

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH & SAFE FOOD CAMPAIGN

A collaborative project of the Earth Democracy Issue Committee and the Corporations v. Democracy Issue Committee of US WILPF.

This is a collaborative four-part, year-long (December 2014 – December 2015) joint project between two standing issue committees of WILPF-US.

Our Mission is twofold:

1. Apply the [Earth Democracy Issue Committee's](#) concept of **Guardianship For Future Generations** to the **Human Right to Health & Safe Food** to protect people and food from toxic herbicides such as glyphosate and other even more dangerous chemicals used on a massive scale by our industrialized agriculture system.
2. Interpret through the lens of the [Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee](#) the deliberate acts of agro-chemical corporations and chemical distributors to influence the US Department of Agriculture to approve more GMO herbicide-resistant seed lines and the Environmental Protection Agency to approve more unsafe chemicals to be used on crops that harm farmworkers, neighboring communities, and contaminate our food. We will offer a perspective that lies within the larger context of our society's failure to curb **Corporate Abuse of Power** and to affirm that corporations have no right to put profits ahead of people, health, safe food and the environment or to use their "ill-gotten" and illegitimate "corporate personhood" rights to exert undue influence on agricultural and political processes.

Together we assert that corporations have no right to harm the health of natural persons and that, as human beings, we have the right to safe food, grown and distributed with sustainable agricultural methods, free from toxic chemicals or at the very least labeled so that citizens can choose to purchase organic foods.

To date, international and national campaigns on the Human Right to Water have focused on safe, affordable and sufficient water for personal and household use, and to adequate sanitation as an issue of health in regard to water quality and safety.

It is time to focus on the Human Right to Health, not just the right to healthcare services, without discrimination, but the absolute right that our bodies not be exposed to harmful chemicals that impact public health and contaminate air, land, water and food.

This campaign will carry out the mandate of the formal [Resolution](#) passed unanimously at WILPF-US's July 2014 National Triennial Congress in Detroit, Michigan and will have both educational and advocacy elements for local, national and international organizing and action.

We Will ADVOCATE for:

Food production systems and lawn/gardening care methods that do not harm public health, contaminate our food and the environment, or impact the climate.

Stronger regulation or outright ban of glyphosate in farming operations and municipal and home lawn/gardening care, emphasizing that even more toxic products must not replace glyphosate.

Sustainable farming methods that protect the long term health and viability of our soil and safety of our food crops, noting the failure of glyphosate-based herbicides such as Roundup and ENLIST DUO to safely control weeds and their role in developing “super weeds.”

The right of organic farmers not to have their crops threatened by the use of toxic chemicals sprayed or applied nearby their fields and drift onto their fields, and not to be intimidated to use GMO seeds.

Our Campaign objectives are to dynamically EDUCATE about the:

Threat to human health and food safety of corporate agricultural practices that heavily rely on massive amounts of toxic herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and terminator GMO seeds as well as unsustainable use of fossil fuels to apply these chemicals.

Human Right to Health and the persistent and deliberate development and distribution of agro-chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) by Monsanto, Dow Chemical and other corporations that have been proven to harm human health and which put corporate profits ahead of the Common Good and the health of people around the world.

New scientific findings that link glyphosate, an ingredient in Monsanto’s Roundup herbicide and the new even more toxic herbicide cocktail ENLIST DUO, which combines glyphosate with 2-4-D, an active ingredient in Agent Orange, the Vietnam-era defoliant notoriously damaging to human health, with incidents of traumatic birth defects, autism, kidney disease, leukemia and other cancers, dementia, Parkinson’s disease and more. **A Tool Kit and Resources** will be posted on our website, downloadable or available for ordering printed materials for branches and members to use in their communities.

Insidious use of corporate wealth, gained from the profits of selling and marketing these death-dealing chemicals, to influence federal and state policy to narrow access by the public to safe, organic food crops and processed foods.

Deliberate use of great corporate profits to unfairly influence the legislative and democratic process in the United States and other nations.

Links to corrupt trade and foreign aid policies by showing how the TPP, TAFTA and TISA will expand corporate agriculture, GMOs and chemical use, while threatening a true free market and the Human Right To Health and Safe Foods.

Indefensible policy of large agro-chemical corporations to influence foreign policies and economies by linking the sale and distribution of their products to international trade agreements, international foreign aid packages, the support of foreign governments which are often not democratic, and the distribution of World Bank and World Monetary Fund loans.

Corruption in the way big ag corporations’ and petro-chemical corporations’ contributions to candidates and campaigns influence Congressional legislation, ballot initiatives, public opinion, as well as regulatory agency policy.

Revolving door from elected office to lobbyist for big Ag and chemical corporations, and from board rooms of big Ag and chemical corporations to government office.

Failed regulatory oversight (USDA and EPA) of toxic chemicals by government agencies charged with protecting the environment, farmers and the public, but corrupted by big money from big Ag. The USDA just approved Dow Chemical's new "ENLIST DUO"-ready soy and corn seeds.

Use of corporate funding for US universities, laboratories and scientists to discourage independent research and testing in the US that could link these seeds and chemicals conclusively to health impacts which are being linked in scientific studies done elsewhere in the world.

The false solution of the food and climate crisis proposed by the UN-initiated Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, dominated by the very companies and institutions that profit from and are driving us toward the "GMO," chemical and fertilizer-dependent, soil water and diversity destroying, industrial mono-cultural model". – Rachel Smolker, Truthout, Sept. 29, 2014.

Our Method will be to:

Actively encourage WILPF branches and at-large members across America to participate in this campaign, as well as a program being launched by the Organic Consumers Association and Mothers Across America to collect and test urine samples to demonstrate conclusively the broad use and accumulation/absorption of glyphosate products, and serious health impacts. Surveys have already found glyphosate present in breast milk of nursing mothers.

Make available to our branches and at-large members educational materials, handouts, strategies and a tool kit for educating themselves and their communities about the disastrous implications on Human Health and Food Safety that these toxic chemicals, over-reaching corporate power to corrupt democracy, and the failure of corrupted government regulatory agencies to protect the people of America and the world. **A Tool Kit and Resources** will be posted on our website, downloadable or available for ordering printed materials for branches and members to use in their communities.

And to Encourage WILPF members to Research what chemicals are used as herbicides in their communities, what regulations govern their use, and what possibilities there are to substitute more organic, less-harmful methods.

Write letters to and utilize the media and editors to raise alarms about this serious health threat.

Write letters to the USDA, the EPA, Monsanto, Dow, and distributors of glyphosate products asking them to protect the public from these toxic chemicals.

Call State Legislators and Members of Congress, and to meet with them about this serious health threat.

Meet with chemical distributors, farmers and industrial users of these products to express their concerns about the health impact of these chemicals on humans, our soil, biological diversity and the environment.

Submit a resolution to the WILPF International Congress at The Hague in 2015, highlighting the impact of these chemicals, the false solution to food security of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture and the human right to health, especially through the lens of women and children.

Collaborate with International Sections on this campaign to raise awareness, gather evidence, and create an international movement for the Human Right to Health and Safe Food.

Partners in this Campaign

We intend to work collaboratively with national and grass roots organizations that have common goals about human health and food safety including but not limited to: Organic Consumers Association, Mothers Across America, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Pesticide Action Network, Food Democracy, and others, including organizations of farmworkers, public health workers, organic food advocates, women's health advocates, environmental and pesticide action groups, and the International Food Sovereignty Prize, a direct counterpoint to the corporate-funded and coopted World Food Prize.

Goal of the Campaign

We will attempt to gain participation and collaboration of half of our branches and many of our At-Large Members to organize around this issue, plan actions and advocate for change in their communities and at the national level.

We will judge our success by:

- 1) **the number of WILPF branches and cities** engaged and committed to some portion of this campaign during the year,
- 2) **the number and quality of strategic alliances** we can forge with grassroots and National organizations, and
- 3) by our success achieve **stronger regulation or outright ban of glyphosate** in farming operations and municipal and home lawn/gardening, emphasizing that even more toxic products must not replace glyphosate.

Reporting Results

Measureable results will be reported regularly through checking in with branches and at-large members in email, E-News articles, articles in Peace & Freedom Magazine and a mapping tool that will allow us to demonstrate both the numbers of branches involved, the nature of their involvement and linked to a calendar of upcoming events. A final report will also be filed with the WILPF-US Program Committee at the end of the Campaign period.