**Beautiful Banners** 

Banners play an important role in any protest.

Sometimes they're funny, sometimes they tell us something about the protestors, for example what group they belong to, sometimes they tell us about the sort of future people hope we can have.

Looking at the images of banners below from Bridget Boudewijn's archive for inspiration, can you design your own protest banner? It could be a banner for Greenham Common or it could be for a cause you are passionate about.

Think about the types of symbols or pictures you could use:

## **Photographs:**

The Greenham Women were fighting for future generations and were motivated by their position as mothers.

As a form of protest, the women attached photographs of their children to the fence as a representation of the things they loved.

They also lit candles to mourn their children's future.

### **Doves:**

The dove is traditionally a symbol of peace. During one action, Greenham Women attached paper doves to the fence.

#### **Mirrors:**

One big action was 'Reflect the Base' on 11 December 1983, when 50,000 women circled the base and held up mirrors to allow the base to look back at itself and reflect on its actions. Later, the women pulled down large sections of the fencing leading to hundreds of arrests.

## **Spiders Web:**

The spiders web was used to represent fragility and resilience qualities that also represented the Greenham Women.

### Witches:

The Greenham Women were often negatively portrayed in the media as witches, with the camp being described as a 'coven', but the women embraced this idea.

## **Teddy Bears:**

Teddy bears represented the children whose safety and future the Greenham Women were fighting for.

What symbols can you see in the banners below?

What do you think they mean?

Can you spot a tree or a rainbow? Why do you think the woman who made this banner chose these symbols?

What symbols or pictures will you include on your banner?

Can you think of a catchy slogan to get your message across?

# Submit your banner or poster to our archive

Image by Bridget Boudewijn

You could sent us a digital copy of your banner or poster. Don't forget to ensure that we have the correct permission forms for any work to enable us to add them to our archive.

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































