



# Remembrance Key Points



## Remembrance

The Royal British Legion believes that the poppy and Remembrance are, and always have been, unifiers of all people and communities across Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War, supporting and recognising the contributions of the Armed Forces from these nations in times of conflict and rebuilding society. We have remembered this contribution to the freedoms we enjoy today for over a century and will continue to do so through our work to support our Armed Forces community by ensuring that they feel that their service and sacrifice is valued and recognised by society.

We are a non-partisan and non-sectarian organisation focused on the experiences of those who serve or have served in the military, and those affected by their service, without considering the politics of conflict.

We recognise the service and sacrifice of:

- all those who have served or are serving in His Majesty's British Armed Forces, including members of the Commonwealth in the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force, from 1914 to the present day. This includes both living and deceased personnel, regardless of the length of their service.
- civilian individuals, communities, services, and organisations from Britain and the Commonwealth during times of conflict or acts of terror. We are committed to acknowledging their contributions in Remembrance, such as the support of emergency services and the Merchant Navy.
- the families of British and Commonwealth Armed Forces personnel; this includes those who have been bereaved.

## Acts of Remembrance

The Two Minute Silence is a time for the nation to honour the sacrifices of those who have served in the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces. While formally observed on Remembrance Sunday (second Sunday in November) and Armistice Day (11 November) a Two Minute Silence allows time for personal reflection and remembrance all year round, whether observed publicly or privately. While participation is voluntary, it's important to respect those who choose to pause and reflect.

Although it may be bookended by formal and/or religious ceremonies, the Act of Remembrance at its core is simple, brief, and non-religious. The organiser may assemble whatever readings, music or other elements to accompany the Act of

Remembrance so that it is relevant for the community attending and encourages and allows for wider participation in Remembrance.

The RBL has no objection to wreaths of non-red poppies or other flowers being laid at memorials or in Remembrance services alongside red poppy wreaths and the RBL respects the rights and freedoms of groups and individuals to make their own decisions on how to observe Remembrance.

It is the RBL's wish that red poppies are not included within wreaths of non-red poppies or other flowers but remain separate. This is because red poppy wreaths are inclusive of all people and communities.

## The poppy

The poppy is a universally recognised symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future since it was first worn as an act of Remembrance and to raise funds for the British Legion more than 100 years ago.

It unites us in remembering all those from the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces who have served and sacrificed; and do so today, to defend democracy and freedom.

The poppy also acknowledges the wider impact of conflict. It represents the contribution of civilian services and uniformed emergency services that contribute to national security in times of war, conflict or terrorism and acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives at such times.

## Wearing a poppy

There is no right or wrong way to wear a poppy.

The poppy can be worn throughout the year whenever you wish to show your support for the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces, past and/or present.

The red poppy has no political or religious meaning and the decision to wear it is a matter of personal choice. The RBL recognises people's desire to wear different coloured poppies or flowers or to place other symbols alongside the poppy. However, the red poppy is inclusive of all people from all backgrounds.

The red RBL poppy also raises funds to support veterans from the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces and their families at times of need. There is no contradiction in wearing other emblems alongside the red poppy and we respect the rights of any individual to express their views within the law.