



June 8th, 2023 - 1 WILPF Call TEXTPAD

**“ World Bank vs BRICS Bank:
Addressing International Poverty & Debt”**
- featuring an interview with **Vijay Prashad**

AGENDA

Welcome & Instructions

FEATURED SPEAKER: Vijay Prashad

Mini Presentations

Middle East Committee

DISARM Committee

UN Practicum 2023 Report

Announcements -

WILPF US, Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Committee, WSD Committee,

ADJOURN

SOAPBOX

Just SOME of the work WILPF US is doing...

SHORT COMMITTEE REPORTS

MIDDLE EAST PEACE & JUSTICE

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Tura Campanella Cook, Committee Co Chair

The members of the Middle East Peace and Justice Action Committee are very passionate about Palestinian human rights and that is chiefly what we write about. We envision a Middle East in which all people have equitable access to resources, equal human rights, and fundamental freedoms. US foreign policy must change and we educate for that change.

**We would like feedback on our Enews
and Peace and Freedom articles.**

We would like to know how our articles are received and are looking for comments that will shape our future work and impact. We hope participants will respond via email to: MEPJAAction@wilpfus.org to one or more of the following:

- 1. Are we presenting new information or helping you understand an issue?**
- 2. Have you heard enough on the topic and are zoning out?**
- 3. Do the suggested actions resonate with you, and do you follow up? Why or why not?**

4. Do you make linkages between Palestine and other issues? Would doing so appeal to you and would you like help?

5. Do you want to hear about other areas in the Middle East? Make suggestions.

6. Are you interested in other factors that impact Palestinians and Palestinian Americans:

a. The same forces that are banning books and censoring the teaching of history, ethnic studies, and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people also seek to erase Palestine from social studies and exclude Arab Americans from Ethnic Studies. Thirty-five state legislatures have passed laws banning nonviolent protest such as BDS, the international boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against companies that profit from the Occupation. Would you like background and current news on these topics?

b. Mainstream US media coverage of Israel and Palestine (even by NPR and PBS) is biased against Palestinians. Democracy Now! does a good job. Do you want deeper analysis of media coverage and recommendations for other news sources on the Middle East?

c. Do you understand that criticism of Israeli government policies of apartheid and occupation is not antisemitic? Antisemitism is real but false accusations of antisemitism are used to protect Israel from accountability.

d. Are you aware that Israel has had nuclear weapons since the 1960s and has neither signed the NPT nor accepted IAEA safeguards on its nuclear activities? Do you want to know more about this?

Thank you for all you do on issues important to you.

We appreciate your comments!

Tura Campanella Cook and Jan Corderman, MEP&JAC Committee Co-Chairs

DISARM COMMITTEE REPORT

<https://www.wilpfus.org/our-work/disarmend-wars>

is our old website on the main WILPFUS website. New version will appear "soon")

MISSION of the DISARM/END WARS ISSUE COMMITTEE

- **ABOLISHING WAR;** we want all arms to stop being produced, militaries decreased/abolished.
- **Work for a Nuclear-Free Future** by eliminating nuclear weapons and shifting away from nuclear power!
- **Encourage diplomacy** as the way to deal with conflict, bringing more women to the negotiating table.
- **Develop resources to educate the public** about the importance of moving the money from nuclear weapons and war to crucial societal needs.
- **Raise consciousness about the need to address the environmental and economic effects of militarism and nuclear weapons on people of color.**
- **Support members and branches** in their own projects for peace and disarmament.

PEACE IN UKRAINE

WILPF US is a founding member of an over 100-organizations-strong coalition which has been working since March 2022 to bring a peaceful end to the Ukraine-Russia war.

www.Peaceinukraine.org is our very informative website.

We developed a Letter to three Presidents, Biden, Putin and Zelensky re stopping the war, it was published as a large ad in *The Hill* on 24th May. Over 80 groups delivered a pdf version of the ad to their congressional reps on 24th May.

See lots of photos of ads being delivered all over the USA here:

https://www.peaceinukraine.org/may24_petition_delivery

There is an associated online petition that is still collecting signatures:

<https://www.codepink.org/notoww3>

Summit advocating for a negotiated end to the Russia-Ukraine War

The conference in Vienna: 10-11 June, will include a combination of statements, working groups, panels of experts and dialogues.

After the summit we will contact the embassies of Russia and Ukraine as well as various NATO-country embassies, and international organizations located in Vienna will take place to meet with embassy representatives and deliver the **Vienna Appeal for Peace** from people around the world.

The summit will also be supported by a send-off for delegations to visit the capitals of various European countries with the purpose of meeting with government officials and international organizations.

(This is essentially the way that WILPF was founded.... With international women visiting all the crowned heads of Europe to try to stop World War I. They bravely sailed across dangerous ocean waters and conducted international Congresses which subsequently resulted in the founding of WILPF, the proposal to start the League of Nations (later the UN), and later the Geneva Convention and the International Declaration on Human Rights. History repeating itself. Driven by women determined to bring peace to the world.)

Also further events for late 2023 will be developed.

You can still register here: <https://www.ipb.org/ispukraine-2023/>

Click on the banner, as directed.

More info here <https://www.peacevienna.org/>

Nuclear Disarmament

Is one of our DISARM Committee's major activities.

Advocating for the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** often has actions we want WILPFers and the public to do. For example:

- Sign and circulate the petition to the President and Senators at bit.ly/wilpfus-bantreatypetition
- Sign and circulate the petition to the House of Representatives at bit.ly/prop1petition.
- We encouraged all WILPFers to **celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of the Entry Into Force of the TPNW on 21st January 2023** which they did enthusiastically.

Congresswoman Norton has introduced her Nuclear Weapons Abolition bill for the 19th time, H.R. 2775. Text can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2775/text> .

OTHER BILLS IN CONGRESS NEEDING OUR ATTENTION

[Text - H.Res.77 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

Bills recently introduced: [H.R.669](#) and [S.1186](#):

Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2023.

[H.R.2894](#) and its [Senate version](#): To prohibit the use of Federal funds to launch a nuclear weapon using an autonomous weapons system (*artificial intelligence*) that is not subject to meaningful human control, and for other purposes.

Clawing back humungous military spending

COALITIONS our DISARM Committee Belongs To and Supports:

[People Over the Pentagon coalition](#)

DISARM urges you to support the People Over Pentagon Act (H.R. 1134) to remove \$100B from the military side of the discretionary spending bill. Find a sample letter to your rep here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciOAKe9qQPsnvxzySk_ZALrWnoJlytdXtGJ-hR_rs6PMDDhw/viewform

<https://ips-dc.org/report-warfare-state-how-funding-militarism-compromises-welfare/>

Action in mid-July

[Global Women for Peace Against NATO: July 7-9](#)

[Global Women for Peace Against NATO](#) is a gathering of women in Brussels, Belgium, headquarters of NATO, and “virtually” in countries around the world. This global gathering takes place just before the NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania July 11-12 and will be available online too.

Declaration by Global Women for Peace Against NATO will soon be posted on several websites

Action in late July:

TWO films about Oppenheimer:

“Father Of The Atomic Bomb” coming out in July

Drama with famous actors: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15398776/> has 21st July premier.

Will be shown in theaters across the US.

“To End All War: Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb”

a documentary film : <https://www.chriscassel.com/work/to-end-all-war>

How we can use them to educate public about scourge of nuclear weapons – We will need WILPFers and others to help with this action.

See the films, then organize efforts to stand outside the theaters as the film ends and hand folks information about WILPF’s DISARM Committee and how to join our disarmament and nuclear abolition efforts.

WAR HEADS TO WINDMILLS COALITION

<https://warheadstowindmills.org/>

Through this organization **we are reaching out to Climate and Environmental Activists**
The planet demands we prevent Climate Catastrophe and Nuclear War

24th June webinar: Transitioning to a green economy, what will it take? 9am to noon PDT.

<https://masspeaceaction.org/event/warheads-to-windmills-forum/>

We are also reaching out to Health Care Professionals

The tragic death toll from the COVID-9 pandemic revealed the deep malfunctions of the nation's healthcare system. One of the sources, inadequately reported, has been the diversion of our tax dollars to military programs and foreign wars – over half of Congressional discretionary funding.

This June 11th webinar will suggest what to do about this.

FUND HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE COALITION

Second Annual Forum

Sun June 11 @ 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm EDT

REGISTER

(Press Control + clicking on the word 'REGISTER')

MORE ACTION IN LATE JULY

Korea Mobilization for Peace treaty event in DC on 27 July.

See <https://www.koreapeaceaction.org/> for details

Lobby for the Norton bill in DC and online , look here:

July 12-13, 2023 in Washington, DC: Lobby Members of Congress to support the Norton Bill, H.R.2775, the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and [Climate] Conversion bill.

Please register now:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlZvltVxoMuzwxPwmSWNNRZTLQYSZzksoajZgM3qJ7D7Z19Q/viewform>

The DISARM Committee of WILPF US welcomes new members.

Please write to disarmchair@wilpfus.org to request to join us.

No previous experience with disarmament needed to join us.

Meetings twice a month on Sunday evenings.



2023 WILPF US Delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York City, in front of the UN building, March 2023.

BRIEF COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CUBA & THE BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

**National Mobilization to remove Cuba
from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism - June 25 in Washington DC.**

There will be activities all weekend in DC in conjunction with this national mobilization. There are also actions happening in various cities throughout the US, many in conjunction with Gay Pride activities.

Go to www.nnoc.org for a complete list

WILPF is a cosponsor of these activities
Last month's [enews](#) covers this campaign



Women, Money & Democracy Committee
Marybeth Gardam, Chair wmad@wilpfus.org

- 1- Our advocacy for public banking across the US was mentioned in **MS Magazine** recently.
- 2- WILPF W\$D will be represented at the **NOW Conference** in Alexandria Virginia in July.

3- W\$D will be represented at the **22nd Century Initiative Conference:**
“Forging a People-Powered Democracy” in Minneapolis, July 6-9

4- During May, W\$D co-sponsored a 4-session study course with our ally **Alliance for Just Money** to **examine monetary reform as a viable means of system change**. This will be repeated in the Fall. If you are interested in signing up, contact wmad@wilpfus.org.

Women, Money & Democracy at WILPF US addresses Systemic Economic Injustice and threats to Democracy from corporate power, racism and “debt-money” used as oppression.

Meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 8pm eastern.

If interested in joining us, contact wmad@wilpfus.org

Find more info at:

<http://wilpfus.org/our-work/women-money-democracy>

Write comments, links of interest, events, etc. below this red line. Be careful not to erase or separate the messages of others.

Add your announcements, links, comments, events here.

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is having a **Moral Poverty Action Congress (MPAC) in Washington, DC, June 19-21.**

At the Congress, poor and impacted people, clergy, faith leaders, workers, organizers, advocates, and activists from states all across the country will come together to learn and take action together and continue our work of building the power of our nation's 140 million poor and low-income people. Each State with a Coordinating Committee was invited to send 20 delegates (I'm a delegate for California).

On June 20th we'll be visiting the US Congress and having a demonstration on the Capitol steps. There will probably be a **livestream of the demonstration** and perhaps other things at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/livestream/> - so please check with the PPC website that week to see what is being shared.

The states will have simultaneous actions this fall - look for info in your state!
And next year Summer Solstice 2024 we will have another March on Washington.

Rowan Fairgrove, WILPF4PPC Liaison

PFAS: What you need to know about “Forever Chemicals”

- A Zoom Presentation by Marguerite Adelman of the Vermont PFAS/Military Poisons Coalition and a project of WILPF - US and Military Poisons

Sponsored by WILPF San Francisco and East Bay Branches:

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 6 PM via Zoom

Register for this free program by emailing btraynor@att.net

Please spread the word !

The Detroit Branch is holding an in-person event on Palestine, part of which will be on Zoom. I can't upload the image of our flyer, so here are details:

Thursday, June 15, 6:15 p.m. Eastern Time

View Palestinian art exhibit. 6:30 is the program, which will address several issues around the Palestinian struggle.

To be followed by letter writing.

Register at bit.ly/Wilpf to register for the Zoom and receive information for the letter writing.

Contact wilpfdetroit@att.net for more info.

CONTACT Biden and ask him to remove Cuba from the US List of State Sponsors of Terrorism NOW!

Contact your congressional representatives and say: Vote NO on HR 314 - the FORCE Act.

National Network on Cuba's June 23-25 program of actions aimed at encouraging President Biden to remove Cuba from the US List of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Cuba is a sovereign nation recognized for its leadership in healthcare, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights. and education. The US government, however, has a different, and quite unique, view: Officially, Cuba is categorized as a "State Sponsor of Terrorism." This was done by executive action during Trump's last days in power. However Biden has not taken any action to remove Cuba from this list.

Cuba's State Sponsor of Terrorism designation is unwarranted, unjust, and extremely harmful to the people of Cuba. It is also harmful to the people of the US since it is morally corrupting to be complicit in the cruelty and dishonesty of our government.

Member organizations of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) have been working on the #OffTheList campaign to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List. For more information

<https://nnoc.org/offthelist-campaign/>