

**‘Armistice’: an Agreement by Parties Involved for a Temporary or Permanent End to Conflict**

**We, the undersigned, join in highlighting the observance of *Armistice Day* on November 11<sup>th</sup> - the culmination of World War I, in 1918 – ‘*The war to end all wars*’.**

**Our intention is to go beyond ‘Remembrance’, which honours the millions of lives lost; to explore the possibilities of ensuring those sacrifices were not in vain.**

**It is evident that over the century since that milestone, our collective human society has been unable to draw the lessons offered by that ‘madness’; a ‘condition’ that predated the so-called *Great War*. One only has to check the current 24/7 News coverage for tragic support of that reality.**

**Of course, there has been recent media discussion about terminating the *Endless Wars*, that was triggered by the Biden Administration’s ‘formal’ pull-out of Afghanistan. This ended a two-decade brutal campaign that the President reported, cost more than \$300 million per day and resulted in the loss of 200,000 lives.**

**Please note that although while ending the Afghanistan debacle, the Pentagon Budget for 2022 has been increased again by Billion\$.**

**While the actions of our neighbours’ conduct of their foreign and military policy, is technically, ‘none of our business’; we refer to this, as a point of reference regarding how we human beings ‘do ourselves’ across the globe.**

**So that in Bermuda, for several decades we have conducted a ‘War on Drugs’ to address what is ostensibly a Health matter. The fall-out of this campaign has reproduced the outcomes played out in the U.S. during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with their ‘War on Alcoholic Beverages’.**

**It is this ‘War’ approach to life that is at issue. This aspect of culture – or lack there-of- dominates key aspects of our lives. So that social engagement is hyper competitive rather than collaborative: thus, undermining our ability to address challenges and promote sustainable communities.**

**Given the significant crossroads that we face globally – as reflected by the Pandemic and the revelations at COP26, regarding the existential threats of the Climate Emergency; as we observe ‘Remembrance’, we encourage everyone’s support for a general Armistice; which would include:**

- **Supporting a Global Armistice on the ‘War on the Planet’ with specified steps towards whole-system renewable energy.**
- **Armistice for our ‘War on Drugs’; exploring transformative options; such as those successfully deployed in Portugal.**
- **An Armistice on the current violent conflict of local gang members.**
- **A declaration of an Armistice in formal political discourse, with the goal of leveraging collaborative potential, to the benefit of the whole.**

- **A community initiative to promote transforming our collective approaches to addressing community-wellbeing that reflect the spirit of Armistice with the goal of promoting whole – island collaboration.**

**The 11 Signatories, sign-off, on a personal basis: listed alphabetically; references to organizations only to assist in identification.**

**Michael Ashton: Former counsellor & current guest-house operator.**

**Carol Ashton: guest-house operator.**

**Arlene Brock: former Ombudsman of Bermuda**

**Tulani Bulford: activist & up-and-coming entrepreneur**

**Elizabeth de Jean-Saunders: former School Counsellor at Cedarbridge**

**Glenn Fubler: activist**

**Dianna Kempe: Noted former Barrister**

**Lynn Millett: former BIU Chief Shop Steward**

**Cordell Riley: Acting Chairman of CURB**

**W. Alex Scott: Former Premier**

**Sir John Swan: Former Premier**