

MARCH, 1929.

The
WOMEN'S
PEACE CRUSADE
Its Programme of Work

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ON 27th August last, 15 Nations, Great Britain among them, signed a solemn Pact of Renunciation of War as an instrument of National Policy, and since that date the Pact has been adhered to by at least 58 Nations.

The Women's Peace Crusade exists to make this renunciation of war, accepted in the Pact of Paris, a reality.

**THE SIGNING OF THE PACT IS
NOT AN END BUT A BEGINNING.**

It is, or ought to be, a solemn declaration made in the face of the whole world, of a real **right-about-face** in the relations of civilised nations towards each other. But it is one thing to make a declaration, and another, and a harder thing, to live up to it. That means that probably the **hardest part of our crusade is still before us, not behind us.**

This ought to be a very strenuous year for all who are determined to realise the hopes that arise out of the Pact. Before twelve months are over we shall have a New Parliament, elected for the first time on completely Democratic lines. Therefore one of our main lines of action must be

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DEPUTATIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

The women of Great Britain will have the "biggest say" at the coming General Election. We have the chance of securing that the next House of Commons shall consist of members who are in dead earnest about proving our good faith in this matter of Renunciation of War, and who are pledged to action that will afford that proof.

This is not a party-political business. There will be candidates of all parties who have honestly and from their hearts renounced War and recognised it as a crime, and who are prepared to go forward on the path of World Peace. And there will, alas, be candidates who cannot or dare not let go of the old War era habits of thought.

No woman ought to give her vote to any candidate until she knows for certain where that candidate stands on this question.

To this end candidates of all parties should be asked to receive **women voters' deputations** in every constituency, such deputations should be carefully organised, and should consist of delegates representing local branches of the Societies mentioned on this leaflet, and of any other women's societies which can be persuaded to take part. Before attempting actual deputations we should be clear in our minds as to what actually needs doing to prove that we as a Nation really and truly believe what we have now openly said—**that War as an instrument of National Policy is a monstrous thing and that we have renounced it.**

WHAT SHOULD BE THE NEXT STEPS?

There are certain steps which could be taken by Great Britain on her own account, and other steps which should be taken in conjunction with other Nations.

On our own account we could and should, without delay

- (a) **Sign the optional clause of the Statute of the Court of International Justice.** That is a simple, long overdue action. Twenty-three Nations have done it. Great Britain has refused. To sign this Clause would mean that we undertake if a dispute of a legal nature should arise (this is a dispute covered by International Law) to accept the rule of Law.

- (b) **Enter into Treaties with other Nations, promising to settle disputes of all sorts—legal or non-legal—by the award of some peaceful tribunal.** Since 1924 over thirty such All-Inclusive Treaties have been signed between various Nations. None of these Treaties has been signed by Great Britain though we have been invited to do so by Switzerland.
- (c) **Base our foreign policy on complete faith in the League of Nations and open Diplomacy** and withdraw from all **secret or semi-secret alliances** and understandings.
- (d) **Make clear to the whole World that, having signed the Kellogg Pact, we intend to adhere to its principles unreservedly.**

In conjunction with other Nations we must—

- (a) **Brook no delay in making and carrying out plans for Mutual Reduction of Armaments.** It is not only the newly signed Pact which demands this. Till we have reduced Armaments we are guilty of a breach of a much older Treaty—The Treaty of Versailles, made in 1919.
- (b) **Press forward in working out and perfecting peaceful means for the settlement of all disputes.**
- (c) **Do our utmost to bring to an immediate end the Military Occupation of part of Germany, now a friendly Nation.**

HERE THEN IS WORK FOR ALL.

First, to make up our minds clearly as to how to prove our good faith as Renouncers of War.

Second, to see to it that every man and woman who seeks to represent us in the next Parliament is pledged to afford that proof.

The General Council and Executive Committee and staff of the Women's Peace Crusade will be very glad to hear from any individual or Society who will help in the work. But please do not forget that to maintain an office and a staff we need the wherewithal. Even small donations are a great help.

ELEANOR ACLAND.

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The Women's Peace Crusade

is an association of 28 British organisations working in co-operation with a similar group of Women's Societies in the U.S.A., but each organisation is an independent National body and has no control over the policy of the other.

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Societies in Great Britain co-operating in the Crusade :

Adult Schools, Women's Section; British Commonwealth League; British Federation of Youth; British Women's Temperance Association, Scottish Christian Union; British Women's Total Abstinence Union; Congregational Union of England and Wales, Women's Guild; Ethical Union, Women's Group; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Free Church Women's Council; Jewish Religious Union; League of Nations Union; L.C.C. Women Teachers' Union; London Congregational Union, Women's League; National Council of Women; National Council for the Prevention of War; National Sisterhood Movement; National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; National Union of Teachers; National Women Citizens' Association; Society of Friends (Peace Committee); Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations (including Women's Sections of the Labour Party); Theosophical Order of Service; Union of Democratic Control; Union of Jewish Women; Women's Co-operative Guild; Women's International League; Women's Liberal Federation; Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain.

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