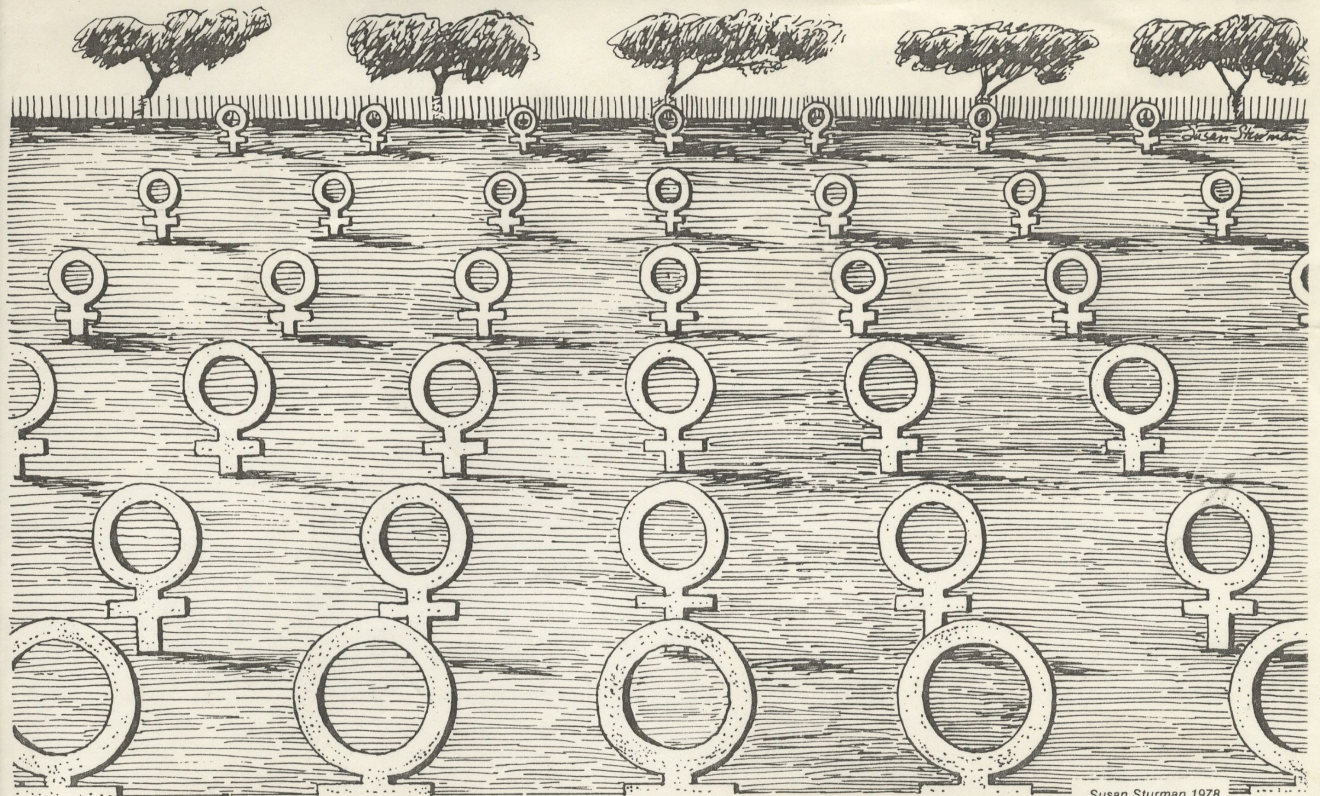


# FOR EVERY WOMAN RAPED IN EVERY WAR



Susan Sturman 1978

On this day, when we remember the agonies which war brings to the lives of ordinary people, the women of this city remember too the grief, terror, and violence which have always been part of women's experience of war. It is in remembrance of these unsung women that we each bring a flower of compassion and solidarity to this place on this day. We remember expressly that the rape of women marches like a dark shadow in the ranks of every army and lingers long in every female consciousness as an inevitable reality of women and war.

W.A.V.A.W., Toronto, 1978

WE ARE BRINGING THESE FLOWERS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL THE WOMEN WHO DIED IN ALL THE WARS THAT MEN HAVE FOUGHT.

WE REMEMBER THE NURSES WHO DIED TENDING THE WOUNDED OF BOTH SIDES.

WE REMEMBER THE WOMEN WHO WERE RAPED BY SOLDIERS OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND BY THE INVADERS, AND WHO WERE THEN REJECTED BY THEIR FATHERS AND THEIR BROTHERS AND THEIR SONS.

WE REMEMBER THE WOMEN WHO DIED OR WERE WOUNDED BECAUSE THEY LIVED IN CITIES WHERE BOMBS FELL OUT OF THE SKY.

WE REMEMBER INDIAN WOMEN WHO WERE KILLED BY EUROPEAN SETTLERS, AND SETTLER WOMEN CARRIED OFF BY INDIAN WAR PARTIES

WE REMEMBER ALL OUR SISTERS, NON-COMBATTANTS, WHOSE LIVES WERE ENDED OR FORESHORTENED OR CRIPPLED BECAUSE THEIR FATHERS AND BROTHERS WENT TO WAR AGAINST THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS OF THEIR SISTERS IN ANOTHER LAND

WE WEEP FOR THEM. WE DO NOT FORGET THEM. AND AS WE REMEMBER THEM, WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO MAKING A NEW WORLD WHERE WE AND OUR DAUGHTERS CAN LIVE FREE: A WORLD WHERE OUR GRANDDAUGHTERS AND OUR SISTERS' GRANDDAUGHTERS AND GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTERS MAY LOOK BACK IN WONDER AT SOME ARCHAIC, ALMOST FORGOTTEN TIME WHEN WOMEN DIED BECAUSE MEN WENT TO WAR.