

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

It is a crime against life, using human personalities for political and economic reasons.

WE THEREFORE

actuated by a sense of fellowship with all mankind,

ARE DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT

either directly by service of any kind in the armed forces, or indirectly by making or consciously handling munitions or other war material, subscribing to war loans or using our labour for the purpose of setting others free for war service,

ANY KIND OF WAR

We are convinced that violence cannot preserve order, defend our homes, liberate the proletariat or give security to any nation.

In fact, experience has shown that in all wars order, security and liberty disappear, and that so far from benefiting by them, the proletariat often suffers most. We hold, however, that consistent pacifists have no right to take up a merely negative position, but must recognise

AND STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL CAUSES OF WAR

We recognise as causes of war not only the egoism and greed which are found in every human being, but also all agencies which create hatred and antagonism between groups of people. Among these causes of war we regard the following as the more important today:

1. Differences between races, leading by artificial aggravation to envy and hatred.
2. Differences between religions and ideologies, leading to mutual intolerance and contempt.
3. Differences between classes, to eliminate which we must create an economic system, the purpose of which is the satisfaction of individual and social needs.
4. Differences between nations, due largely to competitive economic systems, leading to world wars and such economic chaos as we see today, which eventualities, we are convinced, could be prevented by the adoption of a system of economy which had for its end the well-being of the entire human race.
5. Finally, we see an important cause of war in the prevalent misconception of the State. The State exists for man, not man for the State. The recognition of the sanctity of human personality must become the basic principle of human society. Furthermore, the State is not a sovereign self-contained entity, as every nation is a part of the great family of mankind.

K. Russell  
Collection

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FROM AN ORIGINAL IN THE

P.P.U. CONSTITUTION.

Believing that wars will cease when men refuse to fight:

1. A member is one who accepts and signs the Declaration of the War Resisters' International: 'War is a crime against humanity.

We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war and to strive for the removal of all causes of war.'

2. A decision which contravenes the W.R.I. Declaration, no matter in what manner or by whom it is reached is unconstitutional.

3. Decisions are arrived at by general agreement and not by a majority vote.

4. The precept that the ends justifies the means is rejected.

P.P.U. pledge. "I renounce war and will never support or sanction another."