



**TEXTPAD for ONE WILPF CALL –
Thursday, November 11th, 2021**

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom is the oldest women's international peace organization in the world... founded in 1915 by Jane Addams of Hull House.

There are over 30 WILPF branches in the United States... and we are one of 50 Sections around the world.

Find us & join us at our website: www.wilpfus.org/join .
All ONE WILPF Calls/Zooms are archived here:
<https://wilpfus.org/story/one-wilpf-calls>

AGENDA

1- WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS

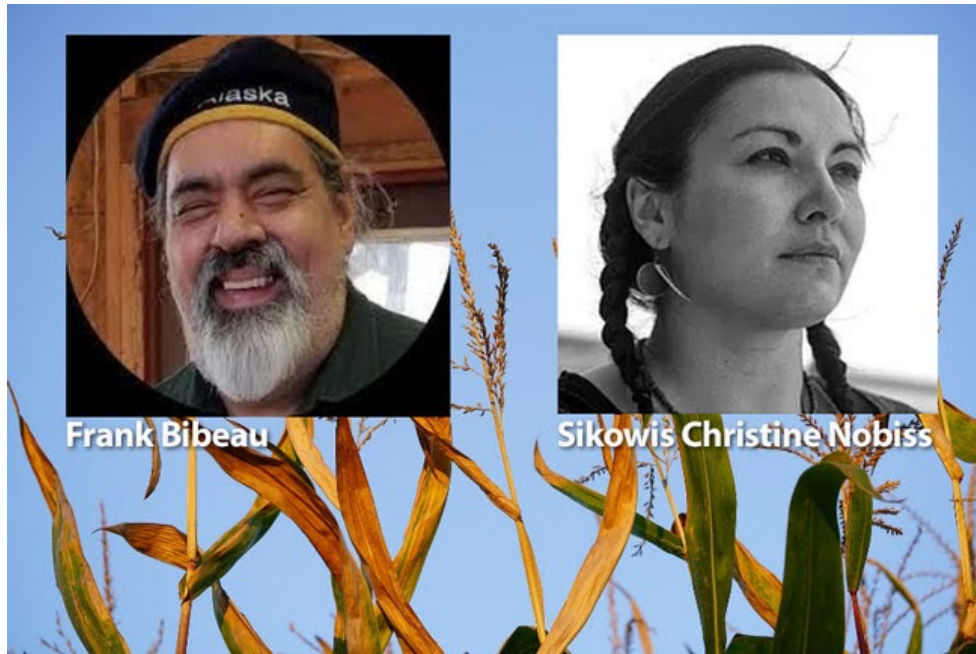
2- Armistice Day Memorial to Peacewomen: Sister Megan Rice, Marge Van Cleef IN MEMORIAM



Sister Megan Rice

Marge Van Cleef

3- Featured Presentation –



Defending first foods, sacred spaces, and stolen land

Frank Bibeau, Ojibwe tribal attorney
Sikowis (Christine) Nobiss, Great Plains Action Society.

4- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

**WILPF Elections, Fannie Lou Hammer Branch,
Earth Democracy, DISARM**

Laura Dewey, deweylaura@att.net

Theresa El-Amin, theresaelamin1@gmail.com

Nancy Price, nancytprice39@gmail.com

Ellen Thomas, et@prop1.org

Cherrill Spencer cherrill.m.spencer@gmail.com

DISARM Committee Announcement

Fundraising opportunity for procuring funds to allow continuation of
WILPF US anti-nuclear weapons activities and carry out new
activities- with other groups.

Ploughshares Fund has announced a **\$1 million request for proposals** (RFP) as part of its expanded diversity and equity initiative, **Equity Rises**. Through this RFP they hope to build a stronger community of advocates, activists, researchers, and creative thinkers working together across identity, sector, and geography to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons. Equity Rises aims to forge new collaborations with new partners both inside and outside the nuclear field.

Ploughshares believes in order to reach their goals it is imperative to address the racism, inequity, exclusion, greed, corruption, and injustice that perpetuate the existence of nuclear weapons, position nuclear deterrence as a central tenet of global security policy, and favor military force over diplomacy globally.

Ploughshares Fund has \$1M to grant to groups such as WILPF. The DISARM Committee would like to collaborate with other issue committees, WILPF branches and other anti-nuclear weapons groups to develop & write a proposal. We already have connections with grassroots & community groups.

Main points in the Request For Proposals

- grants in amounts between \$10,000 and \$75,000, to be used in one year starting June 2022
- concept notes due by 15th February 2022 (only some will be asked for full proposal)
- this RFP seeks to widen the network of voices working together to eliminate nuclear weapons, with an emphasis on supporting grassroots and frontline community leaders.

Three criteria a proposal must meet (focusing on ones WILPF & partners have capabilities in)

- Advances nuclear weapons issues such as the impact of nuclear weapons production or use on indigenous and other frontline communities, environmental impact
 - The project should focus on challenging racism and white supremacy in nuclear policies and institutions
 - The project should contribute to addressing the current diversity and equity imbalance in the nuclear field and amplifying and expanding the use of an intersectional lens in nuclear issues
- See <https://ploughshares.org/what-we-fund/ploughshares-fund-2022-request-proposals> for full details of RFP.

- Will be a webinar on 1st December to learn more about applying for grants and working with foundations, which will include a Q&A about Ploughshares Fund and this RFP.
- Projects submitted to this RFP should fit within one of three areas:
 1. Challenging racism and white supremacy in nuclear policies and institutions
 2. Building actionable connections between nuclear weapons issues and other issue areas to address militarism's influence on foreign and domestic policies, globally
 3. Examining and dismantling the military-industrial complex
- DISARM co-chairs invite other issue committees, branches and members to join them in brainstorming ideas for & then preparing a proposal. Will have a preliminary meeting week of 15th Nov.
- Write to disarmchair@wilpfus.org to indicate your interest by 12th November or put your name and email address in a private chat message to Cherrill Spencer.

5- MEMBER FORUM -
SOLIDARITY ACTIONS FOR 2022.... Proposals and
Suggestions.

6- ADJOURN

7- SOAPBOX

YOUR COMMENTS, REFERENCE LINKS, QUESTIONS Go Below This Red Line:

Advancing Human Rights issue committee's next general meeting will be Monday, November 29 at 5/6/7/8 PM. Write to AHRchair@wilpfus.org for Zoom registration information and watch for eAlerts for information.

Five subcommittees are meeting through the months -- write for information on how to connect with subcommittees: Racial Justice, Ending Mass Incarceration & the Death Penalty, Immigration, UN Decade for People of African Descent / Reparations, UN / Women, including Human Trafficking -- plus more subcommittees to be organized. Join us to work together!

Ask your representative to sign on to the Dear Colleague Letter initiated by McGovern, Meeks, and Yes! Barbara Lee:

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us on a letter to President Biden on advancing a U.S. policy towards Cuba that addresses the humanitarian and economic crisis and restores a policy of engagement on areas of mutual concern.

It is important to pay close attention to developments in Cuba and uphold the rights of the Cuban people. It is also important for the U.S. to provide constructive solutions that concretely address the current crisis.

We hope you will join us on this timely initiative. If you require additional information or would like to join this letter, please contact Cindy Buhl (Rep. McGovern) at cindy.buhl@mail.house.gov; Gregory Adams (Rep. Lee) at gregory.adams@mail.house.gov; or Zakiya Carr Johnson (Rep. Meeks) at zakiya.carr@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Here's their letter to President Biden

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to ask you to prioritize the well-being of the Cuban people, who are experiencing the worst economic and humanitarian crisis in recent history. The current humanitarian situation in Cuba is growing ever more dire, with shortages of food and goods and decreasing access to medical supplies amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to take immediate humanitarian actions – as the United Nations has urged repeatedly – to suspend U.S. regulations that prevent food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance from reaching the Cuban people. We also support a more comprehensive shift to deepen engagement with Cuba and move towards normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations.

We urge your administration to remove the specific licenses required to send medical supplies, such as testing kits and respiratory devices, to Cuba. We also ask that the administration lift all restrictions on banking and financial transactions related to humanitarian aid and suspend end-use verification. While the embargo allows for the shipment of humanitarian aid, in practice, licensing requirements, end-use verification, restrictions on the banking sector, and fear of unknowingly running afoul of U.S. law severely complicate sending humanitarian aid to Cuba, from other countries as well as from the United States.

We ask you to remove all restrictions on family remittances, allowing Cuban Americans to help their families and improve their standard of living, and the restrictions on non-family (donative) remittances, allowing nonprofits and faith groups to provide humanitarian assistance and start-up capital for Cuban entrepreneurs and civil society. We are still waiting for action based on the recommendations from the Remittance Working Group you established in the wake of the July 11th protests, tasked with expediting a review within 30 days of how to send remittances directly to the Cuban people. Despite concerns over Cuba's government obtaining revenue from remittances, the government captures less revenue from remittances than in the past due to changes initiated in July 2020 and much of the government's revenue from remittances is channeled to essential food, fuel, and goods imports for Cubans who do not have family abroad, many of them in marginalized communities. Moreover, the U.S. government does not restrict remittances to most of the countries targeted by U.S. sanctions, and just last month, your administration restarted the flow of remittances through Western Union to Afghanistan, showing you are aware of the importance that remittance channels have for countries facing humanitarian and economic crises.

We also urge you to roll back the Trump Administration's restrictions on travel to Cuba, since they make it more difficult for Cuban Americans to visit and reunite with family on the island, particularly for those with families outside of Havana. These restrictions limit mutually beneficial dialogue and exchange between the U.S. and Cuban people. Travel restrictions have also harmed small private businesses, which have been unable to access needed goods and products and have struggled since tourism began to slow after such restrictions were put in place. Allowing travel to Cuba would increase the flow of necessary humanitarian supplies to the island and the amount and distribution of money and goods sent directly into the hands of Cubans.

Cuba was removed from the State Sponsor of Terrorism list in 2015 after an exhaustive review by experts at the State Department and in the intelligence community. The Trump Administration did not cite any new facts to justify its decision to relist Cuba during the last days of its term. Therefore, we ask you to recommend that the State Department conduct a new review and remove Cuba from the list. This designation places another roadblock in the path towards improved relations and creates further obstacles for purchasing or receiving humanitarian goods.

In addition to these immediate steps, we believe that a policy of engagement with Cuba serves U.S. interests and those of the Cuban people. It should lead to a more comprehensive effort to deepen engagement and normalization, including restarting diplomatic engagement at senior levels as well as through the re-staffing of each country's respective embassies. This act would not only be a gesture of good faith but is in the best interests of the United States, assisting Cubans interested in migrating via legal means instead of contributing to conditions forcing Cubans to migrate under dangerous conditions, arriving in increased numbers at our southern border. Because the U.S. Embassy's consular section has been closed to Cubans, the United States is in violation of the 1994 migration agreement signed with Cuba to end the last migration crisis.

Engagement on key areas of mutual interest that were pursued by the Obama–Biden Administration should be resumed, including bilateral groups on migration, disaster response, environment, and law enforcement issues such as counter-narcotics and money laundering. Cooperation on COVID-19 response and addressing future pandemics are also essential.

Finally, protecting human rights in Cuba, including the right to protest, is better served by principled engagement, rather than unilateral isolation, which has proven to be a failed policy. In fact, today, following almost five years of tightened U.S. sanctions, Cuba's nascent social movements that emerged during the rapprochement years find their space for public debate and free expression more constrained than in 2016. Yet increased channels of communication and access to information via the internet and social media platforms in recent years, in large measure due to the policy of engagement pursued by the Obama-Biden Administration, have dramatically influenced how Cubans communicate and their levels of activism to influence decision making and mobilize and advocate for social causes. Engagement is more likely to enable the political, economic, and social openings that Cubans may desire, and to ease the hardships that Cubans face today.

Here's a **Code Pink link for the same Dear Colleague Letter - sign-on request**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzG1krwsVQMhwwmQzSqtIQVDPRQd>