

2006 Remember Don't Repeat passed 17 November 16

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Union Notes:

- 1.) That only the red poppy was sold in SU outlets this year
- 2.) That in previous years the SU sold both the red and white poppy
- 3.) That all students and staff at UEA have the right to mourn the loss of life in conflict in the way they deem most appropriate as long as it is in line with the values, ethics and policy of the union and British law
- 4.) That there has always been a certain level of pressure to wear a red poppy, particularly in recent years, those who choose not to wear a red poppy have been demonised. This is made clear by multiple high profile examples of celebrities and news readers refusing to wear the red poppy ^{1 2 3}
- 5.) The red poppy is considered by many to be a political symbol
- 6.) That Red poppies are stocked widely, whereas there are a very limited number of stockists of the white poppy, usually it is only stocked by community and religious groups ⁴

Union Believes:

- 1.) That the Union defends the right of students and staff to wear the red poppy if they wish
- 2.) That the red poppy is considered by some to be a political symbol with multiple offensive, upsetting and actively negative connotations:
 - a.) The imperialist nature of the British armed forces throughout history means that some see the red poppy as a celebration of the British armed forces and by extension the atrocities perpetrated by the British armed forces throughout history ^{5 6}
 - b.) Some believe the red poppy is used to justify current and future wars and the connotations carried by it are used to silence dissent to ongoing wars ⁷

¹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/if-you-dont-wear-a-poppy-youre-sent-to-the-social-guillotine-is-this-what-british-soldiers-died-for-a6720786.html>

² <https://www.channel4.com/news/by/jon-snow/blogs/wear-poppy-air>

³ http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/red-poppy-debate-5-famous-people-exercised-freedom-of-choice-over-the-commemorative-symbol_uk_58186d11e4b0672ea689e508

⁴ <http://www.ppu.org.uk/whitepoppy/outlets11xx.html>

⁵ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/worst-atrocities-british-empire-amritsar-boer-war-concentration-camp-mau-mau-a6821756.html>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/apr/23/british-empire-crimes-ignore-atrocities>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/08/poppy-last-time-remembrance-harry-leslie-smith>

c.) Some students believe that the red poppy was used to legitimise the actions of the British Army in Ireland including atrocities committed there and thus many Irish people choose to reject the red poppy ⁸

d.) That as part of the 'war effort' which is glamourized by the poppy, 16,000 people were arrested as CO's. CO's were subjected to gross invasions of privacy, psychologically damaging "evaluations", hard labour and in some cases execution ⁹

3.) It can be distressing for students affected by one or more of the above issues to be surrounded by something they see as a symbol of oppression and persecution and this compromises their wellbeing on campus

4.) That the white poppy exists for those who wish to mourn the loss of life, but who feel the red poppy is a deeply offensive symbol for one or more of the above reasons (or other reasons not listed) ¹⁰

5.) That the bravery of CO's should be recognised and the suffering they faced at the hands of the state was an atrocity

6.) That given the connotations the red poppy holds for many, to only stock the red poppy amounts to a political stance

Union Resolves:

1.) That if poppies are to be stocked in any Union Outlet then both Red and White poppies must be sold, and the money taken for white poppies should go to the Peace Research and Education Trust

2.) That the union must order and display an equal number of boxes of red and white poppies and display them in the same locations

3.) For the union to produce a small but appropriate number of leaflets to be placed with both sets of poppies to explain why both poppies are being stocked

4.) For the union to formally support International Conscientious Objection Day (15th May) every year and to mandate SOC to fully support ICOD

⁸ <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/west-broms-james-mcclean-causes-12098770>

⁹ <https://www.quaker.org.uk/about-quakers/our-history/quakers-and-wwi>

¹⁰ <http://www.ppu.org.uk/whitepoppy/index.html>