

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

JANUARY 2012



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon & Thurs
10:30am - 3pm

Tues. - 11:30 - 4

Wed 2 - 6pm

Wednesday January 11, 2012 ~ 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Parkdale United Church - 2919 - 8 Avenue NW
Ancient Cultures of Peace
Dr. Ronnie Joy Leah



Travel with Ronnie Joy to the 6,000 year old Goddess temples in Malta and explore these early cultures of peace. These were life affirming cultures which worshipped the Goddess, revered women and honoured the earth. The archaeological evidence reveals that our ancestors lived in peaceful, co-operative and egalitarian civilizations that existed for thousands of year without war.

What are the lessons of these ancient cultures for today's world?

What is our heritage of peace as peoples of this earth?

Presentation includes documentary film, ***Signs Out Of Time***, the story of archaeologist Marija Gimbutas, the leading researcher of ancient Goddess cultures in Old Europe.

In September, 2011, Ronnie Joy joined 40 other women on a Goddess Pilgrimage to Malta. Ronnie Joy has a Ph.D. in Education and she teaches about *Goddess Mythology, Women's Spirituality and Ecofeminism* at Athabasca University. She is a long time activist in the women's, peace and environmental movements.



Wednesday February 8, 2012 ~ 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Parkdale United Church Conference Room
Modelling Global Citizenship – The Oasis of Peace
Calgary Centre for Global Community

This presentation showcases the achievements and on-going work of established civil society organizations to raise awareness about both the need and the possibilities for action related to global citizenship initiatives .

The CCGC has partnered with the Canadian Friends of Oasis for Peace to create a mobile educational exhibit that tells the story of Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom, the "Oasis of Peace" village which is a living example of the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Palestinians. Join us for a discussion about the Oasis of Peace Village and their peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts at the monthly public meeting of Project Ploughshares Calgary on Wednesday, February 8th, at 7:30pm in the Conference Room. We look forward to seeing you there!

The exhibit will be in the foyer of Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW from January 25th - February 8th - please feel free to stop by the church to see this amazing exhibit, and bring your friends along!

Ploughshares Calgary News



Remembrance Day Ceremony, November 11, 2011 Calgary Community Peace Pole

Photo: Laying of the wreath in honour of all those affected by war. Jean Tollefson & Nestar

Our innovative Remembrance Day Ceremony was well-attended by over 50 people who enjoyed musical interludes by Alison Demeter, as well as inspirational messages from Rev. Debra Faulk of the Unitarian Church and Lynn Chazotsang of the Buddhist Community. Following is a brief excerpt from Lynn's talk:

"I am honoured to be here today to participate in the Remembrance or Armistice Day. I would also like to include the White Poppy of Peace day because these three names together have a special meaning for me as the Ground, Path and the Fruit. I see Remembrance Day as the Ground as we stand together here today to remember and honour our soldiers who sacrificed their lives for us and all the victims of war and the devastation that was left behind by war. May all the causes that foster so much suffering and devastation completely vanish from this world.

The Path is the Armistice Day or end of fighting. Once the world treads that path, the path of no fighting, we can truly enjoy the fruit which is the white Poppy of Peace Day. May everyone take that path and bring about the fruit of peace.

In Buddhism all conflict is believed to arise from our blind passions, known as the three poisons; ignorance, desire and hatred. The key to pacifying all these conflicts is to overcome our own selfishness and to cultivate patience, love and compassion. Compassion is a powerful emotion that wishes to free others from suffering. It gives one the strength to work for the wellbeing of others and the courage to face all difficulties to achieve that. His Holiness also said that in order to have world peace we must have "inner peace".

May everyone strive to achieve that transformation and realize inner peace and world peace."

Our sincere thanks to all the speakers, Alison Demeter, Tracey Braun for her outstanding job MCing the event, and the volunteers who made this day possible!

Holiday Peace Fair, November 26, 2011 St. David's United Church

This year's annual Peace Fair was a huge success with 30 vendors selling fairly-traded and/or environmentally friendly and sustainable items for organizations that work to promote social justice here in Calgary and around the world. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this day run so smoothly! Special thanks to the coordinators of the fair: Shahin Bhura, overall coordinator; Meryl Arnott, coordinator of the Ploughshares tables; Karen Dickson & Penny Young, kitchen coordinators; Sheila Navrady, who was the venue coordinator; and Helen Negrave, the volunteer coordinator. Without the commitment of these people, as well as all of the following, the Peace Fair would not be the fun and successful event that it is!

Bill Anderson, Margaret Ann Anderson, John Backhouse, Ginny Betty, Pam Bradley, Tracey Braun, Andrea Bures, Caroline Brown, Nina Chiba, Kristen Cathers, Mary Clark, Bruce Clark, Marie Collins, Jan Craig, Naushad Dada, Bev DeLong, Bill Dickson, Kerry Duncan McCartney, Maureen Ewasiuk, Engineers Without Borders, Donna Fallon, Alice Fedosoff, Swati Fernando, Margaret Fitch, Garry Fry, ? Green, Femke Groen, Sylvia Hawkins, Kathleen Hatfield, Sally Hodges, Karen Huggins, Marya Jarvey, Shirley Langan, Janet McKinnon, Lena Osman, Ross Purvis, Peggy Raitt, Jean Reid, Sir Winston Churchill students, George Steber, Trudi Steber, Carl Svoboda, Lindsay Utting, Sandra Wezzelenchuk, Jack Wilkes, Beth Workman, Ida Wyllie.



Donations

Donations from individuals during November-December came to \$2580. From organizations we received \$500. Please consider Project Ploughshares Calgary when you are planning your charitable giving for 2012, and help us make an impact in our city and beyond in developing a true Culture of Peace! Our heartfelt thanks to all those who continue to give to Project Ploughshares on a regular basis. Your support is appreciated!



The peace of wild things by Wendell Berry

When despair grows in me
and I wake in the middle of the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Volunteers Needed!

- ◆ We are still looking for a volunteer who would be interested in sitting on the committee for the Calgary Peace Run & Walk, which will take place next summer. If you are enthusiastic and have a knack for identifying and talking with potential sponsors for this event, we'd love to have you on board!
- ◆ If you don't have time to sit on a committee, we would love to hear from you if you have any ideas regarding businesses, companies, or organizations that you think might be willing to help sponsor the Calgary Peace Run.

Please email Karen at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca or phone her at [403-270-7366](tel:403-270-7366). Together, we will create more peace.



Peace March Signs by Raymond A. Foss

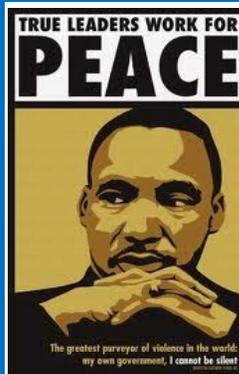
Signs caught my eye
so much a part of the message
Along with the feet marching,
were the signs, "End War",
"Make Levees, not War",
"Blessed are the Peacemakers",
"Peace begins with Peace",
"Veterans for Peace",
"War Just Makes It Worse," or
"Is the World Safer Now?"
Many of them made me think,
and wonder how much the
rest of the country
thinks long and hard about
the wisdom in the war strategy.



The Peace March on September 30, 2006 in Concord, NH sponsored by NH Peace Action. About 25 parishioners of Wesley United Methodist Church participated.

Entertainment Books

Thanks to all those who helped out Project Ploughshares Calgary by purchasing an Entertainment Book this year! We sold a total of 30 books.



I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

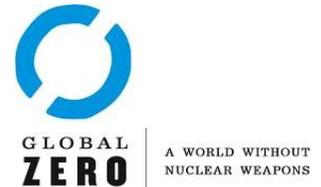
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Women Must be at the Forefront of Nuclear Disarmament

by Dr. Jennifer Allen Simons

Founding Partner of Global Zero and President of The Simons Foundation

<http://globalzero.tumblr.com/post/11910007766/women-must-be-at-the-forefront-of-nuclear-disarmament>



The greatest danger to humans is the existence of nuclear weapons. Yet it is a danger that seems to be banished from conscious awareness. Jonathan Schell believes this is because we cannot bear to face our own death. For the most part, it is in our dreams that our fear of nuclear annihilation manifests itself and as Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, said the world is "sleepwalking to Armageddon."

My own experience as an educator, advocate, activist and funder for nuclear disarmament and for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, began 26 years ago because I was horrified to learn that my young daughter was having nightmares about nuclear war. I undertook some research and learned that fear of nuclear war had become part of the psyche of young people in North America. Two psychological studies - one of kindergarten age children in New York and one of San Francisco college students, confirmed that when these young people reported their dreams, nuclear war featured in all of them and yet none of them, in discussing their concerns, expressed anxiety about nuclear war.

I then established The Simons Foundation and the first grant was to endow a doctoral fellowship for women in physics, imagining - chauvinistically, perhaps - that a woman researching in physics, rather than being an Edward Teller, whose lifelong focus was in advancing thermonuclear weapons and the hydrogen bomb, would be a Madame Curie - seeking medical applications for human health. My view was that women are more inclined to care about human life, about human security rather than state or military security, and have always been agents of beneficial change.

Women have played an important and effective role in the global nuclear disarmament movement since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They have participated as individuals, in groups, and many within women-specific organizations in active opposition to nuclear weapons. Women drew on their experience as mothers as both justification and motivation behind their activism. Their many actions included the one-day strike in the US against nuclear testing, and the establishment of peace camps around the world modelled on UK's Greenham Common to protest nuclear weapons placement and activity.

In the 1950s, women in the United States discovered that their breast milk was contaminated with traces of Radio-active Strontium 90. And in 1958 many young mothers participated in the St. Louis Baby-Teeth Survey a successful and very important civil movement for nuclear disarmament. These mothers mailed their children's baby teeth to a research team for testing for radioactivity. The teeth of children born between 1945 and 1965, showed levels of Radio-active Strontium 90 that had risen a 100-fold; and rose and fell in correlation with atomic bomb tests. This resulted in a campaign to ban testing, and acted as a spur to President Kennedy to negotiate a treaty to ban nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space, and in the water.

In 2001 a set of 85,000 of these teeth was discovered in storage and was given to the Radiation and Public Health Project, which then tracked the individuals. The results are quite disturbing. They showed that those children who later died of cancer before the age of 50 had levels of Strontium 90 in their stored baby teeth that was twice the level of those who were still alive at age 50. These consequences of early nuclear testing provide a sinister snapshot of the potential for any survivors of a nuclear explosion of current weapons, which are of far greater magnitude than the early test weapons and would also be directed at a target.

The problem with nuclear weapons is that all of us - men, women and children - are collateral damage in a nuclear incident whether from a nuclear war, an accident, an accidental or malicious launch of a nuclear weapon; or from those ticking time bombs like Chernobyl and now Fukushima, whose radiation effects are currently terrifying so many people around the world. Yet the effects from a nuclear power plant, though grave, are minuscule when compared to the catastrophic consequences of one nuclear weapon.

Concern about the issue has died away since the end of the Cold War. The United States and Russia maintain their Cold War nuclear war plan, and their nuclear forces are poised - on alert for immediate launch. Since the end of the Cold War, the number of nuclear weapons states has grown; nuclear capable states have grown in number; nuclear technology is proliferating and is also trafficked illegally; and terrorists are seeking acquisition to nuclear materials and nuclear weapons.

I am a Founding Partner of Global Zero <<http://www.globalzero.org>>. Global Zero has an Action Plan to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2030 and to ban them. We are encouraging women to return to this issue of enormous concern - to be in the forefront as they were in the past - to bring the concern, energy and spirit which made the women's movement for nuclear disarmament successful in the past. I invite you to sign the Cut Nukes petition at <http://cutnukes.globalzero.org> and to join us in pursuing a world without nuclear weapons by 2030.



All nuclear weapons must go

By Cesar Jaramillo

Program Officer at Project Ploughshares

cjaramillo@ploughshares.ca

(excerpted)

Iran A group of Iranian students pray in front of the Isfahan Uranium Conversion Facility during a gathering in support of Iran's nuclear program, just outside the city of Isfahan, south of Tehran, last Tuesday. Vahid Salemi, The Associated Press

The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran's nuclear program has increased the already inflammatory rhetoric against the Islamic Republic. The West is calling for tougher sanctions while reiterating that all options — including military force — are on the table.

Certainly, Iran's lack of transparency regarding its nuclear program creates legitimate international security concerns. But western policymakers seem to overlook the simple fact that the current standoff is in part a result of an unsustainable nuclear weapons regime that perpetuates a double standard between states that have nuclear weapons and those that do not. As the Canadian government announced a new set of sanctions against Iran this week, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said that "the regime in Tehran poses the most significant threat to global peace and security today."

Not so. In reality, the gravest threat to international security lies in the very existence of nuclear weapons and the stubborn reluctance by their possessors to give them up.

A blatant disregard for a 40-year commitment to disarm under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty creates strong proliferation pressures that can only be counteracted by the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. What is needed is a global legal ban on the possession, deployment and use of these instruments of mass destruction. No exceptions, no exemptions. A central conclusion reached by the authoritative International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, co-chaired by former Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans, is that "so long as any state has nuclear weapons, others will want them."

So let us be clear: while Iran has unquestionably been less than forthcoming about its nuclear program, there is no evidence to suggest that the country has a nuclear weapon. The argument that through its nuclear energy program Iran is inching closer to a weapons capability is certainly true. But it is also true that any country with a civilian nuclear program is on a path that could possibly lead to the development of nuclear weapons.

As nuclear disarmament experts Jane Boulden, Ramesh Thakur and Thomas G. Weiss have put it, "nuclear energy for peaceful purposes can be pursued legitimately to the point of being perhaps a screwdriver turn away from a weapons capability." From this perspective, the need for strict IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear facilities is undeniable, and any resistance by the Iranian government to such international oversight is reprehensible.

Yet it is hard to ignore the stark contrast between the rigorous attention given to Iran's nuclear energy program, which could, potentially, one day result in a nuclear weapon, and the remarkable lack of scrutiny of Israel's advanced nuclear weapons program. Israel is the only country in the volatile Mideast in possession of nuclear weapons, and is not a member of the nearly-universal non-proliferation treaty — which has kept it immune from the sort of non-proliferation and disarmament obligations expected of other countries.

One need not walk a mile in President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's shoes to realize that his country is flanked by thousands of American troops, and is within reach of Israeli nuclear weapons. By aggressively claiming its right to a nuclear energy program — as allowed by the treaty — and by portraying the West as hostile and unfair, Iran's government earns the support of a domestic constituency. Ominous warnings about Iran's threshold nuclear weapons capability have been made since the early 1990s. Some have come with precise timelines that indicated that Iran was years away from a nuclear weapon. But so far, there is no smoking gun.

It is crucial that Iran respond to unanswered questions about the peaceful nature of its nuclear program and fully embrace strict international oversight over its nuclear facilities. But the most urgent concern about nuclear weapons is broader than Iran. The root of nuclear insecurity is in the continued possession of nuclear arsenals by a few states, despite overwhelming evidence that such weapons lack any political, military or moral justification.



Red Cross champions Nuclear Weapons Convention, Canada still tentative

Posted on [5 December 2011](#) by [Ernie Regehr](#) - eregehr@uwaterloo.ca (excerpted—please see full article including notes at [disarmingconflict.ca](#))

The International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has come out strongly in support of negotiations toward nuclear weapons convention, in a resolution passed at the biennial meeting of the Council of Delegates in Geneva a week ago.

Emphasizing International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and “the incalculable human suffering that can be expected to result from any use of nuclear weapons,” the Council states flatly that the international community lacks any capacity for an adequate humanitarian response to the use of nuclear weapons and thus appeals to States “to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used.” This basic non-use objective, adds the Council, should prevail regardless of possessor State views on the legality of nuclear weapons.

The Council, whose decisions are generally taken by consensus, includes the International Federation and individual national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It pointedly stated that it “finds it difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the rules of distinction, precaution and proportionality.”

That conclusion led it in turn to call on all States “to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate weapons through a legally binding international agreement, based on existing commitments and international obligations.”

The Red Cross/Red Crescent action is a welcome affirmation of growing support for an overarching legal framework or umbrella convention that sets a comprehensive legal foundation for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. In 2010 by all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) urged “all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts” and insisted that “all States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.” The NPT call was preceded by and referenced “the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes, inter alia, consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.”

The common commitment to humanitarian diplomacy within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, said the Council of Delegates, should lead all components of the Movement “to raise awareness among the public, scientists, health professionals and decision-makers of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences” of nuclear use and of “the international humanitarian law issues that arise from such use.”

Earlier this year an extraordinary gathering of legal experts concluded that all weapons of mass destruction “are, by definition, contrary to the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law forbidding the infliction of indiscriminate harm and unnecessary suffering.” That judgement, the declaration goes on to say, applies especially to nuclear weapons because of “their uncontrollable blast, heat, and radiation effects.” The statement concludes: “An ‘absolute evil,’ as the President of the International Court of Justice called nuclear weapons, requires an absolute prohibition.”

Meanwhile, Canada remains guarded on the matter of a nuclear weapons convention. This fall Canada chose to abstain rather than explicitly support a General Assembly (First Committee) resolution calling on all states to commence “multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat of use of nuclear weapons and providing their elimination.” Canada, to its credit, did not join most of NATO and states with nuclear weapons in voting “no,” with the implication that its abstention indicates support for the substance of the resolution even though it has reservations about elements of it. The next step must be explicit support, followed by concrete diplomatic and programmatic action to advance that objective in the global arena.



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

Calgary Peace Events

Initiatives of Change - Calgary Women's Peace Circles

Upcoming: January 17, 24, 31st & February 7, 14, 21 (*one day a week for 6 weeks*)

February 10 - 12, 2012 (*weekend format*)



What is your understanding of peace?

Can anyone create peace? Whose job is it anyway?

These workshops provide a space for women of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds to discover their own ability, as individuals and as a group, to create peace at home, at work, and in their communities. At the end of this program, women will have a deeper understanding of their

roles as creators of peace and will have the opportunity to make a commitment to take tangible action to meet a need identified in their local community. Please contact Janyce Konkin at 403-270-0975 or iofc.calgary@ca.iofc.org for further information and other future dates.

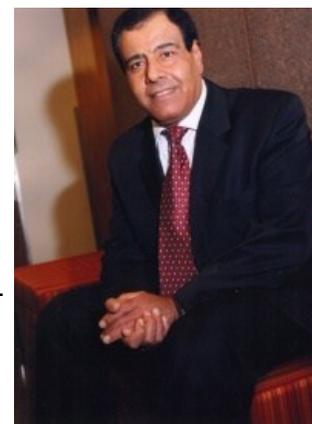
Consortium for Peace Studies

2012 Calgary Peace Prize Recipient: Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish

March 8, 2012, 5:30 PM, Calgary Golf & Country Club

The Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary is extremely pleased to announce its sixth annual Calgary Peace Prize recipient – **Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish**. The awards ceremony will take place at the Calgary Golf & Country Club, 50th Ave & Elbow Dr SW on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 5:30 pm. Tickets are now available for purchase. The Early Bird deadline is February 24, 2012. Tickets will be available at the discounted rate of \$150.00. Tickets thereafter will be available at \$175.00.

To purchase tickets by credit card to the Calgary Peace Prize award dinner and fundraiser please go to <https://netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/2012peaceprize> For other questions, contact Saima at 403-220-2136.



Calgary Centre for Global Community

Networking Neighbourhoods, Connecting Communities Program

Start a neighbourhood group!

Through our Networking Neighbourhoods, Connecting Communities program, we support and encourage grassroots neighbourhood and community groups to form, to thrive and to develop in their capacity to address critical human issues, whether at the local or global levels.

If you are interested in starting a group in your neighbourhood, please contact Kelly Dowdell, Director of Programs at 403-457-5534.

Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2011 of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended) Mail (with \$35 donation)



From Fall to Spring, join the discussion of new and groundbreaking titles.

Sponsored by Pages Bookstore, Sustainable Calgary, The Arusha Centre, EcoLiving Events, Green Calgary and Thrive.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012: The Leap, Chris Turner

Wednesday, February 8, 2012: Green Metropolis, David Owen

Wednesday, March 14, 2012: Trouble with Billionaires, Linda McQuaig

Wednesday, April 11, 2012: Bringing It to the Table: On Farming and Food, Wendel Berry

Wednesday, May 9, 2012: Agile City, James Russell

6:00–7:30 pm Pages Books, 1135 Kensington Road NW

Books Available at Pages, accepting 25% Calgary Dollars. 403-283-6655

Calgary Peace Run & Walk, August 2012

Organized by Project Ploughshares Calgary, the Consortium for Peace Studies, and cdpeace (Sierra Leone)

Watch future editions of the Ploughshares Newsletter for details on this upcoming race!



Project Ploughshares Calgary is the lead organization for this unique running and walking event, designed to promote healthy lifestyles and to highlight the importance of peaceful relationships—locally, nationally, and globally. As such, both Project Ploughshares and the Consortium for Peace Studies are pleased to have cdpeace, an organization based in Sierra Leone, as an additional partner. cdpeace has done important work in Sierra Leone in terms of reconciliation and development and has worked with former child soldiers—they work to promote peaceful resolutions to violent conflicts not only in Sierra Leone, but around the world.

The Calgary Peace Run is comprised of 5 k runs and walks, as well as 10 k runs and walks—all timed events. We welcome all Calgary runners and walkers, and encourage you to find sponsors for your walks and runs. All money raised will be used to fund the programs of Project Ploughshares, the Consortium for Peace Studies, and cdpeace in Sierra Leone. Join us in promoting peace and non-violence and in creating a better world for everyone!



Women in Black... is a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence. As women experiencing these things in different ways in different regions of the world, we support each other's movements. An important focus is challenging the militarist policies of our own governments. We are not an organisation, but a means of communicating and a formula for action.

The Calgary chapter of Women in Black meets every second and fourth Friday of the month at the statues of the Famous Five Women in Olympic Plaza, and welcomes others to join them in their stand against militarist policies.

