

Takako Barker (2015)



Takako Barker is Japanese woman who has lived in the UK for over 20 years. Described as 'a lone, quiet worker for peace', at school she says that she was taught that war is wrong and she has always believed this in herself.

Working with the organisation Hope in the Heart, which has collected many of the stories of the Hibakusha (survivors of the atomic bombs), Takako brought a large exhibition from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to the UK and used it with the Hibakusha stories in various places, including the School of Oriental and African Studies.

This action led Takako to her next piece of work which has been as a lone figure standing outside the Japanese embassy for one whole day a week for many months. 'Stand with a banner and it makes people curious' she said. She has been protesting the plans of the Japanese Government to change Article 9 of the Constitution, which prevents Japan from maintaining or using any military force. She has been approached by many people over the months.

Takako used her Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award to further enhance the Hiroshima exhibition.