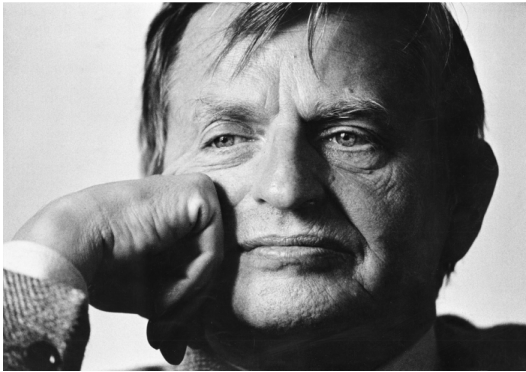


Leeds Annual Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture 2016
Caroline Lucas MP, 'War and Peace in the Modern World'
2016 marks the 30th year of the annual memorial Peace Lecture.



Olof Palme 1927 - 1986



Caroline Lucas MP

Since 1987, the Politics and Applied Global Ethics Department of Leeds Beckett University and the Leeds City Council 'Peacelink' Group, in association with the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, work together to organise the annual Leeds Olof Palme Memorial Peace Lecture.

The lecture was first established in 1987 by then MEP for Leeds, and former Leeds councillor, Michael McGowan, in memory of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, a peace campaigner and outspoken opponent of apartheid in South Africa. Olof Palme attended as a student activist a conference in Leeds University in the 1950s. These lectures have been held to remember his work for promoting peace and security in the world.

Olof Palme became prime minister of Sweden in 1969 and held the post over three terms up till his tragic death. During his time as Prime Minister he managed to carry out major constitutional reforms in Sweden. He was a widely recognised political figure and he openly criticised and opposed apartheid in South Africa, the Franco Regime in Spain, the United States' role in the Vietnam War and the crushing of the Prague Spring by the Soviet Union. He was also active in campaigning against nuclear weapons proliferation and for the needs and living standards of the global South.

On 28th February, 1986, he was shot dead as he left a cinema in Stockholm with his wife Lisbeth.

Leeds City Council is a member of the Hiroshima-led Mayors for Peace. It was a founder member and is still lead English member of the UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities. It was one of the first cities to develop a city centre peace trail. Leeds Beckett University is one of a small number of UK universities with a Peace Studies section within its Politics and Applied Global Ethics Department.

There have been a long line of esteemed speakers for this lecture, including the following:

- The wife of Olof Palme, Lisbeth Palme
- The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Tadatoshi Akiba and Iccho Itoh
- Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, John Hume MP MEP
- Former International Development Minister, Clare Short M.P.
- Former Director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Jude Kelly
- Former Director of the Council of Europe's North – South Centre, Jos Lemmers
- Former leader of the European Parliament Socialist Group, Pauline Green
- Former MEP and Chair of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Ken Coates

In recent years the following lectures have been presented:

- 2006: Professor Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford – “A War too Far? Iran, Iraq and the New American Century”
- 2007: Shakespearean actor Patrick Stewart – “Why Promote Human Rights?”
- 2008: Chair of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks and US Senator George Mitchell – “Is Peace Possible?”
- 2009: Bruce Kent, Vice President of CND – “The Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - Possibilities & Practicalities”
- 2010: Former war correspondent Victoria Brittain – “Lies, Truth and Whistleblowers in War Reporting”
- 2011: Professor Johan Galtung, Founder and Director of TRANSCEND - A Peace and Development Network for Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means – “World Interests - and what Wikileaks tells us about Diplomacy as an Institution”
- 2012: Professor Sir Richard Jolly, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Honorary Professor at Sussex University – “Security for People - the real alternative to crisis and war”
- 2013: Colin Archer, Secretary General of the International Peace Bureau – “Military Spending in a time of Austerity”
- 2014: Professor Jenny Pearce, Professor of Latin American Politics at the University of Bradford – “1945-2045: Towards a Politics for a Future Peace”
- 2015: Professor Alistair Hay from the University of Leeds – “Chemical Weapons: Just History?”

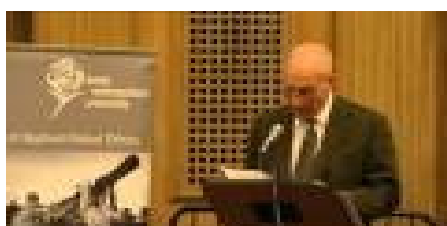
The 2016 Peace Lecture will be given by the esteemed Parliamentarian and joint leader of the Green Party, Caroline Lucas MP on the subject ‘War and Peace in the Modern World’.

Caroline Lucas was elected as a Green Party Member of the European Parliament for the South East England Region in 1999 and re-elected in 2004 and 2009. She was elected as leader of the Green Party in 2008 and was elected MP for Brighton Pavilion in 2010 and 2015. She was also named ‘Politician of the Year’ in 2007, 2009 and 2010 by readers of The Observer Newspaper.

Today we are faced with two huge problems that we have created and that threaten our very existence on Earth – climate change and nuclear war. We now have the power to destroy so much but do we have the intelligence and the initiative to save ourselves and the planet? In this lecture, Caroline Lucas will focus on current and future global threats, alongside solutions that will help build a more secure stable world for all. She will talk about the threat posed by the ecological crisis in particular and set out what she thinks Britain’s foreign policy ought to look like, including, of course, the issue of Brexit.



Michael McGowan with (left) previous Peace Lecturers Lisbeth Palme and (right) John Hulme



Patrick Stewart giving the 2007 lecture



Senator George Mitchell gives the 2008 lecture