



## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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Hello WILPF Sisters,

**This is the eighth year that WILPF is co-sponsoring Keep Space for Peace week (KS4P)** with Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space <http://www.space4peace.org>. Reaching Critical Will <http://reachingcriticalwill.org> is named as WILPF co-sponsor, but all WILPF members are of course involved.

**October 6 through 13 are the 2012 dates and we urge all Branches and members to participate in some way.** The emphasis is on satellite controlled warfare and communications, both dominated by our own country.

**In the past we have received reports from as many as 21 US Branches.**

**This year we must aim for total participation for the sake of our own citizens, our country and the world.** We must do so both as part of a women's international organization seeking to end wars as a means for settling disputes, and as citizens of the most dangerously militarized society in earth's history.

**Within the past 22 years the US military has revolutionized warfare, emphasizing space militarization** and US full spectrum dominance. If you have never read it, download the Space Command's *Vision 2020* from Federation of American Scientists at <http://www.fas.org/spp/military/docops/usspac/visbook.pdf>. It was first published in 1997. Here, in simple language an eighth grader could read, is the master plan for the continuing and current Pentagon space militarization program.

**By 2012 almost every Pentagon weapon fired is controlled directly or indirectly by satellite**, and these satellites increasingly support robotic warfare. Drones controlled by "chair pilots" with "joy sticks," often thousands of miles away from their targets, can already spy on almost anyone and then select and destroy their human prey. Tiny drones can hover near windows to record and report conversations. Trucks are already transporting weapons with no humans inside, and plans for armored tanks to invade villages and take the place of "army boots on the ground" are far along. We are even told of current pressure for drones to carry nuclear warheads, and for autonomous drones that can seek, define and destroy human beings. Once launched there can be no human intervention or judgment involved. We hope that the very insanity of this space program will help us topple it.

**What greater threat is there to the lives and human rights of women and their children** – and, indeed, also to lives and rights of the men they love most -- than these plans for Pentagon control of our planet and solar system? To those of us who love our country and our people, and appreciate past contributions to democracy, universal human rights, peace and freedom, these military goals do not appear benevolent. They have been evolved by misguided men seeking control of earth's resources -- from oil to uranium and cheap labor -- for their own profit.

**Of course we act not just to protest but also to educate and press for positive alternatives.** Every year in the General Assembly the 193 member nations vote almost unanimously for new and stronger treaties that could Prevent an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) and ban stationing of any weapons there. Only the United States and Israel have consistently abstained during votes on PAROS and by the end of the GW Bush regime the US was the only nation which ever actually voted NO. In the most recent vote last autumn, under Obama, the US and Israel again abstained. We and the Israelis desperately need these new treaties just as we need one on Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

**Every year since 2006 DISARM has reported WILPF events to the United Nations agencies in Vienna overseeing the Outer Space treaties.** Keep Space for Peace Week is always scheduled at roughly the same time as **United Nations World Space Week** <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org> . That week begins on October 4, the anniversary of the Sputnik launch in 1957, and ends on October 10, the anniversary of the 1967 Treaty on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space. We would like to support that week wholeheartedly as we do the Human Rights Treaties on Human Rights day.

**However, we became concerned that war profiteers like Lockheed Martin, Alliant and United Technologies hi-jacked the UN week soon after it was established in 1999.** Aerospace contractors funded the **World Space Week Association** <http://www.worldspaceweek.org> , an NGO operated out of NASA. WSWA then used the week to excite children about the possibilities of space exploration using a curriculum based on science fiction as well as science. Each year until 2010 WSWA edited and issued a slick UN publication featuring these class events. However we knew that, in the United States at least, most of the future jobs in which those children could someday be employed would be with these same military corporations.

**US WILPF DISARM submitted all of the WILPF and GN reports** on adult activities with photos under headings that emphasized the need for space law and Keeping Space for Peace. In this, at least, we were successful. Although there are now US University courses taught in military sponsored curricula on how to counter *Space Lawfare*, WSWA and the UN space week are reorganized to welcome KS4P reports from international NGOs like WILPF as well as from nation states.

**If you want to join in the 2012 reporting effort contact me, Carol Urner at [carol.disarm@gmail.com](mailto:carol.disarm@gmail.com).** I belong to both Portland Oregon and Los Angeles Branches. Ellen Thomas and I are current co-chairs of the U.S. WILPF DISARM-End Wars National Issue Committee. MacGregor Eddy of Monterey Branch and I both serve on the International Advisory Board of Global Network.

**Regina Hagen of German WILPF and I have worked together to promote the PAROS** working group supported by Reaching Critical Will. The web pages are currently being updated but should be available again soon. Information is available at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/5448-outer-space>.

**The Conference on Disarmament** <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/cd>, the official disarmament treaty negotiating body in Geneva, hasn't been able to negotiate any disarmament treaty since 1996 because the nuclear weapon states won't allow negotiations on nuclear disarmament, the US won't allow negotiations on space issues, and Pakistan won't allow negotiations on fissile materials. A few countries, led by Austria, Mexico and Norway are seeking a way out of this impasse. In the meantime, on space issues, a group of government experts at the UN has started examining other ways forward to ensure security in space for all.

**Again, contact [carol.disarm@gmail.com](mailto:carol.disarm@gmail.com)** if you have questions or want to become involved in WILPF's continuing work to demilitarize space and keep it for the peace and security of all humankind. As last year's Global Network poster declared, "Even in the heavens: War is Hell."

In hope and peace,

Carol Reilley Urner  
Co-chair of Disarm-End Wars Issue Committee  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom