



## TREATY ACTIONS for WILPF US

In early Spring 2019 a Solidarity Action proposed by members on the ONE WILPF planning calls was scheduled to be held during the month of October 2019 which focused on the historic importance and diplomatic success of Treaties and international collaboration. A tool kit was prepared that included many resources for planning the actions. This guide is part of that Toolkit.

Although these actions were planned for October 2019, members might choose to mount these actions at any time, as long as the talking points and handout information is still relevant.

## GUIDE FOR ACTIONS

### 1- TEACH-IN --

- Invite a speaker(s) who are experts on diplomacy and international law to talk about the value of Treaties and their place in the US diplomatic toolkit. Or use members who have read the research paper prepared for this effort to speak about the importance of Treaties in general and the 4 Treaties we've forefronted specifically.
- Welcome attendees with a short description of who WILPF is and our historic role in promoting international peace and diplomacy, our work to stop war, to connect human rights and economic justice to the ROOTS of war, and our ground-breaking work that helped establish first the League of Nations, then the United Nations where we still retain 'consultative status'. Explain that we have branches across the US and a few sentences about YOUR local branch's history and current goals.
- Have forms to hand out for anyone interested in Joining WILPF and/or your branch.
- Note that our most recent diplomatic success was the 2017 efforts around WOMEN BAN THE BOMB actions all over the world and the work we did as part of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on a Treaty that over 127 nations signed and for which ICAN (and WILPF as part of the ICAN coalition) won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Use our 4 TREATIES THAT MATTER handout and direct attention to it. Use the TREATIES Banner featured prominently.
- Use the TALKING POINTS to prepare for your presentation and anticipate questions.
- Focus on the actionable nature of those 4 treaties. Explain each one, then give the reasons for the WILPF position on these 4 treaties. (see handout)

- Anticipate and answer questions. Use the research paper for background info and the TALKING POINTS. Direct folks to our website for more information.
- USE VISUAL CUES -- Hang up large posters with our website address, the TALKING POINTS for each of the 4 featured treaties, or project them on to a wall. Have the name and address for each of your Congressional representatives posted as well.
- Hand out stationery or postcards with WILPF's logo, name and website printed on them.
- After discussing each Treaty featured in the HANDOUT, and taking questions from the audience, give folks time to use the talking points to write their letters/notes. One for each of the treaties.
- If your branch is particularly interested in another Treaty that the US has joined or refused to join, feel free to add that to the subjects you cover.
- Consider inviting a local school or church choir to sing a peace song or a local spoken word artist to perform, a local actor to read a poem or famous speech about peace, or invite a graphic or graffiti artist to do a quick painting about peace at your action.
- Use any of the following FOLLOW UP actions to demonstrate commitment and plan for more impact.

A - At your event/action announce a date for a LOBBYING VISIT to your member of Congress, with a location to meet up an hour before the appointment you've made, in order to review what will be said, who will say it, what the direct ASK will be, and how you will follow up to continue to remind the Congressional staffers about your interest in this matter.

B - Arrange for one of your members or the expert speaker you've engaged for your action/event to appear on a local public access television or community radio program. Use the Talking Points and Handout to make your points.

C - At your event encourage attendees to SIGN IN and then use their email or phone numbers to invite them to the Lobbying Visit you plan (see A) and your next Branch meeting and/or scheduled action/event.

## **2 - DEMONSTRATION/PROTEST**

- If your community regularly holds a peace vigil, ask the organizers to feature the TREATIES theme for one or more vigils during October. If there is not one held regularly, contact local allies and plan a DEMONSTRATION/VIGIL during October.
- Consider inviting the local ROTARY CLUB to stand with you. They are all about international cooperation. And also the local United Nations Association members.
- Use the TREATY BANNER to draw attention. Distribute the 4 Treaties HANDOUT.

- If possible use this Demonstration/Protest/Vigil to invite people to the TEACH-IN you plan (see above). Time it about a week before the Teach-In to alert people in time to attend.
- Invite your Mayor to speak if he or she is a member of Mayors for Peace.
- Invite other speakers to address the public on the need for International cooperation.
- Consider inviting a local school or church choir or the Girl Scouts to sing a peace song or a local spoken word artist to perform, a local actor to read a poem or famous speech about peace, or invite a graphic or graffiti artist to do a quick painting about peace at your action.
- Consider repeating your demonstration/vigil outside the office of your member of Congress, perhaps as an add-on to your Lobbying Visit (see above).

### **3 - COMMUNITY FORUM**

Plan a local event with a PANEL DISCUSSION about the United States' shift from traditional diplomacy and time-honored international collaboration to a go-it-alone form of bullying that neglects to acknowledge the interdependence of all nations in keeping peace, disarming hostilities and planning for global solutions to issues that threaten the planet.

- Invite speakers for the panel with a knowledge of foreign policy, diplomacy, international law and current events... tap local universities, United Nations Associations (UNA), former diplomatic staff, former members of Congress, and experts on the environment and need for international collaboration on climate solutions. Consider inviting one of your own members who has an understanding of these issues to be on the panel.
- Invite a local 'celebrity' to moderate the panel discussion and introduce the speakers... a local news anchor, a local Mayor, a recognizable university expert or a high profile member of the peace community or UNA.
- Invite the local community access television to record and cover the event.
- Develop questions from the TALKING POINTS provided and distribute them among your branch members to raise questions that help focus the conversation.
- Welcome attendees with a short description of who WILPF is and our historic role in promoting international peace and diplomacy, our work to stop war, to connect human rights and economic justice to the ROOTS of war, and our ground-breaking work that helped establish first the League of Nations, then the United Nations where we still retain 'consultative status'. Explain that we have branches across the US and a few sentences about YOUR local branch's history and current goals.
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#### **4 - POSTCARDS & PIZZA (or other refreshment) “SUPPORT DIPLOMACY NOT BULLYING”**

Invite the public to attend an Engagement Action in which they are asked to write to their Congress members to advocate for a foreign policy that emphasizes interconnection and collaborative solutions.

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