

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

International Programme 2018-2021

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[based on members consultations, calls, ExCom review, survey]

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ

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WILPF Today

WILPF's story began in 1915, when women came together to stop the World War I and today WILPF carries forward the 103-year long legacy of the oldest women's global peace organisation.

The members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom are united in our determination, aims and goals, to study, make known the causes of war and to abolish the legitimization of war. Toward this purpose, we unite our world efforts by working to build the just foundations on which a durable global peace, a just economy and social justice is achieved for all (WILPF Constitution 2018).

Around the world, systems of injustice, inequality, racism, militarism, violence and patriarchy oppose peoples. Violence kills, displaces and negatively impacts the lives of women, men, girls and boys. Militarisation is deforming our societies, stifling civil liberties and wrecking the environment. The economy of war and economic warfare puts profits

over people and over the planet. The institutions including the United Nations that our foremothers envisaged would foster peace, have been marginalised or become complicit.

Recalling Aims and Principles

WILPF's aims and principles are set out in WILPF Manifesto (2015) and WILPF Constitution (2018).

The aims and principles of WILPF are:

(a) To bring together women of different political beliefs and philosophies who are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and legitimization of war.

(b) Taking an integrated approach toward world peace we work for:

- i. Total and universal disarmament;
- ii. The abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflict and their substitution in every case of negotiation and conciliation;
- iii. The strengthening of the United Nations system and the General Assembly decision making process in full respect of its Charter;
- iv. The continuous development and implementation of international law;
- v. Women's political, social and economic empowerment to achieve gender equality and justice for all;
- vi. Cooperation among all people; and
- vii. Environmentally sustainable societies.

What We Do Together: International Programme

The International Programme is a forward-looking plan for WILPF for the three-year period 2018-2021. This International Programme is implemented by the organs of WILPF: the International Congress (IC), the International Board (IB), National Sections (NS) and the International Secretariat (IS). The International Programme is adopted by IC.

Given the breadth of work undertaken across WILPF, this is the framework for planning collective work.

Aim: To bring together women who are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and legitimization of war and take an integrated approach toward world peace

What we do 2018-2021:

WILPF works locally and globally to bring women together to abolish causes of war in WILPF; challenge militarism and stigmatise violence; Promote Feminist Peace and

Strengthen movements for peace, Improve Multilateral Actions, Cooperation among People and Environment Sustainability

Areas of Work 2018-2021:

- 1. Bring Women Together to Abolish Causes of War**
- 2. Challenge Militarism and Stigmatise Violence**
- 3. Promote Feminist Peace**
- 4. Strengthen Movements for Peace, Improve Multilateral Actions, Cooperation among People and Environmental Sustainability**

Integrated Approach:

- All of our work is centred on linking the local and global as an international membership organisation. This means starting with the realities on the ground and in communities to learn what is needed and connecting these understanding to the global needs.
- Applies a rigorous approach to address the interlinkages between the causes of war.

Areas of Work 2018-2021:

1. Bring Women Together to Abolish Causes of War

Recognising that locally-led work is central to creating peace, local communities know and understand our own complex and rapidly changing contexts; our voices must be at the forefront of actions that impact our lives. Since the causes and consequences of war manifest both locally and globally, WILPF connects the local to global and applies a rigorous integrated approach to address the interlinked causes of war.

WILPF will grow a diverse and inclusive organisation in the following ways:

- 1.1. Support local women-led conflict prevention work and create spaces to bring women together to mobilise collective power at local and global level
- 1.2. Strengthen all National Sections ability to plan, fund, implement and report on their work to bring women together to abolish causes
- 1.3. Increase National Sections from 33 sections (2018) to 45 active sections in 2021
- 1.4. National Sections to diversify membership by recruiting new, diverse and young members, offering opportunities for engagement and leadership
- 1.5. Promote membership, offer engagement opportunities for members and increase space for dialogue and political debates among members

- 1.6. Enhance sister-to-sister coordination and collaboration between National Sections and regionally
- 1.7. Enhance global and collective actions led by WILPF
- 1.8. Review, document, learn and adapt through the implementation of this International Programme and ensure annual review by the International Board
- 1.9. WILPF International Secretariat to implement strategy, budget, work, programmes and initiatives and report to IB. WILPF programmes include: Disarmament; Women, Peace and Security; Human Rights; and Crisis Response
- 1.10. Ensure WILPF including National Sections and IS, assess, manage and takes actions to minimise risks including personal security, wellbeing and cyber security.
- 1.11. Develop and use One WILPF brand, image and communications goals
- 1.12. Strengthen the accountability and transparency of the WILPF International Secretariat and International Board

2. Challenge Militarism and Stigmatise Violence

WILPF works for total and universal disarmament, advocates for the prevention of war and challenges militarism in the following ways:

- 2.1. Campaigns for total and universal disarmament locally and globally in National Sections and IS including on small arms, explosive weapons, nuclear weapons, autonomous weapons and armed drones.
- 2.2. Stigmatise war, militarism and violence locally and globally through actions in National Sections and IS that challenge militarism in its connections to humanitarian impacts, patriarchy, racism, capitalism, and environmental degradation.
- 2.3. Advocacy for the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to push for the ratification by over 50 States to ensure the Treaty enters into force by 2020
- 2.4. Challenge military alliances such as NATO
- 2.5. Advocate for the reduction of military spending and reallocation of budgets to social justice
- 2.6. Study and make known the impact of war, violence and the arms trade including holding accountable exporting states and actors

3. Promote Feminist Peace

Recognising that societies with more equality between men and women tend to be more peaceful, WILPF promotes feminist peace. Feminist Peace is a durable global peace, a just economy and social justice is achieved for all. It addresses power and ensures women's political, social and economic empowerment to achieve gender equality and justice for all.

WILPF advocates for feminist peace in the following ways:

- 3.1. Advocate and organise for women's political, social and economic empowerment to achieve gender equality and justice for all
- 3.2. Promote women's meaningful participation in all social, political and economic spheres particularly related to peace and conflict resolution.
- 3.3. Advocate for holistic implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at local, national, regional and international levels
- 3.4. Monitor and participate in WPS National Action Plans and inputs to the development of other policies and practices on militarism, conflict, sustainable development and security
- 3.5. Promote and advocate for human security as an alternative approach to militarism and conflict
- 3.6. Influence allies, the public, and people in positions of power on feminist peace, demilitarism and prioritisation of social wellbeing, and systems for equality and freedom
- 3.7. Respond to emerging conflicts or situation of concern in a timely manner with relevant actions
- 3.8. Undertake collaborative research to provide rigorous feminist analysis, cases studies and data, particularly conflict affected context
- 3.9. Challenge mainstream conflict responses/peacebuilding with a feminist political economy approach that contributes to making known the interlinkages between economic causes and consequences of conflict, militarism, human rights, ecology/ environment, and WPS issues.

4. Strengthen Movements for Peace and Improve Multilateral Actions, Cooperation among People and Environmental Sustainability

To achieve lasting peace, it is necessary to connect people, communities and movements beyond WILPF and work with institutions for policy change including the United Nations.

Recognising that movements are a consistent and important driver of policy change to combat violence, WILPF will engage in solidarity and movement building in the following ways:

- 4.1. Participate in other social movements, coalitions and partnerships with organisations, campaigns, networks and communities, bringing WILPF's active and informed voices of feminism, peace, and demilitarism
- 4.2. Support nonviolent resistance to end occupation by hostile powers and all other forms of oppression
- 4.3. Undertaking campaigns, peaceful demonstrations, raising awareness and other nonviolent actions in National Sections
- 4.4. Monitor, advocate and participate in decision-making and multilateral and United Nations forums.

- 4.5. Work for disarmament, human rights and gender equality including submission and participation in the human rights mechanism such as CEDAW, UPR and others as relevant.
- 4.6. Raise public and political awareness about the interconnections between war, climate change and the imminent necessity to protect the environment including right to water, land and food.
- 4.7. Actively promote an integrated approach that connects human rights, disarmament and gender towards feminist peace.