

### Peaceful or Problematic?

The original meaning behind the poppy was to commemorate and memorialize those whose lives were unfortunately lost during the dark era of world war one. They are worn globally nowadays and the symbolism behind this infamous insignia differs for many people, which can cause issues at times.

A poppy denotes a vermillion coloured beautiful flower which is cold-winter tolerant and therefore never fails to blossom steadily. This is why this flower was chosen specifically to represent the resilient soldiers who remained steady and dedicated throughout the tremendous amounts of physical and psychological pain that they had to endure. It was also chosen for representation as it was the type of flower which grew in Flanders field on top of the graves of those who fought bravely for their country. It is also understood to grow in disturbed, aerated areas of land, hence its ability to grow well in bombed and disturbed war-fields.

Although the majority of people know the meaning and denotations of the word poppy, the belief of the meaning behind it variates within countries, age groups and personal experiences. Due to this there is a developing trend of whether poppies symbolize peace exclusively for those involved in World War One and Two or every conflict known to mankind. Some even believe that it glorifies and sensationalizes war, thus some individuals refuse to wear this symbol in public. A large proportion of the younger generation believes that the message should expand in terms of inclusivity and also take into consideration other countries and their historical sorrows. On the contrary, many elders believe that the original meaning should be kept, whilst others believe it reminds them of a traumatic experience with war.

Due to the fact that the younger generation is in charge of our future, I believe and hope that this day will eventually represent more countries and commemorate more historical conflict. Where does your perspective stand? Is this symbol Problematic or peaceful?

Nonetheless, in the spirit of inclusivity, we invite you all to post a Poppy Post-It on the Remembrance Window Wall at the end of the Secondary Humanities corridor, next to L 108 and commemorate someone you love.

