

**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

OCTOBER 2015



We are located:

Parkdale United  
Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Wed  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

**31st Annual**

## **Holiday Peace Fair**

**Sat. November 7, 2015**

**Parkdale United Church  
2919 – 8 Avenue NW  
9:30 AM – 4 PM**

**Supporting Social  
Justice, Fair Trade and  
the Environment**

**Unique items from 30  
vendors working for peace,  
social justice and the  
environment**

**Light lunch available  
for purchase**

**\$5.00 admission  
\$3.00 for seniors & students  
(Free for children  
12 and under)**

**Sponsored by**

**Project Ploughshares Calgary**

[www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca)

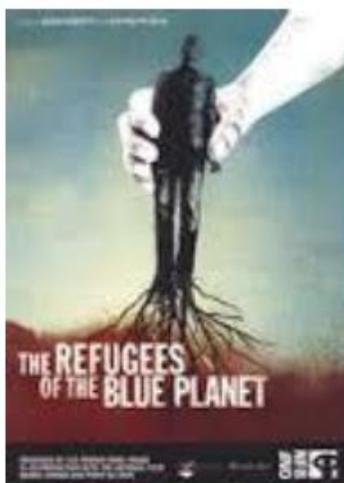
[office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)

**403-270-7366**

Project Ploughshares Calgary Peace Education Seminars Presents

## *Refugees of the Blue Planet*

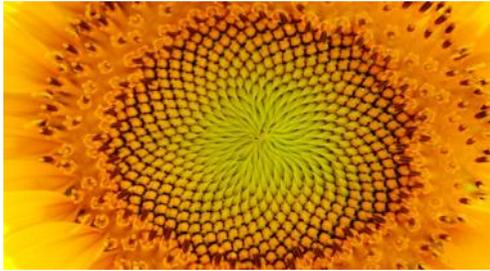
Wednesday October 14, 2015 – 7:00 PM  
Parkdale United Church Conference Room  
2919 – 8 Avenue NW



Natural disasters have been occurring more frequently, causing widespread destruction; yet industrialized countries still refuse to implement or persist in doubting the actions they must take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and fail to revise their policies for economic growth. In 2003, the United Nations indicated that for the first time in history, environmental refugees (25 million) outnumbered those fleeing from war or political persecution (23 million).

And their numbers keep on increasing.

This documentary takes us from the Maldives, to Brazil, and then closer to home – Alberta...looking at the plight of various environmental refugees and the problems they face.



## Peace with the Earth: A Sacred Ecology Workshop (based on the work of Joanna Macy)

September 18 & 19, 2015

This workshop, focusing on the **Work That Reconnects**, was attended by 6 - 10 people, and had many moments of inspiration and connectedness for those who were present. Facilitator Ronnie Joy Leah led discussions and activities focusing on our inter-relatedness to the earth and all creatures. How do we sustain peace with the earth during such turbulent times? One of the most moving segments of the workshop was The Council of All Beings, where participants were asked to speak as an element of nature—the rivers, birds, fish, stones, etc., sharing their feelings about what is happening with the humans. Learning new ways to relate to one another, to express concerns, and indeed to grieve what is happening to our earth, were all parts of this motivating workshop.

## International Day of Peace - Picnic in the Park Monday September 21st at the Calgary Community Peace Pole



People gathered on this gorgeous fall afternoon at the Peace Pole to share a meal, chat with friends old and new, and to listen to a fabulous brass quintet from William Aberhart High School! Thanks to Ploughshares Executive Member Kerry Duncan-McCartney, we had over 100 peace buttons to hand out to people walking by, many of whom engaged in conversations with those in attendance.

70th Anniversary of the United Nations

**UN70YYC**  
Saturday October 24

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM | General Admission \$25 | Students & UNAC-Calgary Members \$10



United Nations Association of Canada  
Calgary Branch



United Nations Association of Canada  
Calgary Branch

## 70th Anniversary of the UN Saturday October 24th, 6:00 PM MacEwan Hall Ballroom, 3rd Flr University of Calgary, 403 Collegiate Blvd NW

The United Nations Association in Canada, Calgary Branch will be joining the global celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which will aim to honour the historic breadth of the Organization's development, security and human rights work, and ultimately, unite the international community in common cause to enable a strong UN to realize a better world.

Our celebration will highlight the spirit of the United Nations, which is alive and well in our city, and will include multicultural performances along with our keynote speakers, former MP and Author **Douglas Roche, O.C.**, and award winning humanitarian and social activist **Amanda Lindhout**.

General Admission \$25.00. Student and UNAC Members \$10.00 (Must present valid Student ID at door)

**For more information visit [un70yyc.com](http://un70yyc.com).**



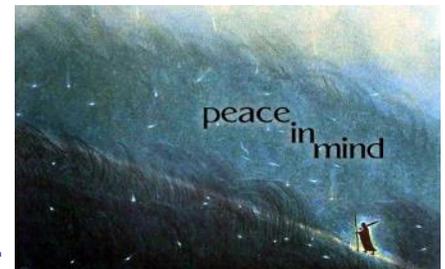
**DONATIONS** - Please remember **Project Ploughshares** when you are planning your charitable giving. We need your commitment to help us maintain our Peace Education Programs as well as the many community-oriented and educational events that we do every year. We are so appreciative of your donations that help us keep the doors open of your local Peace Education Organization!

During September, donations were received from individuals totalling \$350. We are deeply appreciative of their support. Thanks so much for considering Project Ploughshares Calgary!

## CALGARIANS WRITE PEACE A PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES INITIATIVE

### Deadline extended: October 14, 2015

We would love to hear from you and share your work in a meaningful and locally-developed booklet based on your own feelings about war and peace.



Attention all literary and artistic people! Pick up your pens and paintbrushes! Submit your work for inclusion in a booklet that we plan to have ready for fall 2015 - in time for you to give a copy to a loved one as a holiday, birthday or anniversary gift.

We're accepting essays, poetry, art, short stories, letters...

Please send your work to:

**Karen at Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary T2N 1C8,  
or email it to: [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)**

### Ploughshares Upcoming 2015 Events:



October 7th - Deadline for submissions to 'Calgarians Write Peace'

October 14th - **Film Night** (film TBA), Parkdale United Church Conference Room, 7:00 PM

October 20th - 30th - **3rd Annual Toy Audit**

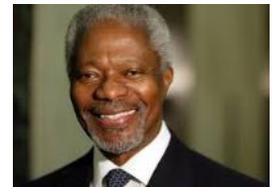
November 7th - **31st Annual Holiday Peace Fair**

November 11th - **Remembrance Day** at the Calgary Community Peace Pole, 1 - 2 PM

December 5th - **Ploughshares Holiday Open House**, Parkdale United Church Auditorium, 1 - 3 PM

There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace.

[Kofi Annan](#), in "[Foreword](#)" to [The State of the World's Children 2000](#) (2000)



### TOY AUDIT VOLUNTEERS

If you'd like to do a short, but incredibly fun and rewarding volunteer job for Project Ploughshares, this is the opportunity for you! Volunteers visit pre-selected Calgary toy stores prior to the busy holiday shopping season and assess the number of peaceful vs violent toys they carry. Call Karen at the office if you're interested!





## States move to stop bombing and bombardment in towns and cities (Excerpted)

A group of governments, UN agencies, and civil society organisations affiliated with the [International Network on Explosive Weapons \(INEW\)](#) met in Vienna on 21–22 September to discuss how to prevent harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. At the end of the meeting, many of the participating governments indicated support for developing a political commitment on this issue. Work on the development of this commitment will be carried out over the coming months.

This outcome is a great step toward reducing human suffering. INEW has consistently called for a commitment to end the use explosive weapons, especially those with wide area effects, in populated areas. Bombing in cities, towns, and villages kills and injures civilians. INEW-member [Action on Armed Violence](#) has found that when explosive weapons are used in populated areas, 90% of the resulting casualties are civilians. Such practices also damage or destroy buildings and other infrastructure, which results in long-term suffering from lack of water, sanitation, and access to hospitals, leading to more deaths and to displacement. Victims and survivors of explosive weapons can also face challenges of disability, psychological harm, and social and economic exclusion.

Participants of the Vienna meeting heard expert presentations from INEW members Action on Armed Violence, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, and PAX, as well as the ICRC, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and states. They also heard testimony from Adnan Piric, a survivor of explosive violence in Bosnia. Through presentations and discussions, participants examined many of the immediate and long-term effects of the use of explosive weapons on civilian populations and considered the relationship of a new commitment to existing laws and norms.

One of the key messages articulated at the Vienna meeting is that while international humanitarian law (IHL) is relevant to prevent actions that harm civilian populations in conflict, it is on its own insufficient for addressing the problem. Speaking on behalf of the Geneva Academy, legal expert Maya Brehm noted that IHL is general and abstract, leaving it open to a number of interpretations with no specific guidelines or rules for consistent application. States have not been forthcoming about their interpretation of what the law requires and thus which practices would be illegal, and the rules of IHL do not on their own draw a clear boundary against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The general agreement at the meeting was that key issue is preventing humanitarian harm and that this should be the basis for a political instrument on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

INEW has called on all states to commit to stop the use in populated areas of explosive weapons. In doing so, they will need to review national policy and practice and make changes that will strengthen the protection of civilians. States should also support stronger data-gathering on the use and impact of explosive weapons, including age-, sex-, and disability-disaggregated recording of casualties. They should recognise the rights of survivors, families of those killed or injured, and affected communities, and ensure a response to their short- and long-term needs.

At WILPF, we also believe that states need to prevent those that use explosive weapons in populated areas from acquiring arms. Even if a state commits itself to not using such weapons in populated areas, arms transfers they approve may end up being used to bomb civilians. Regardless of whether or not states are party to the [Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)](#), they must not transfer weapons to countries that are bombing or shelling in villages, towns, cities, or other populated areas. As INEW has argues in its recent publication [A Commitment to Act](#), too often the dropping of bombs or firing of rockets or mortars into populated areas is considered inevitable in armed conflict. But experience shows that states and other armed actors can stop the use of certain weapons and by doing so prevent devastating civilian harm. The current pattern of harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is unacceptable. States have a responsibility to take action now to prevent human suffering.

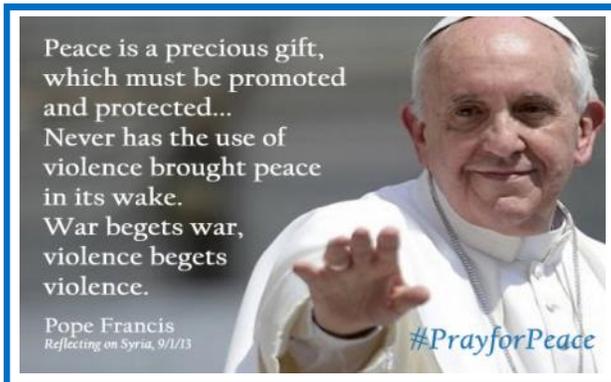


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Special thanks to Karen Huggins & Tracey Braun for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.



**Reaching Critical Will**

**Trading arms, bombing towns**

[www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)

This [briefing paper](#) looks at the lethal connection between the international arms trade and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and makes recommendations to governments and others on policy and practice.

What do the Arms Trade Treaty, an arms fair, explosive weapons, and the refugee crisis have in common? Reaching Critical Will highlights a straightforward connection between them all and explores the potential effects that stricter prohibitions against arms transfers and development of new commitments against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas could have on reducing humanitarian harm and the drivers of displacement. It calls on governments to take responsibility for their actions, to prioritise human security over war profiteering, and to seek new, preventative solutions to violence and war

**Written by Ray Acheson • Published in September 2015 by Reaching Critical Will, a programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

We are delighted to offer the online version for free, but please consider making a [donation](#) to Reaching Critical Will to help us cover the costs of producing this paper and the other materials and information services that Reaching Critical Will provides.



**Project Ploughshares Calgary**

**Yes...I am interested in supporting the peace work of Project Ploughshares!**

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to make a
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	of \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Amount (Specify)	\$_____	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Options:  Cheque  PayPal  Cash

**Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to [www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca) to make your payment via PayPal.**

**Please mail completed form with donation to:**

**Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

**(Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)**