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Dear WILPF members,

You are receiving this letter from the national WILPF board on International Women's Day, and **we invite you to participate in the action described at the end of this email demonstrating solidarity with Afghan women** seeking peace and security. This action was sent to us by Theresa de Langis, a senior advisor on gender and politics with UNIFEM, whose excellent report from the field appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Peace and Freedom*. If you missed it, you can now access complete copies of back issues of *Peace and Freedom* on our website at <http://wilpf.org/peaceandfreedomarchive>.

The most recent snows are melting here in Massachusetts and the national board is busy preparing for its next meeting planned in time to celebrate the spring equinox. **The March 21-23 board meeting will be held in downtown Boston, MA**, with hospitality provided by the Greater Boston Branch of WILPF. All meetings of the national board are open to all members; **non-board members planning to attend should r.s.v.p.** either by phoning the national office at 617-266-0999 or by e-mailing the co-presidents at [dialogue@wilpf.org](mailto:dialogue@wilpf.org) after March 11 and before March 20. When you r.s.v.p., we'll be able to give you a copy of the agenda and meeting locations. Discussion of by-law changes proposed by the membership council is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 22. Minutes from the October 2008 board meeting have been posted on the WILPF website at <http://wilpf.org/BoardMinutes>.

In late April, the winners of the 2009 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards will be announced at Hull House in Chicago. But right now, **we still have several sets of the 2008 award winning books available for sale** from the Jane Addams Peace Association. You can read about these books at [http://home.igc.org/~japa/jacba/2008/mainpage\\_2008.html](http://home.igc.org/~japa/jacba/2008/mainpage_2008.html) and contact Linda Belle at [japa@igc.org](mailto:japa@igc.org) or 212-682-8830 if you'd like to purchase a complete set embossed with the award medallion.

Best wishes to all for your continued work to create the transformation we wish to see in the world. We appreciate the energy and enthusiasm our branch leaders have shown in planning the spring membership drive; please watch your inboxes for further news on that effort as the days grow warmer and longer.

Sincerely,

Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos  
Co-Presidents, U.S. Section



On March 8th, Afghan women, wearing sky blue scarves, will come out of their homes to pray for peace with

justice in Afghanistan. In what promises to be the largest Afghan women-led peace action in the country's history.

The women will stand united together to demonstrate ***Afghan women's call to participate as equal partners in building peace with justice in Afghanistan.***

In Afghanistan, something as simple as coming out of your home can be deadly dangerous if you are a woman. Many women human rights advocates of this country receive death threats for the work they do on behalf of women. Some, tragically, have been assassinated.

Yet, more than 15,000 women are expected to come out on March 8th-including in Kandahar, where girls were recently attacked with acid on their way to school. In making history, this is the first women-led peace action in Afghanistan, uniting women under a common vision of the future.

UNIFEM Afghanistan has been honored to support the Praying for Peace grassroots action. We now invite you to do the same.

Please show the women of Afghanistan your support on March 8th, International Women's Day:

- Wear a **BLUE SCARF** on March 8th, and encourage your friends to do the same.
- Send photos of your friends and yourself wearing blue scarves to [p4pwithjustice@gmail.com](mailto:p4pwithjustice@gmail.com) for posting to the P4P blogsite and Facebook page.
- Visit the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/p.php?i=622940639&k=36CX63Q53Z3M51DFVJ56W4> to leave your message of support.
- Read the P4P blog at <http://www.peacewithjustice4Afghanistan.blogspot.com> for more information about the life of women in Afghanistan.

**On behalf UNIFEM-Afghanistan, thank you for your support and Happy International Women's Day!**

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**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

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