Women peacemakers: An online educational tool

James W. Gould, PhD
Scripps College, Claremont, CA
Linn Gould, MS, MPH
Just Health Action, Seattle, WA
Stephen G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT
Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders, Seattle, WA

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American Women Peacemakers on way to stop war in Europe. S.S.Noordam, 1915
Presenter Disclosures

Linn Gould, Jim Gould, Steve Gilbert

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose
When you think of women peacemakers, what events or which women come to mind?
The women peacemakers “poster”
Overall Poster Organization

- 11 regions
- 7 in each
- order of regions - spread of women’s movements: anti-slavery → women’s rights → suffrage → peacemaking
- Earliest woman for that region at top → most recent
Database beginnings

• Taught at Scripps College (1956-1989)
• Peace research grows from student reaction to Vietnam War
• 1971 – *Nonviolence in Theory & Practice* – new course offered to all 5 Claremont colleges
  – Guest Peace activists
  – Nonviolent action by students
Database beginnings cont.

• 1985 – *Women & Peace* - new course on women’s global perspectives on peace

• Structure of course
  – Read “classics”
  – Guest peace activists
  – Celebration of women peacemakers birthdays → calendar
  – Student research – add new women to existing calendar

Mildred Norman
Born July 18, 1908

Karen Tse
Born Oct 20, 1964
First women peacemakers

Empress St. PULCHERIA
born Constantinople 399 (d. 453). “Peacemaker” with Attila the Hun 450 AD; first Roman empress

St. Clare of Assisi
Born Umbria, 1194
Repelled invaders by non-violence

St. Catherine of Sienna
Born 1349. First woman diplomat

Julian of Norwich
Born 1342 English altruist, revered mystic
Renaissance women peacemakers

Margaret Habsburg (born 1480)
Treaty of Cambray

Queen Marguerite of Navarre (born 1492)
Playwright; protected opponents in wars of religion

Queen Sophia of Russia (born 1657)
First Russian woman ruler; Signed long-lasting peace with China and Poland

Queen Christina of Sweden (born 1626)
Peace of Wesphalia

Countess Maria Koenigsmark (born 1662)
Courtesan/diplomat
Early XIX century

- Starting in North America and Great Britain
- Anti-slavery movement
- Women’s equality (right to speak in public, attend mixed sex meetings)

Maria Chapman
Born July 25, 1806

Hannah More
Born Feb 2, 1745
Post U.S. Civil War (1865-1914)

- Women’s suffrage
- Objection to Imperialism
- First Nobel Peace Prize awarded to woman (1905)
- New ways to peace (arbitration, mediation, international conferences, rules of warfare)

Bertha von Suttner, Born June 9, 1843
World War I opponents (1914-18)

• Movement grows geographically to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa
• Non-violent disobedience
• Women influence Gandhi
• Establishment of Women’s International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
• Oldest women’s peace organization
• Founded in 1915 during WWI
• Founder Jane Addams (Nobel -1931)
• Emily Balch (Nobel – 1946)

Emily Balch
Born Jan 8, 1867

Jane Addams
Born Sept 6, 1860

Kathleen Lonsdale, President WILPF, born Jan 28, 1903
Interwar Pacifism (1919-1941)

- Women take the lead on League of Nations, World Court, Kellogg-Briand Pact
- World-wide expansion of women’s peacemaking to Latin America, Middle East, and Africa
- Pacifist testimonies, poetry, dramas, declarations, education for peace
- Disarmament

Sarojini Naidu
Born Feb 13, 1879

Aleksandra Kollontai
Born March 31, 1872

Virginia Woolf,
Born Jan 25, 1882
*Three Guineas*, 1938
Disarmament

Crocodile lecturing the sheep

MY FRIENDS, WE HAVE FAILED. WE JUST COULDN'T CONTROL YOUR WARLIKE PASSIONS.
Post World War II

- Women participate in creation of international orgs for peace
- Charter of UN signed by 4 women (2 from Latin America)
- Lead in creation of Declaration of Human Rights
- New movements of mass protest

Berta Lutz
Born Aug 2, 1894

Minerva Bernadino
Born May 7, 1907

Eleanor Roosevelt, born Oct 11, 1884
Worldwide movements of mass protest

CODEPINK
WOMEN FOR PEACE

No more HIROSHIMAS
No more NAGASAKIS
Hibakusha and Citizens for Peace-Japan

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

Voices of Women

LasMADRES
The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT
Bearing Witness to Violence Against Women

WOMEN IN BLACK
For Justice. Against War.
www.womeninpeace.org

- Online Women in Peace Project
  - “Publish” history and development of women peacemakers online
  - Currently over 1000 women
  - Educational tools – interactive poster
  - Encourage research
  - Inspire women peacemakers and leaders
Online version – How its set up

More than 1000 women online

• Birthday;
• full name;
• place & year born;
• Occupation;
• major contributions to peace;
• Quote;
• Source of quote & photo

Criteria: What is a “peacemaker”?

- Works toward stopping wars
- Resists violence nonviolently
- Works to remove causes and results of war and violence by nonviolent means.

Hildegard Goss-Mayr, born Jan 22 1930
Amelia Rokotuivuna, Born Aug 7, 1941
Nafis Sadik, Born July 18, 1929
Helen Caldicott, Born Aug 7, 1938
Biases?

Database may be inappropriately biased for the following reasons:

• Primarily English language sources with some French, German and Dutch
• Search engine
• We acknowledge problem but we hope that you feel that we have given all regions a fair chance in the poster......
Actions by women peacemakers every day
“Women’s peacemaking this day”

Example actions: March 8:

• 1868 – Goegg-Pouchoulin calls for international women’s association
• 1981 - Die-in
• 1984 - Peace Pies
• 2001 - Resolution to use women for Peace
• 2012 - Topless women for Peace

Goegg-Pouchoulin
Born May 24, 1826
Poster online is clickable – takes you to the more complete bio
Challenges – We solicit your help!

• Missing deserving women (e.g., missing birth date)
• Information incorrect (e.g., Maria Chapman)
• Send your ideas and corrections
• Hope to link to events and groups around the world

peacewomen.org

Ann Wright
Future challenges

• Women still left out of peacemaking
• U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325
• Alleviate suffering of war
• Do more to remove causes of war

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Laymah Gbowee, Tawakul Karman - shared Nobel Peace Prize, 2011

Michelle Bachelet
Born Sept 29, 1951
Favorite quotes

“Lay down your arms. Say it to many, to many” (Bertha von Suttner)

“Nonviolence is organized love...Love thine enemy but confront his evil (Joan Baez, Daybreak, 1968)
Discussion: Future of Peacemaking

• What can we do to inspire the next group of women leaders?
• What new movements do we see coming where women will lead?

Kathe Kollwitz, “Never Again War,” 1924)
THANK YOU!

Contact us: info@womeninpeace.org
e-mail will be sent on to Jim Gould, Linn Gould or Steve Gilbert depending on nature of question/comment

peace women
women for peace peace for women
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Why War?

“Causes of the Causes” exercise conducted at War & Global Health Conference at University of Washington, Spring, 2010 facilitated by Linn Gould, Just Health Action and Dr Stephen Bezruchka, UW

http://justhealthaction.org/resources/jha-curriculum-material/

(Bartlein et al, Staging a Conference to frame war as a public health problem, Social Medicine, 2013)