The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) with National Sections covering every continent, an International Secretariat based in Geneva, and a New York office focused on the work of the United Nations.

Since our establishment in 1915, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by non-violent means and promoting political, economic and social justice for all.

Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.

Our strength lies in our ability to link the international and local levels. We are very proud to be one of the first organisations to gain consultative status (category B) with the United Nations (UN), and the only women’s anti-war organisation so recognised.
The International Secretariat is pleased to present the WILPF Annual Report for 2012, which highlights the success of WILPF’s Integrated Approach. Due to the support of members, volunteers and financial contributors, WILPF continues to bring local issues into a global light by mobilizing advocacy on a national level and coordinating it with the international human rights system.

In 2012, WILPF’s PeaceWomen Programme increased the scope of its impact by connecting and promoting the issues of peace and security of women to a larger audience through publishing a handbook for policy-makers, disseminating monthly newsletters, collaborating with international advocacy organisations and lastly by supporting national WILPF Sections.

WILPF’s Reaching Critical Will Programme continued to promote WILPF’s mission of advancing global disarmament through the lens of human rights by advocating for a gender criterion in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

The Human Rights Programme pursued its mission to provide a forum for the voices, issues, and human rights grievances of women everywhere, by hosting side events to the Universal Periodic Review that connected member states and local women.

Finally, in 2012 we saw the MENA Agenda 1325 Project transform from a promise to advance women’s rights in the region into an international force that has garnered high-level attention from state missions and institutions.

Your support and belief in WILPF has provided new opportunities to advance women’s and human rights both abroad and at home. Whether you choose to donate or take action, we know that your help will ensure WILPF continues to fight for equality and peace everywhere.

Sincerely,
WILPF International Secretariat
The WILPF Integrated Approach

For almost a century, WILPF has articulated both the need to address the primary causes of war and the necessity of women’s participation as a fundamental pillar for the prevention and ending of armed conflict.

Despite the existence of a considerable body of international law, doctrines, resolutions and policies with multilateral fora for their enforcement, the fragmentation of both law and practice has prevented the current system from working.

That is why WILPF works differently. We have to overcome those divisions and move towards a coherent and practical system which actually prevents war by recognising and addressing root causes before violence becomes the preferred means of conflict resolution.

So, we have developed a pragmatic approach which addresses the compartmentalisation of peace, security, disarmament, justice, development and human rights in the international system and their distance from the real experiences of the people they are supposed to be serving.

We do this by:

>> Linking grass roots activities and experiences relating to peace, security and human rights, to the multilateral fora.

>> Strengthening and working with WILPF national Sections and partners to obtain accurate and real-time information as to what is happening in their countries.

>> Bringing that information into the work of the human rights mechanisms, to the work of the Security Council resolutions and to disarmament.

>> Analysing, making submissions and undertaking advocacy in those fora to try to ensure the issues are brought into debate, and that there is a response.

>> Reporting on the outcome and assisting in working with the Sections and partners to follow up and work towards implementation.

This enables us to bring together and link the critical issues of political economy, environment, social and economic rights, (including the right to food, water adequate housing social welfare et al.), disarmament and overall security with a gender analysis at the core. It is what WILPF has always done, now we are merely keeping up with the changes that the multilateral system has undergone.
The Human Rights Programme

The Human Rights Programme has undergone great changes during 2012 to increase its efficiency.

We have modernised our communication channels and have started a systematic cooperation plan with the Sections in order to increase the use of WILPF’s Integrated Approach.

The final goal of the Human Rights Programme is to act as a bridge between the Sections and the programmes and the United Nations human rights system.

To do this, we bring WILPF members’ concerns on disarmament; women, peace and security; and socio-economic rights to the relevant UN bodies and translate them into effective methods within the human rights system to create change.

Since 2012, WILPF has formed this bridge by:

>> Spreading the message of these human rights bodies to our Sections and the general public through our new newsletter for the Human Rights Council, the online WILPF Journal and social media.

>> Promoting activism by raising awareness of human rights issues and discussions held in Geneva and leading human rights campaigns.

>> Assisting our Sections, our Disarmament Programme, our PeaceWomen Programme and our projects in reporting to the human rights bodies in Geneva through statements, side events and other advocacy activities.

Programmes and Projects

WILPF runs a number of programmes and projects, which are coordinated and organised by WILPF International Secretariat.

Each of our on-going programmes works intensively to “challenge militarism,” “invest in peace” and “strengthen multilateralism” – and WILPF’s strength is the integration of the three programmes.

All our projects have a specific focus and an end date, and they always draw on the expertise and knowledge of the three on-going programmes.

WILPF International Secretariat

The Human Rights Programme

The Disarmament Programme

The PeaceWomen Programme

The MENA Agenda 1325 Project
Side Event to the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan

On the 31st October 2012, the Human Rights Programme organised a side event with the title: “Women’s Rights in Pakistan: Status, Challenges and Possible Solutions.”

A panel comprised of the WILPF International Secretariat, WILPF Pakistan and our partner Shirkat Gah, analysed the recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review Working Group and advanced the necessary steps for their implementation.

The activity contributed to the networking of WILPF Pakistan and to their knowledge and involvement in the human rights mechanisms in Geneva.

Side Event to the Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom

On the 23rd May 2012, the Human Rights Programme organised a side event with the title: “UK and Inter-Relation between Military Expenditure, Gender Budgeting and Access to Economic Social and Cultural rights.”

The objective of the side event was to apply the Integrated Approach to the United Kingdom by linking and presenting WILPF’s three main areas of concern - nuclear proliferation, arms trade and social economic justice - from a gender perspective.

The three speakers, Rebecca Johnson (Acronym Institute), Ceri Goddord (Fawcett Society) and Rebecca Gerome (IANSA Women’s Network), discussed policies pursued in the United Kingdom including defence and security, the arms trade, and the economic deficit from a human rights perspective and addressed their gendered impact.

In order to strengthen the relationship between WILPF Sections and WILPF’s international work, three members from WILPF United Kingdom participated in the side event and in the Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom.
After Israel announced its decision not to send a delegation to its own Universal Periodic Review session in December 2012, WILPF launched a campaign to safeguard the universality and accountability of this valuable review.

From December 2012 to January 2013, the Human Rights Programme organised the campaign: “Defend a Valuable Human Rights System for All”

The objective of the campaign was to ensure that non-cooperation does not become a viable option and that there is a mechanism for cases of non-cooperation including review in absentia.

The International Secretariat composed an advocacy letter and encouraged Sections and partners to pressure their governments by sending it out and making it public. The campaign will continue in 2013.

Staff
In 2012, the Human Rights Programme had one permanent staff member. The programme sometimes hires temporary staff for specific projects.

Madeleine Rees, Secretary General, began life as a lawyer in 1990 and within four years was made partner in a large UK law firm, specialising in discrimination law.

Extending her skills to the international sphere, Madeleine Rees brought cases to the European Court of Human Rights and The European Court in Luxembourg. She was cited as one of the leading lawyers in the field of discrimination in the Chambers directory of British lawyers.

In 1998 Madeleine Rees began working for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as the gender expert and Head of Office in Bosnia and Herzegovyna.

From September 2006 to April 2010, Madeleine Rees served as the Head of the Women’s Rights and Gender Unit for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her work involved describing and outlining how men and women can experience events differently, particularly in post-conflict situations.

Madeleine Rees has been the Secretary General of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom since 2010.
2012 has been an exciting and busy year for WILPF’s Disarmament Programme, Reaching Critical Will (RCW). Throughout 2012, staff and interns organised side events, participated in actions and campaigns, attended conferences all over the world, made numerous speeches and statements, and wrote many articles on a wide range of disarmament issues.

Not only did the team continue with their regular monitoring and analysis of the traditional disarmament fora*, they also reported daily from the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations and the Review Conference for the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

The RCW team works closely with WILPF’s PeaceWomen (PW) programme to ensure that a gender perspective is always integrated into their analyses.

In 2012, RCW and PW worked together to develop treaty language on gender-based violence for the Arms Trade Treaty under negotiation at the UN. ‘Disarmament fora such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)’s 2012 Preparatory Committee, the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, and the First Committee of the General Assembly.

The Disarmament Programme

In March 2012, RCW published the study: Assuring Destruction Forever: Nuclear Weapon Modernization around the World. This study explores in-depth the nuclear weapon modernization programmes in China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and analyses the costs of nuclear weapons in the context of the economic crisis, austerity measures and rising challenges in meeting human and environmental needs.

In April 2012, RCW published the second NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, states parties adopted a 64 point action plan in order to further the implementation of the treaty. Reaching Critical Will, in partnership with the Government of Switzerland, has produced comprehensive reports on the implementation of this action plan.

In September 2012, RCW published a report on the Obstacles to Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Today, more than 16 years after the CTBT was adopted, significant obstacles remain on the path to its entry into force. This report on government positions on the CTBT highlights why entry into force of the treaty should not be treated as a precondition to nuclear disarmament or to the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons completely.
Humanitarian Disarmament

Reaching Critical Will is a part of a larger community that strives to protect civilians and limit human suffering through disarmament. We work closely with other organisations, campaigns and networks, to learn from past successes and failures. We work together with these partners to collectively advance human security by reducing the impact of weapons through the development of international norms.

Brand new website

In March 2012, RCW launched the programme’s new website. The visual look is updated and the new website is much more user-friendly, so it is easy to access all documents and materials.

Visit it on www.reachingcriticalwill.org

New Partnerships

In 2012, RCW also joined the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in order to widen the programme’s approach and perspectives on disarmament.

Furthermore, RCW participated in a Humanitarian Disarmament Campaign Summit organised by Human Rights Watch in October. The summit brought together organisations and campaigns working on a variety of weapon systems and disarmament processes to discuss how to move humanitarian disarmament issues forward.

While WILPF has been a partner organisation of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) since its launch, in 2012 RCW joined its international steering group and is working hard on preparations for the upcoming conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in Oslo in March 2013.
Staff
In 2012, the Disarmament Programme had two permanent staff members - Ray Acheson in New York (Programme Director) and Beatrice Fihn in Geneva (Programme Manager). The Disarmament Programme sometimes hires temporary staff for specific projects.

Ray Acheson, Programme Director, monitors and analyses many international processes related to disarmament and arms control. Ray is the editor of RCW’s reports and of several publications covering nuclear weapon modernisation, myths and risks of nuclear power, and challenges to nuclear disarmament. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Los Alamos Study Group and on the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. She previously worked with the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies as an associate editor of the Arms Control Reporter. Ray has an Honours BA from the University of Toronto in Peace and Conflict Studies and is pursuing an MA in Politics at the New School for Social Research.

Beatrice Fihn, Programme Manager, monitors and analyzes a wide range of disarmament negotiations and discussions at the UN. Prior to joining RCW in 2010, she worked as a research officer at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, where she carried out research on geopolitics and global security in areas such as outer space and emerging strategic technologies. Beatrice is currently on the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and is in charge of managing the campaign’s international staff team as well as the development and implementation of strategy. She has a BA in International Relations from Stockholm University and a Masters of Law at University of London with a specialization in public international law.

Spirit of the UN Award
In 2012, Ray Acheson, Programme Director of RCW, was a recipient of the Spirit of the UN Award in recognition for her work and commitment to peace and justice.

A significant focus in 2012 for RCW was a research project on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The research will be presented in March 2013.
The PeaceWomen Programme

WILPF’s PeaceWomen Programme is focused on fulfilling the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The programme connects the voices of WILPF members and partners to international forums, and holds States and the United Nations accountable through monitoring and advocacy. The PeaceWomen team concentrates on promoting conflict prevention, accountability and supporting women’s civil society.

Our belief is that lasting change can happen when women at the grassroots level ‘speak truth to power’ – and we are consistently amplifying their voices at all levels and in all forums. PeaceWomen, like all WILPF programmes, draws on human rights principles such as participation, accountability, transparency and non-discrimination to promote gender justice, peace, and freedom.

PeaceWomen reaches an incredible number of policy-makers, officials and civil society working on the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 through our advocacy, monitoring, and outreach.

PeaceWomen work in 2012 continued our strategy and highlights of our projects are included here. For details, please visit www.peacewomen.org

Highlights from 2012

During 2012, PeaceWomen worked to strengthen both WILPF Sections and partner organizations at the national level and the connection between the local and global levels within WILPF. For example, PeaceWomen worked with WILPF’s 1325 Working Group, supported work on a National Action Plan in Nigeria, fostered WILPF Colombia’s peace process efforts. In addition, the Programme Director of PeaceWomen, Maria Butler, travelled to India to work with WILPF India and participate in workshops on women’s rights and peace.

In 2012, PeaceWomen continued to pioneer work on the National Action Plan (NAP) Initiative with the first and most comprehensive online platform. It serves as a transparent and useable tool for civil society organisations and is an ongoing project of the programme.

The programme continued to advocate for and monitor full implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda at the UN. PeaceWomen’s Security Council Monitor analysed the WPS content in Security Council resolutions, UN mission mandates, Secretary-General reports, and Security Council debates.

During the year, PeaceWomen collaborated with many partners.

Incredible outreach

In 2012, PeaceWomen connected with new and wide audiences through extensive outreach. The PeaceWomen team participated in numerous conferences, briefings and events. Moreover, the team published 12 editions of their monthly PeaceWomen eNews, reaching over 3,000 subscribers.

Throughout the year, the team consistently updated the peacewomen.org website, which is an online hub hosting information on more than 20 countries and implementation of the WPS agenda. The website received nearly 400,000 hits from over 200 different countries/territories in 2012.

For example, PeaceWomen provided leadership in the NGO Working Group on WPS where the PeaceWomen team made joint statements in the UN Security Council chambers, co-wrote letters to ambassadors on key issues, and helped produce monthly policy briefs known as Monthly Action Points.

The 56th Conference on the Status of Women

In March 2012, at the 56th Conference on the Status of Women, PeaceWomen coordinated WILPF engagement and hosted numerous events. The team voiced recommendations for a holistic approach to conflict prevention and monitored events and resources specifically related to the WPS agenda.
In 2012, the Programme Director of PeaceWomen, Maria Butler, travelled to India to visit WILPF India.

### Gender Criterion in the Arms Trade Treaty

In July 2012, PeaceWomen along with Reaching Critical Will actively advocated for the inclusion of a gender criterion in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

Our ATT gender team and partners mobilised in New York and far beyond on the GBV aspects of the arms trade. We teamed up with Amnesty International, the International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA), Oxfam International, Global Action to Prevent War, and Religions for Peace to advocate at all levels. We published a policy paper called Securing Women’s Rights and Gender Equality: A United Call to Explicitly Include Gender-Based Violence in the Criteria. We also worked on a public campaign with hundreds of civil society organizations around the world that supported our call.

### New Lecture Series on Women, Peace and Security

2012 also marked the start of PeaceWomen’s new lecture series on WPS, with feminist scholar Cynthia Enloe and Chief Prosecutor of the ICC Fatou Bensouda as the first two speakers to support awareness of the WPS agenda.

The lecture series is one of many ways we promote awareness, inclusive participation and ownership among civil society and policy-makers in order to strengthen voices in the women’s peace movement. We create space for creative thinkers to challenge the status quo.

Our partners in this series are the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations and the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination (LISD) at Princeton University.

### Staff

In 2012, the PeaceWomen Programme had one permanent staff member. The programme is supported by a number of expert consultants, advisers, interns and volunteers.

Maria Butler, Programme Director, is a passionate advocate for change who believes in connecting the local and global to advance human rights for all. She manages the monitoring, advocacy and outreach work of PeaceWomen, and the operations and fundraising of the programme.

Maria Butler is based in the WILPF UN Office in New York. She is an Attorney-at-Law and holds a Masters in Human Rights from the London School of Economics.
The MENA Agenda 1325 Project

In late 2011, almost one year after the public uprising started in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), WILPF International Secretariat developed a project to advance women’s rights and participation in addressing peace and security issues in the region.

The MENA Agenda 1325 Project connects women in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Syria to assist them to contributing their human rights work with the global Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The project wants to challenge the increased militarism in the MENA region and analyse the root causes of the escalating violence and insecurities.

The cornerstone of the project is WILPF’s close collaboration with national partner organisations in each country. National experts and grassroots activists from a variety of women and civil society organisations have participated in the activities.

Each country has its own agenda and specific challenges, but what all eight countries have in common is that, historically, women’s rights continue to be subordinate to men’s power.

Women in the region face heavy obstacles that prevent them from participating in the public sphere and they continue to be excluded from the decision making process concerning peace and security.

Throughout 2012, the project worked to identify obstacles to, and opportunities for, the advancement of women’s rights and their influence on the peace and security policy-making in the region.

In late June 2012, the project held an International Conference for women activists from across the MENA region in Geneva, which resulted in an outcome report with specific recommendations.

In the autumn of 2012, each national partner developed specific strategies and priorities in a participatory process that will lead up to a long-term regional programme.

The report and other information materials can be found on mena1325.org, a website that the project started to develop at the end of 2012.

National Consultations and International Conference

WILPF believes in creating space and dialogue and the project approach is participatory and inclusive. In the project we have used the Women, Peace and Security lens as an important tool while continuously underlining the importance of UNSCR 1325 within the wider context of women’s rights and linking it with relevant human rights conventions and standards.

Between April and May 2012, National Consultations were held in all eight countries. Almost 400 organisations participated in the discussions. The consultations focused on the existing and specific challenges and opportunities facing women’s participation in government reform processes and the on-going political transformations. Special attention was given to women’s influence in the security sector, the effects of militarism and how to create an agenda to end discrimination and strengthen women’s rights in accordance with CEDAW and the UNSCR 1325.

On 20-22 June 2012, an International Conference with representatives from all partner countries was held in connection with the 20th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. The international conference received high-level attention from both state missions and key institutions and provided recommendations for international and national response to advance women’s rights and women’s participation in peace and security issues in the region.

The project evolved into a second phase that brought the process back to the stakeholders at the national level. In October 2012, a new round of participatory consultations in all partner countries identified national, regional and international priorities and produced an action-plan for a more long-term programme.
Azza Hilal Suleiman’s story of experiencing violent brutality shocked us when we met her in Geneva, in June 2012. And since then, it seems the situation in Egypt has not improved much. Jacqui True and Vanessa Farr interviewed her in Cairo, on life after the revolution and its impact on women’s rights.

While we were in Cairo in the second phase of WILPF’s MENA Agenda 1325 project, we took the opportunity to catch up with Azza Suleiman. You might remember reading her compelling personal testimony about being beaten into a coma by army officers when she protected another unarmed female protestor during an attempted peaceful protest in Tahrir Square, Cairo, in December 2011.

Azza looks a lot better than she did when we saw her in July in Geneva. Then, you could still see bruising on her head and neck and she was exhausted and more-or-less constantly in pain. “The bruising has finally healed,” she said, “but some of my very deep injuries are still surfacing. Hard tissue and blood clots still cause me discomfort and pain and my head injuries still make me very tired and dizzy.” Her doctors think it will take about two years to fully recover, but, she said, “I do feel better, and I’m happy to tell you I feel less pain than before.”

We were saddened to hear, however, that her court case has shown no signs of movement. “My lawyers continue to work on my case pro bono, but the courts have now started the legal process from the beginning claiming there is evidence they need and do not have. Amnesty has placed Azza’s case on their urgent action list. “They are doing this with a lot of cases from the time of the uprisings; it’s clearly a delaying tactic. I feel very sad but I still cling to my belief in justice. I continue to receive lots of sympathy from outside.” Azza said, “but I feel much less support from within Egypt. I feel that there’s very little hope left.”

Azza and other Egyptian women’s human rights activists believe there is an implicit agreement between the Muslim Brotherhood and the army, exactly like the one that existed in Mubarak’s time. “The Brotherhood and salafists have their own deal with the armed forces now, and for all of those awaiting a court case, hope is minimal” she said. “Officers who were supposedly kicked out for using violence against unarmed protestors have not only been reinstated but received rewards. It seems human rights are even more fragile now than they were before: with military impunity, the torture is also continuing.”

Azza also talked about the continued economic exclusion of poor people, which was one of the major reasons for the uprising against Mubarak’s regime. “People are still poor, taxes are still high,” she said. “Indeed, the ruling party wants more money from us. And where is that to come from? The Brotherhood don’t have any fiscal policies or plans, they don’t know how to run our economy. It’s likely that what’s happening in Jordan with the fuel riots will happen here soon too.”

Another new challenge is that there is a rise in religious extremism. “There are religious women attacking girls who are not wearing hijab – including those who like me, I am Christian. Our culture doesn’t find anything bad in the culture of forcing girls to veil. A teacher recently attacked two girls who were not veiled, forcibly cutting their hair. The other parents approved of her behaviour.”

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Azza sees a long struggle ahead. “The Brotherhood government isn’t convincing us it knows how to lead,” she argues. “It doesn’t have previous experience and lacks capacity, money and plans. It doesn’t know how to build infrastructure or to develop the country. It may know how to be Islamist but it doesn’t know how to govern. There are hopes of a second rising, but that’s all we have left right now. It seems a second revolution is going to be necessary. But the general mood is that everyone is tired, people want stability and resources, not more change.”

In such a bleak environment, we asked Azza what she was focusing her activism on now. She told us that her attention remains on women’s and girls’ rights, which are being rapidly undermined. “Some Salafi clerics are calling for the age of marriage to be reduced to 9 years old.”

“What is even more distressing is that there is a rise in religiously-motivated violence against women,” she went on. “There are religious women attacking girls who are not wearing hijab – including those who like me, I am Christian. Our culture doesn’t find anything bad in the culture of forcing girls to veil. A teacher recently attacked two girls who were not veiled, forcibly cutting their hair. The other parents approved of her behaviour.”

“Women have a huge fight on our hands.”
In 2012, the MENA Agenda 1325 Project had two permanent staff members and got supported by a number of expert consultants, and interns.

Summary of outcome report

In 2012, MENA Agenda 1325 Project published an outcome report from the first year of consultations and seminars, which focused in particular on the outcome of the three-day international conference, held in connection with the Human Rights Council’s 20th session in Geneva, on June 2012.

The participants from the region expressed major concerns over the violent responses against women taking part in the uprisings and demonstrations. They fear the increase of a more radical political Islam will jeopardize women’s rights and their agenda for equality.

The decline of women in government decision-making, and the non-existent representation of women influencing national policy making, especially with regards to peace and security, will have long-term impact on peace and stability in the region.

In the report, the MENA Agenda 1325 Project recommends that the international community and governments, “Consult with women’s civil society on all matters of state and regional security.”

The report covers a summary of participants’ analyses, their strong position and recommendations for strengthening women’s participation and influence in a region undergoing tremendous change and challenges.

Barbro Svedberg is the Project Manager of the MENA Agenda 1325 Project at the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in Geneva. Barbro Svedberg holds a LLM from the London School of Economics in human rights law, and has been working as a human rights and development practitioner for more than 10 years. Before joining WILPF in 2011, she was the director for SIPU International Training Department. She has extensive experience as program manager, facilitator and trainer and has working experience for 20 plus countries including six in the MENA region.

Maria Muñoz Maraver, Project Associate. Before joining WILPF, María interned with UN Women Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar, advising on gender mainstreaming and strategy documents. She has also worked for the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office. María graduated as a BA Honours in Sociology and French by Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK, and holds a Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in International Law, with specialisations in Human Rights and Law and Development by the University of London. She speaks English, French, and Spanish fluently.

Vanessa Farr is an independent consultant and lead researcher on the MENA Agenda 1325 Project since its inception. She holds a PhD from the School of Women’s Studies at York University, Toronto. She was the first global Gender and Conflict Advisor at UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and then Social Development and Gender Advisor at UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People. Prior to that, she was lead editor and senior gender advisor on the UN’s Integrated DDR Standards. Currently, she works on the gendered impacts of conflict, women in peace-building and governance in conflict and post-conflict settings, specializing in Africa and the Middle East.
Meet the Members

Kleva Tabaku, WILPF Albania, 41 years
- I was a student at the Tirana University in Albania during the mid-nineties when the country was in chaos, rif with social conflicts and a high circulation of illegal weapons. During this violent time, I along with several other women went on to become founding members of WILPF Albania.
- In 1997, I helped WILPF Albania members to organize and to lead protests against violence all over the country.
- In 2012, my work focused on human rights and violence against women in Albania. WILPF Albania worked to promote freedom and human rights during the 100-year anniversary of Albanian Independence. WILPF Albania also currently engages in helping to improve multi-ethnic relations in the Balkan region.

Monica Amor Hernandez Esqueda, WILPF Mexico, 33 years
- I joined WILPF Mexico because I believe that women can end the widespread gender discriminatory violence by working together to change the pervasive sexist perceptions of women in Mexico, which the education and school system perpetuates.
- In 2012, I focused on alerting teenagers and young adults to the violence and abuse committed against women in Mexico. I organized “Bullying Conferences” in several schools as well as other informational workshops for teenage boys. In addition, I provide therapy to help empower victims of violence.
- My aim for 2013 is to open a women’s refuge where women can find support and access to education. I want to empower Mexican women to achieve their goals and to stand up against the repressive patriarchy in my country.

Anja Najjar, WILPF Lebanon, 28 years
- I was previously active in women’s rights, but I did not belong to any organisation. In early 2012, Anisa Najjar introduced me to WILPF and after she told me about WILPF and its work, I joined the organisation.
- During 2012, I worked on different joint ventures of several NGOs organising demonstrations and advertising for the implementation of new laws. I also organised a TV show with different ambassadors for the International Women’s Day. This activity is very special to me as we had very little time and managed to get a great set of people together and have a show on a prominent Lebanese TV channel.
- My hope for the future is to re-establish a youth section in Lebanon to get more young people involved and active.

LaShawndra Vernon, WILPF US, 36 years
- I decided to become a member of WILPF because I believe in freedom, social justice and human rights for all people. I met members of WILPF when I was working on re-establishing an Equal Rights Commission in Milwaukee, WI. Our work led to an awareness campaign on immunity and Security Council resolution 1325 to eradicate human trafficking.
- In 2012 WILPF USA served as an amplifier for the community’s voice by hosting hearings on human trafficking before a representative of the US State Department.
- I will continue to be a freedom fighter. I will always be on the front lines, or in a strategic position. Until we find ourselves in a world of freedom, I will always unite with my sisters in a search for peace. We will heal the world together.

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Anja Najjar, WILPF Lebanon, 28 years
- I was previously active in women’s rights, but I did not belong to any organisation. In early 2012, Anisa Najjar introduced me to WILPF and after she told me about WILPF and its work, I joined the organisation.
- During 2012, I worked on different joint ventures of several NGOs organising demonstrations and advertising for the implementation of new laws. I also organised a TV show with different ambassadors for the International Women’s Day. This activity is very special to me as we had very little time and managed to get a great set of people together and have a show on a prominent Lebanese TV channel.
- My hope for the future is to re-establish a youth section in Lebanon to get more young people involved and active.

LaShawndra Vernon, WILPF US, 36 years
- I decided to become a member of WILPF because I believe in freedom, social justice and human rights for all people. I met members of WILPF when I was working on re-establishing an Equal Rights Commission in Milwaukee, WI. Our work led to an awareness campaign on immunity and Security Council resolution 1325 to eradicate human trafficking.
- In 2012 WILPF USA served as an amplifier for the community’s voice by hosting hearings on human trafficking before a representative of the US State Department.
- I will continue to be a freedom fighter. I will always be on the front lines, or in a strategic position. Until we find ourselves in a world of freedom, I will always unite with my sisters in a search for peace. We will heal the world together.
Meet the Members

Prabha Mainali, WILPF Nepal, 35 years
- I fight for equal rights in Nepal, a developing country where women face extreme discrimination and suffer from a lack of education. I joined WILPF because it is a platform that provides women a voice both to fight for local issues such as women’s living conditions and to address global issues such as world peace and disarmament.

- In 2012, I worked closely with the WILPF Nepal “Awareness Programme,” which informs women about their rights and the dangers associated with domestic violence, the dowry system and women trafficking. I also fight for the implementation of equal rights in the laws passed by the state legislature. I strongly believe that women will not achieve equality until they are involved in the legislative process.

- I find fighting for the improvement of Nepalese women’s living conditions extremely fulfilling and I hope to fight many more years for women’s rights.

Kozue Akibayashi, WILPF Japan, 44 years
- I first came across WILPF International through my studies on Peace Education and Gender in the United States. I was so impressed by the way WILPF linked gender and peace issues that I joined WILPF Japan when I returned home.

- Inspired by my dealings with the WILPF New York office, I strive to remain internationally focused in my activism. By fostering relations between WILPF Japan and its international sections, I hope to combat the isolation Japan faces as an island.

- In 2012, I focused on recruiting younger members for WILPF Japan through my work at the University. I firmly believe that WILPF’s tenets remain pertinent in light of the issues we still face today and I hope my efforts at WILPF will help connect the fields of academia and activism.
In 2012 WILPF Sections worked both independently and collectively to advance national and global human rights. As a collective, the Sections raised awareness of the United Nations Security resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security. Independently, many Sections submitted National Action Plans to their governments, detailing how to best implement UNSCR 1325. As well, each Section focused on pressing issues in their respective countries. For example, WILPF Bolivia launched national campaigns on domestic violence, Sweden engaged its government on demilitarisation, and WILPF India presented seminars on female foeticide.

Through local, regional, and international meetings, Sections and branches are working together as a community to advance WILPF’s mission to ensure human rights on a global level.
WILPF Albania
In 2012, WILPF Albania supported ICAN for nuclear disarmament and engaged against gender-based violence in rural areas. The Section organised a number of activities for the 100th anniversary of Albanian Independence. These activities had a focus on the culture of peace and freedom, and the Albanian President was informed about the Section’s activities. For 2013-2015, WILPF Albania intends to promote a Balkan collaboration for multi-ethnic coexistence, the culture of peace and freedom and disarmament.

WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand
In 2012, WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand advocated for indigenous rights and against racism. The Section lobbied for a Social Welfare Reform and a treaty for the global ban on the production and use of nuclear weapons. Moreover, the Section made a big effort to support several commemorative days, organising speaking tours and public meetings. The Section mainly focuses on the Green Paper on Vulnerable Children, immigration legislature and the support of the ICAN Aotearoa/New Zealand petition to the Parliament.

WILPF Australia
In 2012, WILPF Australia focused on challenging militarism with the 16 Days Campaign. It fought to reduce foreign troops in Australia and redefine military and human security. Moreover, the Section invested in peace and submitted to the government the document “Australia’s Role in the Asian Century” aimed at developing a plan for building peace in the region. WILPF Australia also coordinated NGO responses to the Draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and worked on strengthening and reforming the multilateralism of the Australian government by trying to influence the government to improve the implementation of UN treaties.

WILPF Bolivia
In Bolivia, women still suffer from heavy discrimination, and the main focus of WILPF Bolivia is the fight for gender equality. To reach this goal, the Section promoted basic instruments, such as better education for women, universal access to healthcare, and legislation protecting women against domestic violence and labour discrimination. WILPF Bolivia also motivated young women to engage in politics and put a lot of effort into campaigns against domestic violence. Its long-term aim is to achieve critical changes in the society’s attitude towards women in order to eliminate the political, social and cultural causes of gender-based violence.

WILPF Colombia
WILPF Colombia (LIMPAL) engaged in strengthening and expanding the Section’s role as a pioneer for peace and empowerment in the country. Moreover, it demanded the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and worked to empower Colombian women through education to act as agents of peace and progress in their communities. In 2012, WILPF Colombia organised workshops, such as the one about violence in Cartagena in July. It also launched a project aimed at using art and culture to promote women’s rights and peace: “La Casa Ursula.”

WILPF Costa Rica
Costa Rican historical state institutions are at risk, social spending is in decline and the basic needs of the population, such as access to healthcare and education, are not met. In 2012, WILPF Costa Rica participated in projects and festivals on women, peace and security. The Section was also active in promoting migrants’ rights and in September it distributed copies of the resolution of the last WILPF International Congress in Costa Rica. In the future, the Section intends to focus even more on gender-based violence, human rights and disarmament.

WILPF DRC
The main issues that WILPF DRC encountered are the violent impact of conflict on women and the lack of security. In 2012, the Section actively engaged in promoting UNSCR 1325 through seminars and events. Furthermore, the Section published articles in local newspapers and participated in a number of congresses, such as the International Women’s Day Conference and the Women, Peace and Security seminar in July. Despite the difficult political situation in the country, WILPF DRC has several active local branches.

WILPF Denmark
In 2012, WILPF Denmark actively promoted UNSCR 1325 by studying papers, reports and evaluations concerning the war in Afghanistan. The Section provided input and suggestions to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organised a seminar on the implementation of the resolution for women in Afghanistan. It also participated in a number of demonstrations on human rights in Gaza and on the criminalisation of sex buyers. WILPF Denmark will continue to organise a demonstration every first Friday of the month.

WILPF Finland
In 2012, WILPF Finland participated in the Finnish Network UNSCR 1325, together with other women’s organisations and researchers. The Section actively cooperated with several Somali women’s groups in Finland to work on peace building issues in Somalia and organised workshops on Somali culture. It also organised an international seminar on the situation of women in Somalia, with 40 participants and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

WILPF France
In 2012, France remained an invested and active participant in the Palestinian and Israel crisis and attended many meetings on the conflict. In addition, they participated and attended meetings held by both UNESCO and ICAN. The IB representative, Eugenie Dossia, presented to UNESCO on “structural reforms” in Africa. The Section also strengthened their international and internal ties by visiting the Congolese Section in Kinsha in October and hosting a branch meeting in Grenoble. For the next two to three years, WILPF France plans to fight austerity measures imposed by the European Union and nuclear proliferation.

WILPF Germany
WILPF Germany focuses on disarmament, human rights, poverty, women trafficking and the UNSCR 1325. In 2012, the Section organized protest actions, conferences, seminars and meetings in cooperation with networks and umbrella organizations. The Section tried to raise awareness through newspaper articles and declarations, such as those on poverty and austerity. During the annual NATO Conference in Munich, the Section organized protest actions and a conference on Syria and the Arab Spring.

WILPF India
WILPF India engaged in releasing the civil rights activist, Sharmila Irom, and in fighting against nuclear power. The Section also worked to raise awareness on UNSCR 1325, organising several meetings on the issue in 2012. The Section also held a seminar on health and social problems of minorities and one on female foeticide.

WILPF Italy
This past year Italy attended and held many seminars and meetings. For example, the Section advanced and promoted UNSCR 1325 by holding a seminar. In addition, it held a membership meeting for local branches in September and attended one for WILPF EU Sections in May. As well, WILPF Italy interacted with the surrounding community by submitting an Op Ed in a local newspaper. In the future, WILPF Italy intends to help promote the Independent National Institution in Italy for the protection of human rights.
days and supported victims of domestic violence. It also engaged in promoting literacy among adult women in rural areas.

**WILPF Netherlands**
In 2012, WILPF Netherlands participated in a Dutch platform and collaborated with WILPF Colombia on issues regarding women and peace, and engaged in the implementation of the National Action Plan II. The Section hosted the celebration of WILPF anniversary in Utrecht. Its main focus areas for the future are human rights, international law, disarmament and the financial crisis from a gender perspective.

**WILPF Nepal**
In 2012, WILPF Nepal worked towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by actively participating in the MENA Agenda 1325 Project. One of their members traveled to Geneva for the Human Rights Council to discuss and advocate for Lebanese women and their current situation with expert MENA delegates. The Section also organized festivities celebrating and promoting International Women’s Day. In the future, WILPF Lebanon will focus on the effects of Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

**WILPF Norway**
In 2012, WILPF Norway has been very active in demilitarisation: it lobbied for a binding Arms Trade Agreement, as well as the ban of nuclear weapons and depleted uranium. The Section also focused on peace, with seminars on food security, women’s cooperation with local farmers and a pilot project in Tanzania. It provided recommendations to the Norwegian Government on UN issues and was actively involved in a journal, a book publication and an alternate rally to the Nobel Peace Prize 2012.

**WILPF Palestine**
WILPF Palestine continues to combat Israeli control over both Palestine’s economy and the movement of its people. In an effort to contribute politically in this continuing crisis and to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325, WILPF Palestine nominated one of its members to run for elections. Although their candidate failed to win, her nomination helped pave the way for future female candidates. In the future, in addition to fighting for the reunification of their people, WILPF Palestine intends to continue monitoring Palestinian institutions and organizations.

**WILPF Philippines**
In 2012, WILPF Philippines participated in the International Women’s Day, Human Rights Day, the first general assembly of the International Women’s Conference, and the Forum on Peace Process. The Section actively engaged in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 with a module and a primer. In the future, the Section intends to focus more on peace education, environmental issues and in demanding an increase in public social spending.

**WILPF Sweden**
In 2012, WILPF Sweden supported projects in Colombia, DRC, Costa Rica and Nigeria to implement UNSCR 1325. The Section distributed materials, organised campaigns and seminars on armed violence against women and was active in universities and social media. Moreover, the Section engaged in advocacy activities with the government on the Swedish NAP and disarmament policies. It cooperated with Operation 1325 on projects in Sudan, Israel and Palestine and built networks with the Civil Society in communities affected by military tests.

**WILPF Switzerland**
In 2012, the Section focused on stopping gender-based violence by pointing out that the high rate of domestic violence might be due to the increased militarisation of the country. During the year, the number of members of the Section increased. The Section participated in several events, such as the 16 Days of Action Against Gender Violence Campaign and on April 28th it celebrated WILPF’s anniversary.
Members of the Executive Committee

About the Executive Committee

WILPF’s Executive Committee, also called ExCom, consists of seven people: an International President, four Vice-Presidents, an International Treasurer and the Secretary General. The members of the ExCom are, with the exception of the Secretary General, elected at the WILPF International Congress, which is organised every third year.

The task of the ExCom is to first consult with the national Sections and then set the agenda for the International Board meetings and oversee the implementation of the organisation’s International Programme between the meetings of the International Board.

International President, Adilia Caravaca

Adilia Caravaca, Costa Rica, has been active in WILPF since 1983.

She is Costa Rican by birth and an internationalist by heart. She is a lawyer and has a Masters Degree in Gender and Peace Building from the University for Peace in Costa Rica. Within WILPF, most of her work has dealt with gender and justice, human rights, disarmament and positive peace promotion.

She teaches an annual field course on indigenous peoples’ rights at the University for Peace. Adilia Caravaca was appointed in August 2011.

Vice-President, Martha Jean Baker

Following her qualification as a lawyer and while studying for her LLM in International Human Rights and Public International Law at UCL in London, Martha Jean Baker, United Kingdom, began representing WILPF on the Coalition for an International Criminal Court. There she worked with the Women’s Caucus on the elements of gender crimes.

Martha Jean Baker has been active in WILPF United Kingdom since 1997 and has been part of WILPF since childhood, since her mother was an active member.
International Treasurer, Nancy Ramsden

After working as assistant to the treasurer for a large mutual fund corporation, Nancy Ramsden, USA, changed her career to become a teacher, social worker and later a court-qualified mediator. She has a BA and a MA in Psychology and has been active in various peace organisations for many years. As well, Nancy Ramsden traveled to the Soviet Union to meet with their Peace Committee as a US citizen diplomat.

Nancy Ramsden has been WILPF International Treasurer since being appointed in December 2008, and was reelected in 2011.

Vice-President, Kerstin Grebäck

Kerstin Grebäck, Sweden, became involved with WILPF in 1985, when she joined the Great Peace Journey, an initiative of WILPF Sweden involving the submission of five questions on peace and disarmament issues to 130 governments worldwide.

From 1990 until 1995, she was the Secretary General of WILPF Sweden. During that period, she led WILPF Sweden in building support for women in former Yugoslavia.

This initiative led to the start-up of “Kvinna till Kvinna,” of which she was President and Secretary-General between 1995-05. In 2002, the foundation received The Right Livelihood Award.

Vice-President, Ila Pathak

Ila Pathak, India, has worked on women’s peace and freedom for many years.

She stepped into the international arena in 1981, when she founded, together with others, the NGO Ahmedabad Women’s Action Group (AWAG). The organisation deals with women’s issues in India.

Ila Pathak has a Bachelors Degree in Law, and a Masters Degree and a PhD in Indo-English Literature. She started her career as a university lecturer and freelance journalist.

Vice-President, Neelima Sinha

Neelima Sinha, India, has a M.Sc and a Ph.D in Human Development and is a professional Psychological Counsellor.

She has university teaching experience of 30 years and has been with WILPF for the past 11 years. Neelima Sinha, along with 24 active WILPFers from her section, has conducted various workshops for girl students, on various Human Rights issues.

Due to her efforts, an introduction to Security Council resolution 1325 is now included in the syllabus of her postgraduate courses.

Funding of the executive committee

The members of the Executive Committee are working on a voluntary basis.

Every year, two face-to-face Executive Committee meetings are organized. In these occasions, all travel costs are covered by WILPF and follow WILPF’s travel and per diem policies. Travel costs include: flights costs, accommodation costs and a per diem, which is paid to each member to cover meals and local transport.

The Executive Committee members are also sponsored by WILPF for any meeting they attend. The meetings shall be related to the implementation of WILPF’s international programme or for an official representation of WILPF. In these potential occasions, Executive Committee members shall request permission to attend these events and send a budget for approval.

In order to sponsor the Executive Committee members, WILPF is using its core funding. WILPF’s core funding originates mainly through the Sections’ membership fees (paid to WILPF International Secretariat each year) and other potential non-earmarked funding such as international memberships, bequests and donations.
Members of the International Board

About the International Board

WILPF’s International Board, also called IB, consists of an IB member and an IB alternate from each Section, the seven ExCom members and the convenors of the four Standing Committees, which in 2012 were the Standing Communications Committee, the Standing Constitution Committee, the Standing Finance Committee and the Standing Personnel Committee.

The national members of the International Board are elected as Section representatives within their Sections, the members of ExCom are elected at the International Congress and the convenors of the Standing Committees are elected at the International Congress and re-appointed at the International Board meeting between the International Congresses.

Mandate

The task of the International Board is to carry out the policies and the International Programme adopted by the International Congress. The International Board is responsible for ensuring the means of financing the administration, programmes and all other activities of WILPF in accordance with the WILPF By-Laws.

The International Board is responsible for establishing the necessary standing and ad hoc committees, and determining the rules governing their constitution, mandates, operating modes, and dissolution. The International Board meets at least once every 18 months. No International Board meetings took place in 2012.

WILPF Albania
IB Member Tatiana Kurtiqi
Alternate Kleva Tabaku

WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand
IB Member Joan Macdonald
Alternate Megan Hutching

WILPF Argentina
IB Member Maria Pagano
Alternate None

WILPF Australia
IB Member Lynette Lane
Alternate Delene Cuddihy

WILPF Bolivia
IB Member Katia Patiño Uriona
Alternate Maria Reina Duran

WILPF Canada
IB Member None
Alternate None

WILPF Chile
IB Member Violeta Castex
Alternate None

WILPF Colombia
IB Member Amparo Guerrero
Alternate None

WILPF Costa Rica
IB Member Estilita Grimaldo
Alternate Carolyn Ross

WILPF DRC
IB Member Annie Maatundu Mbambi
Alternate Eulalie Kintenga Kiribeta

WILPF Denmark
IB Member Ida Harsløf
Alternate Karen Rald

WILPF Finland
IB Member Paula Sams-Nurmentaus
Alternate Marianne Laxén

WILPF French Polynesia
IB Member Roti Make
Alternate None

WILPF France
IB Member Claire Nancy and Eugenie Daossa-Quenum
Alternate None

WILPF Germany
IB Member Heidi Meinzolt
Alternate Talat Sabbagh

WILPF India
IB Member Krishna Ahooja Patel
Alternate Ila Pathak

WILPF Italy
IB Member Annalisia Milani
Alternate None

WILPF Japan
IB Member Kozue Akibayashi
Alternate Noriko Tada

WILPF Lebanon
IB Member Ferial Abu Hamdan
Alternate Nouha Ghozlan

WILPF Mexico
IB Member Elizabeth Ballen Guacheta
Alternate Amparo Guerrero

WILPF Nepal
IB Member Nirmala Sitoula
Alternate None

WILPF Netherlands
IB Member Inge Stëmmel
Alternate None

WILPF Nigeria
IB Member Adanna Anyasodo
Alternate Jennifer Okpehuku

WILPF Norway
IB Member Mari Holmboe Ruge
Alternate Edel Havin Beukes

WILPF Pakistan
IB Member Nasreen Azhar
Alternate Anis Haroon

WILPF Palestine
IB Member Hanan Awwad
Alternate Nariman al far

WILPF Philippines
IB Member Rosario T. Padilla
Alternate Guia Padilla

WILPF Spain
IB Member Manuela Mesa
Alternate None

WILPF Sweden
IB Member Emma Rosengren
Alternate Kirsti Klothoff

WILPF Switzerland
IB Member Helena Nyberg
Alternate None

WILPF United Kingdom
IB Member Lorraine Mirham
Alternate None

WILPF USA
IB Member Catia C. Confortini
Alternate Sydney Gliserman
Financial Information 2012

2012 was a strong year financially for our organization. From 2011 to 2012, within the span of just one year, WILPF doubled its revenue. The overwhelming support from donors and contributors who share our vision enabled WILPF to expand the number, size, and scope of its programmes, projects and activities.

This money has enabled WILPF to amplify the voices of women from around the world at both a local and global level. The extra funds afforded WILPF members from our Sections, including women in the United Kingdom, Pakistan, and the MENA region, the opportunity to fly to Geneva in order to participate and engage in the UN human rights system mechanism. Moreover, our ability to conduct capacity building by either financing or developing the projects of our partner organisations and WILPF Sections increased exponentially. With the increased revenue, WILPF has helped educate and empower future women leaders both in our National Sections and partner organisations.

The additional monetary support also allowed the International Secretariat to enlarge its staff to better carry out WILPF’s work and mission. In addition, it granted us the means to create and hone a unique WILPF brand via our new international website, social media and newsletters. By improving our internal and external communication framework, we increased our ability to effectively disseminate WILPF’s message of defending and supporting social, economic and political justice for everyone, everywhere.

Thanks to our sponsors, donors, and committed WILPF members, we are steadily progressing towards increasing our financial sustainability. While it is difficult to raise sufficient funds to cover our operating costs, we are confident that with the unflagging support of our members and donors, WILPF’s work will continue to impact the fight for peace and human rights.

Again we thank-you for your support, both this year and next, in helping WILPF prevent and end war for today’s world and for future generations.

To access and view WILPF’s complete audited financial statements for 2012, please visit our website at: www.wilpfinternational.org/audits2012.

Building WILPF

During 2012, the International Secretariat increased its capacity to support the work done by the Sections.

This increase is a result of financial contributions, which support activities on the national and local level by bringing the representatives from national Sections to different fora on international levels.

The increased number of staff at the International Secretariat has also allowed for increased interaction and communication with the Sections.

Included in the highlights from the Sections are also some activities that were part of twinning projects between Sections and regional cooperation. These were financed by one or several of the participating Sections.
Highlighted
Regional Activities

Africa
In February 2012, the first African Working Group meeting was conducted in Nigeria to map out the work for the coming years. The regional group will focus on building women’s capacity using the Security Council resolution 1325 as a working tool.
The African Working Group will work closely with women in the region, who are on the ground and are directly involved in the issues in Africa.
Moreover, the African Working Group will build strategic alliances with other African national and regional NGOs, especially in the reduction of poverty, the proliferation of small arms and the use of weapons within the region as means of conflict reduction.

The Americas
In March 2012, the Sections from Colombia and Costa Rica arranged a regional meeting to share experiences and to build solidarity and regional co-operation in the region.
Grassroots leaders and women from displaced communities took part in the meeting and strategies for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on different levels were developed.
A common proposal on women’s political empowerment was written by the two Sections and submitted to UNWomen.

Europe
In May 2012, a number of European Sections met in Brussels to discuss the European security agenda, exchange experiences and further develop the cooperation between the WILPF Sections in Europe. The delegation also met with a number of high-level European politicians to discuss current issues and present the WILPF perspective.
Highlighted Section Work

WILPF Mexico
WILPF Mexico focused on the topic of Security Council resolution 1325 and the Arms Trade Treaty. They arranged a two-day training workshop to educate their members and representatives from other organisations in the civil society on the issue. An important aspect of the workshop was to develop the connections between the work done on national and international levels.

WILPF United Kingdom
The Scottish Branch of the WILPF United Kingdom drafted a Security Council resolution 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) proposal to the Scottish parliament to strengthen the capacity of women’s organisations ability to participate in the development and implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on local, national and international level.
They also identified and contacted MSPs, researchers and other civil society organisations to participate in the process and help define achievable outcomes. The process will continue during 2013.

WILPF Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
WILPF DRC arranged a number of seminars to assess progress made on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The seminars focused on disarmament. The discussion touched upon the issues of security sector reform, improving legal frameworks and the participation of women in combating violence and proliferation of small arms.

WILPF Nepal
WILPF Nepal arranged a workshop with the purpose of building awareness about the Security Council resolution 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) and to spread information about the level of implementation of the NAP till now. The main target group for the workshop was CA members and the aim was to increase the level of effective law-making.

WILPF Lebanon
WILPF Lebanon arranged a series of combined lectures and workshops in five provinces in Lebanon on the theme “Introduce and discuss women’s rights with reference to CEDAW and UNSCR 1325.”
During the first lecture, Dr. Karam, an expert on women’s issues, spoke about the historical roots that led to the situation women are in today.

WILPF India
WILPF India arranged a national workshop series on “Awareness Programme for young women about their rights.” aimed towards young women and students. The workshop included different expert speakers and lecturers.
The Director of PeaceWomen, Maria Butler, participated as a key note speaker in the series.
**Highlighted International Meetings and Events**

**WILPF 100 Anniversary**
In May 2012, representatives from a number of European Sections met in The Hague to learn more about the work done by the WILPF Netherlands to prepare for the 100th anniversary.

**The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) 2012**
During the 2012 AWID Forum, “Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women’s Rights and Justice,” WILPF arranged a session on women’s security and militarism. The session was called “From the Beijing Platform to Resolution 1325 - Military Expenditure and its Consequences for Women’s Security.”

The session was a joint project of five WILPF Sections, and the aim was to bring forward women’s active participation in security politics in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Colombia and Sweden.

**Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 2012**
During the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February 2012, “The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges,” members from several Sections participated, including Pakistan, Japan, Nigeria, US, Sweden and Lebanon. The members were active at numerous events and voiced their recommendations for a holistic approach to prevent conflict. Several inter-sectional meetings were arranged, so members from the different Sections could share information and experience.

**Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) 2012**
During the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Diplomatic Conference in July 2012, WILPF Sections from Mexico, Philippines, Sweden, and US took part in the arrangement of different events and meetings with United Nations officials and Member States. The purpose was to raise awareness on how the ATT can increase human security by focusing on the links between the arms trade and gender-based violence.

WILPF International Secretariat also arranged a capacity building workshop, so the Sections could increase their knowledge on the ATT and get familiar with WILPF’s work on disarmament on international level.

Five representatives from the Iansa Women’s Network participated in the workshop, which enabled exchange of experience and expertise and let into interesting discussions on cooperation on national and regional levels.

10,000 CHF was allocated to bring the representatives from the Sections to the 2012 ATT conference in New York, USA.

**Universal Periodic Reviews 2012**
During 2012, WILPF International Secretariat has been able to provide financial support to WILPF United Kingdom and WILPF Pakistan, so they could attend the Universal Periodic Reviews in Geneva, Switzerland, and hold side events at the Palais des Nations, the United Nations headquarter in Geneva, during the Universal Periodic Reviews.