

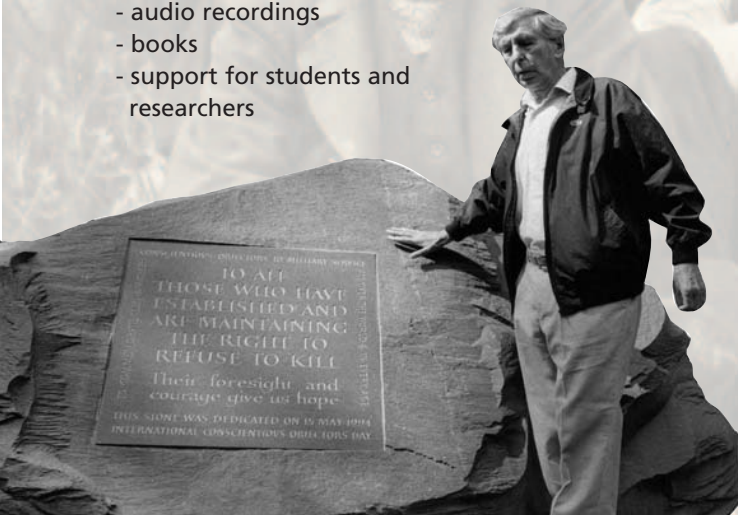
SUPPORT THE
CO PROJECT

archive and educational resource

The project reclaims the lost voices of the young men, many of whom languished in prison, often in solitary confinement; young men who risked loss of family support, and social ostracism. Some in World War One, despite being condemned to death, refused to put on a uniform or pick up a gun.

Our aim is also to promote a better understanding of war and the arguments against it through the eyes and activities of its radical opponents.

- ▶ we tell the stories of the men and women conscientious objectors of the 20th century
- ▶ we document their experience
- ▶ we video their recollections
- ▶ we promote their ideals
- ▶ we publish teaching resources
- ▶ our education and resource centre has
 - an extensive database of COs
 - original documents, letters and photographs
 - DVDs and videos
 - audio recordings
 - books
 - support for students and researchers



Michael Tippett, one time CO and Peace Pledge Union President until his death, unveiled the CO Commemorative Stone, coordinated by the PPU. Tavistock Sq, London 1994

'Everyone has the right to life, liberty & security of person.'
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

'I might as well die for a principle as for lack of one.'

WW1 conscientious objector

'I know what it is to kill a pig; I won't kill a man.'

Stephen Winsten. WW1 conscientious objector

'I had eight months solitary confinement at Lincoln Prison. Three months bread and water treatment until the doctor wouldn't allow more. And yet one had a sense of freedom which I can't describe..... one had an extraordinary sense of personal liberty, personal freedom.'

Fenner Brockway. WW1 conscientious objector

'I believe in the necessity of a state of continuous action until the last epaulet on a uniform and the last landmine on earth are removed. I also believe that the elimination of the causes of war is a guiding path that leads to the foundation of a free world, I won't be anyone's soldier!'

Mustafa Seyhoglu. Turkish conscientious objector. 2005

Most of us are economic conscripts - forced through the tax system to pay for war preparations and war making. For those of us who object to this the situation is both easier and more difficult than that of COs to military conscription. We don't need to break rocks, or languish in prison or sew mailbags - instead we have to decide how to oppose the war system. Supporting this project is one way.

INTERNATIONAL CO DAY May 15

A time every year to celebrate and support the struggles of COs past and present around the world and call for nonviolent resolution of conflicts.

Contact us for details

CO PROJECT - archive and education resource

Peace Research and Education Trust (charity no 1064299)
in association with Peace Pledge Union, 1, Peace Passage,
London N7 0BT 020 7424 9444 coproject@ppu.org.uk

**THEY SAID NO
will you say yes?**

www.coproject.org.uk

The men who refused to fight - the conscientious objectors of the First World War and their supporters, many of them wives and girlfriends, laid the foundations of today's nonviolent protest movement in Britain. After the war many were at the forefront of prison reform and many other progressive causes. Many more continued to campaign for the abolition of war and a just settlement of conflicts.

A mere 20 years after the end of the First World War Europe slid into another war, in which many more refused to fight and many more campaigned against the institution of war.

Their voices, as indeed the voices of many other radicals arguing against war are often marginalised, sometimes ridiculed, but mostly unknown.

The dominant view that war, while undesirable, is sometimes necessary is transmitted from generation to generation as an absolute truth. A major aim of this project is to challenge this through the many voices and experiences of COs. Through stories, original documents, video and audio, young people particularly will have access to the wide variety of reasons why so many young men and women in Britain and around the world say no to war.

Voices for Peace explores the proposals and activities against war made over the course of human history and gives the lie to the view that we are an inescapably warlike species. Through text, audio and video you can learn what it was like to be a CO or what it was like running a 'secret' press under the noses of the authorities or publishing a clandestine newspaper in prison. £20.00



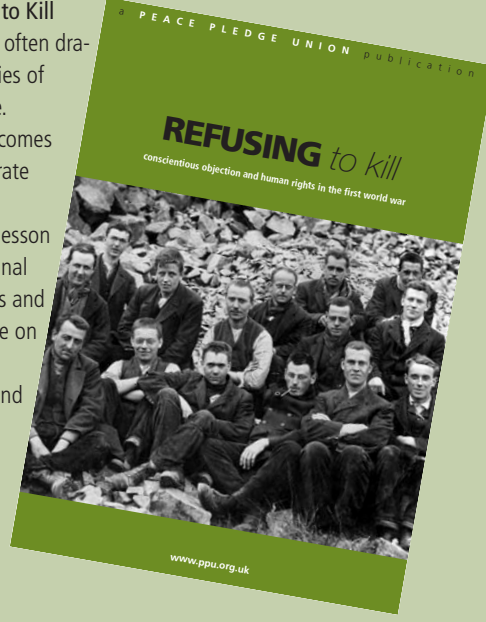
“The CO Project is making a fantastic contribution to the public awareness and understanding of people of courage and principle. As the son of a CO I wholeheartedly support it.”

Jim Broadbent

£15.00

‘Resistance to crimes of state, and refusal to participate in them, has been and remains one of the most significant achievements of people of decency and courage throughout history.’
Noam Chomsky

Through original letters, court martial statements, diaries and many other documents **Refusing to Kill** brings the often dramatic stories of COs to life. The book comes with separate resources including lesson plans, original documents and much more on a CD for teachers and pupils.



YES I WANT TO SUPPORT THE CO PROJECT

Name _____
 Address _____

 Email _____ Tel _____
 Send _____ Voices CD _____ *Refusing to Kill* add £2.00p&p
 Enclose a donation of £ _____ cheque to PRET or charge my card
 Card number
 start date expiry date
 signature _____ 3 digit no _____

Return to Peace Research and Education Trust 1 Peace Passage London N7 0BT

- ▶ Were you a CO?
- would you be willing to be interviewed?
- do you have related documents/photos that you could give/lend to the CO archive
- ▶ Do you know someone who was a CO and might be interested in being interviewed?

To: The Manager _____ Bank _____
 Address _____
 Your account number _____
 Please pay on _____/_____/200 and on the same day each MONTH | YEAR (delete as appropriate)
 To: The Co Operative Bank plc Central Commercial Branch
 08 92 50 PRET account no. 50112346
 the sum of £ _____ amount in words _____
 Signature _____ date _____

I am a taxpayer and would like PRET to reclaim tax on this and all future donations made by me until further notice.