

Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom  
International Programme  
2018-2021

FOR ADOPTION BY WILPF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
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**Writer:** WILPF members

**Editor:** Maria Butler and Joy Onyesoh

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## A. Introduction

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

WILPF envisions a transformative and permanent global peace where economic, social, cultural, political, racial, environmental, and gender justice is achieved for all.

As WILPF, we are united in our determination to study and make known the causes of war, and work to abolish the legitimisation and practices of war.

Today, systems of injustice, inequality, racism, militarism and patriarchy fuel insecurity. Violence kills, displaces and negatively impacts all of humanity. Militarisation is deforming our societies, violating rights, irreversibly damaging our environment and devastating public health. The economy of war and economic warfare puts profits over people and over the planet. Violence is gendered in different and complex ways, which continue to be unaddressed. As stated in the WILPF Manifesto: "Male dominance is tightly intersected with the class inequalities of capitalism and the racist domination of some nations and ethnic groups by others. Together they perpetuate war" (WILPF Manifesto 2015).

In the face of these serious threats and obstacles that are local and global, women continue to organise, to analyse, to advocate, and to mobilise for peace and freedom. Our work is led by women and remains inclusive of all genders and identities.

## B. International Programme

The International Programme is a forward-looking plan for WILPF for the three-year period 2018-2021. It embodies the work undertaken by WILPF locally and globally, and guides the organs of WILPF: the International Congress, the International Board, National Sections and the International Secretariat.

In order to succeed:

- The International Congress agrees and adopts the International Programme.
- The National Sections implement the International Programme locally and nationally, ensuring the Sections' ability to plan, fund and report on their work to the International Board and Congress.
- The International Secretariat, including all global programmes and initiatives, implements the International Programme, and reports to the International Board and Congress.
- The International Board annually reviews, documents and learns from the implementation, and where needed adapts the International Programme.

## C. Calling for Change: Peace is Possible

WILPF urges people everywhere to understand, take action and exercise their own power to build the foundations for peace and freedom. Changes in public opinion, the narratives on violence and public actions are critical.

WILPF calls on people to join movements committed to ending violence in all its forms. WILPF calls on people, particularly women committed to our aims and principles, to join us and become members of WILPF.

WILPF calls on all governments, the United Nations, non-state actors and civil society to stop violence and work to abolish the causes of war. This means making fundamental changes to the structures of power, which predispose violence as a means of conflict resolution. This means addressing, inter alia, neoliberal ideology, militarism, and fundamentalism. This means making concrete changes to current practices, policies, laws, norms, programmes and systems to advance permanent peace with justice, equality and demilitarised security for all.

## D. WILPF Approach 2018-2021

### **Practice and Theory of Change:**

By mobilising women to abolish the causes of war and working to challenge militarism, advocate gender justice, rights and peace, and promote just economic and social systems, we will advance towards permanent peace.

Permanent peace from a feminist perspective or “feminist peace” is permanent peace with justice, equality and demilitarised security for all. It requires abolishing the root causes of war.

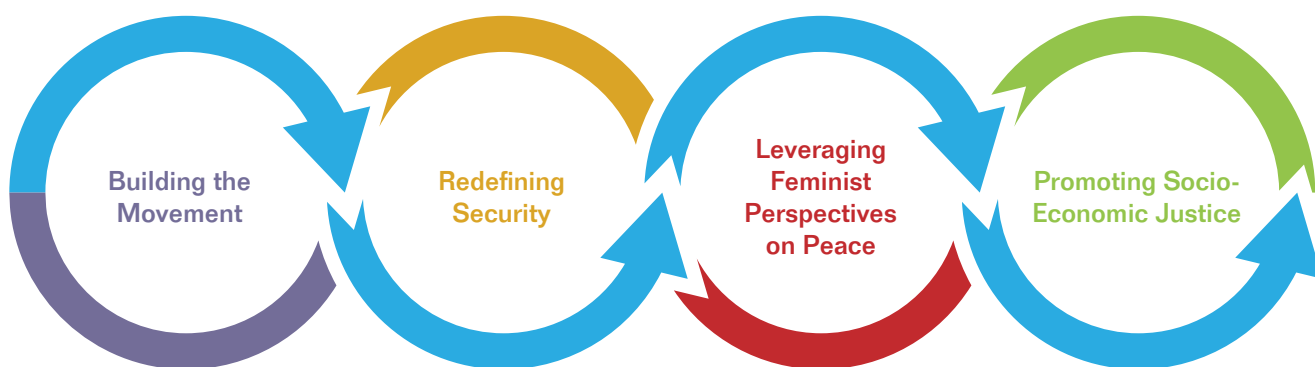
Building the movement for feminist peace is critical for taking power back to influence opinions and decision-making. How WILPF supports movement building is outlined under Work Area: “Building the Movement”.

Advancing feminist peace requires making known and working to abolish the root causes of violence, systems of oppression and their interconnection, including militarisation, patriarchy, and neoliberalism. How WILPF addresses the causes of violence is outlined under Work Areas: “Redefining Security”, “Leveraging Feminist Perspectives on Peace” and “Promoting Socio-Economic Justice”.

## E. Work Areas 2018-2021

Through a consultative process, WILPF members identified four main areas of work. These areas are interconnected.

The Work Areas 2018-2021 are:



### 1. Building the Movement

WILPF brings women and people of all genders and identities together to end war, prevent armed conflict and violence and to abolish the causes of war. Mobilising collective power of movements who can act in solidarity is essential in creating change around the world.

#### Actions include:

- 1.1. Support women-led peace, conflict prevention work and cooperation efforts between communities and people through actions including peaceful campaigns, demonstrations and awareness-raising for peace and to address the causes of war.
- 1.2. Respond to emerging armed conflicts or situations of concern in a timely manner with relevant actions, including through the United Nations, and actions in solidarity with women in situations of concern and in support of their engagement with multilateral fora.
- 1.3. Create spaces to bring women together to mobilise and strengthen collective power at the local and global levels.
- 1.4. Act in solidarity with people engaged in nonviolent struggle and bring WILPF's active and informed feminist voices of peace and demilitarisation to other social movements, alliances, coalitions, partnerships, campaigns, networks and communities working against authoritarianism, occupation, violence, injustice, and human rights abuses.

- 1.5. Maintain and grow WILPF as a safe, diverse and inclusive organisation to bring women together through membership, hereunder:
  - Promote and diversify membership and engagement opportunities for all members.
  - Increase the number of National Sections and enhance Section-to-Section coordination and collaboration.
  - Foster safe spaces for dialogue and debate between members and with WILPF International Secretariat.
  - Strengthen the WILPF collective identity.
  - Amplify local activism and ensure connection between local to global levels.



## 2. Redefining Security

WILPF challenges militarism and securitisation of society, stigmatises war and campaigns to stop violence.

### Actions include:

- 2.1. Campaign and advocate for universal disarmament locally and globally.
- 2.2. Expose and stigmatise systems of war, militarisation and violence and promote alternatives to militarism.
- 2.3. Advocate for the ratification and implementation of disarmament instruments, including the ratification of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to ensure it enters into force by 2020.
- 2.4. Conduct information campaigns and advocate against networks of foreign military bases and military alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).
- 2.5. Advocate for the redefining of security from a feminist perspective, opposing the use of violence, militarisation and toxic/militarised masculinities.
- 2.6. Demand that governments reduce military spending and reallocate budgets to rights and needs of people.
- 2.7. Study and make known how the production, testing and trade in arms impacts gender relations, equality, environment and conflict.
- 2.8. Hold producers, exporters, importers and users of weapons accountable, including through advocacy to ensure States' compliance with their extraterritorial human rights obligations.
- 2.9. Work to address the impacts and interconnections between militarism, war and climate change, and the imminent necessity to protect the environment.



### 3. Leveraging Feminist Perspectives on Peace

WILPF addresses gender inequalities and promotes justice and human rights for all as prerequisites for peace and conflict prevention locally and globally.

#### Actions include:

- 3.1. Actively participate in and advocate for concrete changes and implementation of practices, policies, laws, norms, programmes and systems to advance gender justice, rights and peace.
- 3.2. Advocate and monitor the holistic implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at local, national, regional and international levels, with a focus on conflict prevention and promotion of local women's participation and against the co-option, militarisation or narrowing of WPS.
- 3.3. Advocate and hold States accountable for the implementation of international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- 3.4. Ensure the realities of conflict and the arms trade from a gender perspective are brought to the attention of decision-makers through facilitating access and amplifying the voices of women in the multilateral system, including through access to the UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Human Rights Council.
- 3.5. Advocate for gender analysis, women's human rights and full participation in all the dimensions and phases of peace processes.
- 3.6. Raise awareness and collaborate with partners to transform violent masculinities, unequal power relations and patriarchal systems.
- 3.7. Educate allies, the public and people in positions of power on the feminist approach to peace, demilitarisation, equality, human rights and sustainability and redefinition of security.
- 3.8. Undertake research to provide collaborative and rigorous feminist analysis, case studies and data, particularly in conflict-affected contexts.



### 4. Promoting Socio-Economic Justice

WILPF works for the establishment of a just economic and social order founded on the principles of realising the rights and needs of all people and not the profit and privilege of the few. Lasting peace requires structural transformation, including just economic systems and protection of people and planet.

#### Actions include:

- 4.1. Make known from a feminist peace perspective the causes and consequences of current unjust economic and environmental policies and practices.

- 4.2. Raise awareness, educate and collaborate with partners to bring a feminist peace analysis into advocacy and activities on economic justice and environmental sustainability.
- 4.3. Raise public and political awareness about the interconnections between climate change and war and the imminent necessity to protect the environment.
- 4.4. Advocate for alternatives to the military-industrial complex and promote just and inclusive economic systems.
- 4.5. Use feminist political economy analysis as a tool for better understanding power inequalities as root causes of war and the interconnections between economic and political processes.
- 4.6. Monitor and advocate for women's rights, women's participation and gender analysis in economic, social and environmental processes both at national and international levels, including through advocacy on States' extraterritorial human rights obligations with regard to regulating transnational corporations and financial institutions.

## F. Methods of Work

WILPF uses many methods of work locally and globally. Methods of work include:

### **Analysis**

WILPF uses different analytical approaches as a tool for better understanding and studying the causes of war, and their interconnections (e.g. feminist intersectional analysis and feminist political economic analysis).

### **Awareness-raising**

WILPF reaches wider groups of people to share our analysis and information to help make known the causes of war and challenge the status quo.

### **Advocacy**

WILPF uses advocacy as a tool to create concrete changes in practices, policies, laws, norms, programmes and systems for durable peace. Advocacy work focuses on governments and the United Nations to stop violence and work to abolish the causes of war. We also use advocacy with others including non-state actors and civil society.

### **Activism and organising**

WILPF undertakes nonviolent activism around the world from campaigns to protests, from peace art to political rallies. WILPF organises locally and globally.

### **Alliance-building**

WILPF creates bridges and forms alliances with communities, organisations and movements.



### **Local to global**

WILPF bridges and links women's experiences between local realities and international forums facilitating space for women to speak for themselves and have access to influencing decision-makers.

### **Solidarity dialogues**

WILPF creates spaces to bring women together to mobilise and strengthen their collective power.

### **Resourcing feminist peace**

WILPF supports local and national actions through grants to WILPF National Sections, National Groups and partners.