



MEDIA RELEASE

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What if women like Jacinda Ardern had been at Versailles 100 years ago?

Canberra's **A Chorus of Women** will present an updated performance of *The People's Passion* by Glenda Cloughley at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture on Friday 28 June and Sunday 30 June.

In women's and children's voices the *Passion* sings up stories of a worldwide web of thousands of women whose inspiring actions 100 years ago were ignored by military historians and omitted from official records of important events during and after the First World War.

These women held the only international peace congress of the First World War in 1915 and proposed a creative, reconciliatory basis for permanent peace in their 1919 submissions to the Treaty of Versailles. They helped save the lives of millions of children facing starvation because the Allies continued blockading food to Germany, Austria-Hungary and newly communist Russia after the Armistice. Their legacy lives on in two of the most enduring international, non-government organisations in the world: the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Save the Children Fund.

'A Chorus of Women is telling these stories now because they are big adventures in political vision and imagination that are totally relevant to the predicaments of our time,' Glenda Cloughley said.

'These women were wise, compassionate leaders with qualities we recognise in the responses of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to the killing of 51 people in two Christchurch mosques in March this year. *The People's Passion* sings up the qualities that run through all of Ardern's speeches following that atrocity: kindness, diversity, tolerance, refuge, openness, common values, duty of care, freedom from fear of violence, the sadness of seeing the hurt and suffering of others.'

'As our children rally behind Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg in a global movement for climate change action, our stories encourage us to live harmoniously with our planet, nurturing the world for future generations.' In the finale of the *Passion*, which moves from 1919 to 2019, the Children's Chorus sing words inspired by Greta's address in April to the European Parliament:

*You need to listen to the children
We who cannot vote
You need to vote for our future
And our great great grandchildren*

A Chorus of Women will be joined by the Luminescence Children's Choir and some of Canberra's finest singers and musicians under the skilful musical direction of Johanna McBride.

For further information, including a report and reviews of our sell-out performance last November, and to purchase your ticket, visit www.chorusofwomen.org

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