us-wars-conflicts-middle-east>

Met criticised as cost of policing arms fair doubles to £2.4m

Campaigners accuse force of 'increasingly authoritarian' attitude towards protest

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/14/police-heavy-handed-on-peaceful-protest-say-arms-fair-campaigners>

FWCC Sustainability: An Online Conference with Friends World Wide

<https://quakersandclimatechange.com/2019/11/12/fwcc-sustainability-an-online-conference-with-friends-world-wide>

Veterans For Peace mark Remembrance Sunday 2019

<https://youtu.be/LQuUW9kt0kw>

Remembrance Sunday: Actors to 'wage peace' in 24-hour theatre marathon

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-50344654>

It is time to make the crucial moral decision and rid our country of the nuclear weapons obscenity

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/18023440.time-make-crucial-moral-decision-rid-country-nuclear-weapons-obscenity>

The Business of Building Walls

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Europe is once again known for its border walls. This time Europe is divided not so much by ideology as by perceived fear of refugees and migrants, some of the world's most vulnerable people.

<https://www.tni.org/en/businessbuildingwalls>

'Bring a sleeping bag!' Manchester prepares for 24-hour peace epic

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2019/nov/06/24-hours-of-peace-neil-bartlett-interview-remembrance-manchester>

Introducing #SmallActsOfHope - things we can all do

<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/29031>

Commitment - Collaborative Scotland has promoted the Commitment to Respectful Dialogue as the primary articulation of what it stands for

<https://collaborativescotland.org/commitment/>

As it approaches its 39th 'birthday', NFLA calls on all UK political parties to put the climate emergency and multilateral nuclear disarmament as focal issues to campaign on in the upcoming general election

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/39th-birthday-nfla-calls-uk-political-parties-climate-emergency-multilateral-nuclear-disarmament-focal-issues>

Mikhail Gorbachev tells the BBC: World in 'colossal danger'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-europe-50265870/mikhail-gorbachev-tells-the-bbc-world-in-colossal-danger>

The Global Revolts from the Margins

Paul Rogers: During the past nine months, there have been major episodes of civil unrest in several countries across the globe. Focusing mainly on the recent mass protests in Iraq, Lebanon and Chile, this briefing draws on the concept of "revolts from the margins" to explain these events.

<https://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/the-global-revolts-from-the-margins>

"We don't want your war": Student protesters demand divestment from the arms trade and military service providers

<https://glasgowguardian.co.uk/2019/10/29/we-dont-want-your-war-student-protesters-demand-divestment-from-the-arms-trade-and-military-service-providers>

Arms firms selling weaponry to Turkey awarded £15m of tax payers' money

<https://theferret.scot/scottish-enterprise-turkey-arms-firms>

Do today's global protests have anything in common?

In recent weeks, mass protests have broken out in countries from Lebanon to Spain to Chile and Bolivia. All are different - with distinct causes, methods and goals - but there are some common themes that connect them.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-50123743>

Rebooted Troops to Teachers fails to take off

Gavin Williamson's rebooted attempts to train more armed forces veterans as teachers has been labelled "pointless" after take-up tanked. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/rebooted-troops-to-teachers-fails-to-take-off>

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

In the past three months VFP have conducted silent protests against two of the largest military trade and hierarchy gatherings in Europe... Herewith, as reported by the arms companies and their media themselves, verbatim almost unredacted, is some of what VFP were against.

<http://vfpuk.org/articles/the-shape-of-things-to-come>

Extinction Rebellion targets arms industry: Disarm to Decarbonise

<https://www.pressenza.com/2019/10/extinction-rebellion-targets-arms-industry-disarm-to-decarbonise>

Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor 2019 is here

The 2019 report of the Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor was launched at a side event during the UN General Assembly in New York on 16 October.

<https://banmonitor.org/news/nuclear-weapons-ban-monitor-2019-is-here>

Does punishment work?

Home Secretary Priti Patel says she wants criminals to 'literally feel terror at the thought of committing offences'. Quakers have a different approach.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/does-punishment-work>

British Legion changes policy to include civilians in Remembrance

The Peace Pledge Union has welcomed a decision by the Royal British Legion to promote remembrance for civilians for the first time.

<https://ppu.org.uk/news/british-legion-changes-policy-include-civilians-remembrance>

Climate protests have roots that go deep into the rich history of British social change

Extinction Rebellion draws on a radical lineage that brings together a range of beliefs and ages

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/13/climate-protests-roots-deep-rich-history-british-social-change>