

26

**six reasons why**

# **women**

**should join the**

**Peace Pledge Union**

**now**

1938/39 7



## 1. WHY WOMEN?

BECAUSE War is a crime against humanity and is no longer confined to a battle-field of armed men. As *The Times* says :— (12th January, 1938).

“ The development of the bomber has brought the front line of war to the very doors of a nation which for centuries has been safe from invasion. And the object of the bomber is not to defeat the rival air force, but to terrify into submission populations whose women and children and homes are attacked and destroyed by fire, explosives, and gas.”

Woman therefore knows to-day that if there is any defence for her own home it can only be found in that offence which denies defence to women of other nations.

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2. BECAUSE women as the bearers and natural guardians of children have a special responsibility to the future. It is their duty to save the lives of their children. If our national leaders cannot protect what are called “ the nation’s interests ” without the sacrifice of young children in war—which they themselves predict will end our civilisation—it becomes the plain duty of all women totally to reject such leadership, and plan for the protection of their own “vital interests” (which are also the interests of the race and of the future) by other means than those suggested in the Government’s Air Raid Precautions Bill.

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3. BECAUSE women as the home-makers have contributed equally with men to the shaping and building of civilisation. Therefore they cannot acquiesce in the wrecking of this civilisation. It is their duty to use the freedom which they have recently won for themselves for the good of humanity. Women have worked for years for political rights and economic equality with men. Unless they make an adequate return for what they have received, their emancipation will have been for selfish ends and they will be unworthy of it. The right to education and the right to work must carry corresponding duties to give time and thought and money to the solving of the greatest problem of the age—Peace and War. The establishment of peace and the defence of right by non-violent

means would seem to be the logical contribution of women to civilisation and the justification of their present freedom.

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4. BECAUSE the glory and romance surrounding war has been chiefly of woman’s making. This was excusable when men were fighting for food, and the resources of the world were generally undeveloped. But Science has taken away this excuse and set us on the threshold of an age of plenty. The modern fight for markets is a fight for profits, not for needs. The smart uniforms of army, navy and air-force to-day are the mark of those deputed by their national leaders to murder unarmed men, women and children, who are only “enemies” because leaders, failing to base their actions on simple human morality, prefer to think in terms of national interest rather than of an amicable sharing of the world’s plenty. Women must dissociate herself from such immoral activities.

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## 5. WHY THE P.P.U.?

BECAUSE there is now no Parliamentary channel through which any effective protest against war can be made. No party in the present House of Commons stands for the policy of disarmament with non-violent resistance, which the P.P.U. advocates. But we can win the politicians to the cause of peace by the creation of a right public opinion. “In democratic countries public opinion makes the policy and leads the State.” (Dr. Goebbels, in the “*Berliner Tageblatt*,”) Dick Sheppard’s proposal of a million signatories pledged to the method of friendship and co-operation in place of greed and enmity, is designed to be the nucleus of this new public opinion. This is the lead which the governments of the democratic countries to-day must have from their people before they can create the new forms of international co-operation.

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## 6. WHY NOW?

BECAUSE later may be too late. Preparation for War, whether International or civil, justified in the name of “ collective security ” or “ the defence of democracy,” increasingly demands conscription for everybody, and leads inevitably to totalitarianism. It can only



result in unimaginable barbarism, as witness the present conflict in the East and West, and in the final degradation and exhaustion of the human race. In the end we shall have to lay down our arms.

Why should the thought of one nation leading the way in laying down its arms and making voluntary sacrifice for peace now, frighten us more than that prospect of wholesale slaughter and utter desolation? Peace can be procured now if we tell the Government to pay a just price for it.

"It could be done, and England could do it."

It can be done if every Englishwoman who KNOWS that war is WRONG, will act NOW.

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(If you are one of these, sign the declaration below, cut out and send it to :- The Secretary, The Peace Pledge Union, 96 Regent Street, London, W.1.)

*I renounce war, and I will never  
support or sanction another.*

Signature .....

Address .....

.....

.....

PEACE PLEDGE UNION  
96, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.1

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