



Remembering Peace-Making at a Time of War - A Peace History Conference

**At the John Stanley Bell Lecture Theatre, University of Bradford
*Saturday 20th September 2025***

On 20th September, the Peace History Conference will bring together scholars, activists, and community members to explore the past, present, and future of peace efforts across the globe.

The all-day event continues a series of Conferences that was initiated in 2007 and sponsored by the Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW). The conferences aim to help develop a culture of peace by raising awareness of individuals, movements, ideas and initiatives from all periods of history concerned with promoting peace, overcoming violence, and abolishing war.

Several of the earlier conferences were organised in cooperation with, and hosted by, the Imperial War Museum in London. Last year's conference was hosted by the Peace Museum in Saltaire. It is most appropriate that this year's conference is being held at the University of Bradford where the country's first Chair in Peace Studies was inaugurated more than half a century ago. The conference introduces a variety of peace history topics and offers reflections on the need to remember peace-making and peacemakers at a time when war and conflict are rife.

In a time marked by growing geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts, and environmental crises, the need to reflect on the lessons of peace history has never been more urgent.

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Programme

10.20 a.m.

Welcome

10.30 - 12 noon

1. **A History of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs** - Tim Street, Secretary, British Pugwash
2. **The Hiroshima Maidens: An Episode in a Feminist History of Nuclear Warfare** – Becky Alexis-Martin, University of Bradford
3. **Communities of Resistance and a record of Conscientious Objectors** - Cyril Pearce, Independent Researcher

12.00 - 1.30 pm

Lunch and Stalls

1.30 – 3.00 pm

1. **Art *versus* War: Felix Moscheles & Felix Mendelssohn (and the Leeds connection)** - Peter van den Dungen, University of Bradford (ret.)
2. **Picasso and the World Peace Congress in Sheffield (1950)** - Anthony Padgett, Sculptor and Artist
3. **Celebrating Peace & Love, Protesting War & Injustice** – in Song, by Bradford Women Singers

3.00 – 3.30 pm

Tea/Coffee

3.30– 5.20 pm

1. **Reflections on Immanuel Kant's *Essay Towards Perpetual Peace* (1795-2025)** – Diane Morgan, University of Leeds
2. **Costa Rica – the History of the Abolition of its Army** – Bernie Arauz Canton, University of Bradford
3. **The Commonwealth Collection** - Emma Goodway, Outreach Worker, Commonwealth, J. B. Priestley Library, University of Bradford
4. **The Bradford Peace Trail** – Peter Nias, Independent Researcher

5.30 pm Further events for those interested: a) A guided walk along the Bradford Peace Trail – led by Peter Nias or **b) Visit to Commonwealth Collection** – with Emma Goodway