

# FIGHTERS AGAINST WAR: WOMEN PEACE MOVEMENTS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

by Maria Elena Gerarda Russo | Pegaso International, Malta

Abstract Id: 67

Submitted: 15/10/2020

Event: PIconf2020 - Online Education without Social Distance: Challenges for Internationalisation and Culture of Peace

Topic: Social inclusion

Keywords: Pacifism, feminism, anti-militarism, associations, socialism

In Italy, the development of a critical awareness of war occurred predominantly at the onset of the First World War, while the Anglo-Saxon world had already seen the emergence of an autonomous thought of women on peace as early as the last decade of the nineteenth century. With the approach of the conflict, the efforts of Italian women against war intensified; "La difesa delle lavoratrici" - fortnightly directed by Anna Kuliscioff, who had Linda Malnati, Margherita Sarfatti, Angelica Balabanoff, Maria Bornaghi, Argentina Altobelli, Giselda Brebbia, Maria Goia and Maria Giudice as collaborators - in 1914, at the outbreak of the first conflict worldwide, made a strong appeal to its readers. The dominant slogan was "We do not want exterminating wars"; the use of arms had to be countered by the deep feeling of the humanity of women and, on the part of socialist women, the banner of peace was seen to be raised with force. Thanks to the group of women who worked in the editorial staff of the Milanese periodical directed by Kuliscioff, the anti-war movement took on the value of testimony to the female socialist idea. This paper aims to evaluate the relationship between the political movement of women and pacifist choices through the systematic analysis of the writings published in "La difesa delle lavoratrici", the most important periodical of the twentieth century dedicated to the problems of the female world, using a methodology based on written and audiovisual sources of archival research.