

Stirring Songs

Many social and political movements have used song as a powerful tool to speak out against war and oppression. Song was an integral part of life and protest at Greenham Common, helping boost morale and create camaraderie.

At the Greenham Common Peace Camps, the women used music and song to create bonds, unite the group, disrupt military activities and to spread their message.

Embrace the Base:

During 'Embrace the Base' in 1982, 30,000 women held hands around the nine mile perimeter fence singing songs.



Photograph by Jenny Engledow

Many of the songs from Greenham had familiar tunes or used traditional songs or songs from popular culture as their foundation.

Do you recognise the format of this song? Can you guess how the tune goes?

*"One woman went to Greenham,
went to visit Greenham,
One woman and her Co-op bag,
went to Greenham Common"*

Peggy Seeger

Peggy is a folk singer, songwriter and activist who wrote 'Carry Greenham Home'. Along with other musicians, she sang to the march that was coming through from Wales to Greenham in September 1981.

You can hear Peggy talk about the power of song in her interview here: <https://greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk/peggy-seeger-2/>

Watch Peggy sing 'Carry Greenham Home' here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkuVT6ilr6I>

Write your own protest song:

What causes are you passionate about? Who writes protest songs today?

Can you write your own protest song?

You could:

- Explore the work of artists such as Kae Tempest to see how they use song as a form of protest.
- Use an existing tune or rhyme and change the words.
- Is there a song where the lyrics have a similar message you could adapt?



Image by Sandie Hicks

Submit your song to our archive

You could send us a digital copy of your songs or a recording of you singing your songs. Don't forget to ensure that we have the correct permission forms for any recordings, to enable us to add them to our archive.

All submissions should be sent to hannah@greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk by December 15th 2023.