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Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom  
1, rue de Varembé  
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In 2011, WILPF convened a meeting to discuss the idea of convergence under international law. Simply put: can different disciplines of law work with each other to create a framework, which accurately reflects and appropriately regulates the factors that drive war and precondition peace?

We were doing no more and no less than building on what WILPF started in 1915 with the demand to look at root causes of war: militarisation, the production and sale of arms and inequalities and discrimination. The context in this century may be different but the idea of an integrated approach is not. We cannot build the picture of peace unless we use all the pieces to the puzzle.

There is growing evidence that our message is gaining ground. The entry point today is predominantly that of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. WILPF has played an enormous role in developing its meaning and implementation, for example, bringing it into arms control (as exemplified through the Arms Trade Treaty), as a means of delivering on international legal obligations. This could not have happened without the growing understanding of the importance of convergence between previously compartmentalised topics to better regulate and transform social norms and bring peace. WILPF was there first!

Since 2010 we have been actively building upon and advocating this principle and have brought more fulsomely into our approach the absolute need to understand gender, gender relations and its role in conflict.

We have increased our capacity with new Sections and partner organisations in the Balkans, the MENA region and Africa. We have increased our work in the UN with the Human Rights Programme, the Disarmament Programme and the Gender, Peace and Security Programme, combining with Sections and partners to bring crucial issues on peace and security into the Geneva and New York fora, in particular to demand the participation of women in decision making and peace negotiations.

As we move towards our 100th anniversary in April 2015, we see the absolute necessity of our continued activism. From Syria, to Bosnia, to DRC and on and on, there is no end to the capacity of the world to seek to resolve conflict through the use of extreme violence. There is much to be done and as this report demonstrates, WILPF is an important and influential player in trying to prevent war and bring peace.

In peace,

Madeleine Rees
WILPF Secretary General
Who We Are

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) with National Sections spanning 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, 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.

98 Years of Work for Peace and Freedom

WILPF’s history starts in 1915, when 1,136 women from a diversity of cultures and languages came together in The Hague during the First World War, to study, make known and eliminate the causes of war.

They issued resolutions, sent out delegations to countries engaged in the First World War and created our organisation, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, or WILPF for short.

At that time, as well as now, the purpose of founding WILPF was to have an organisation through which women could work for peace and freedom by claiming women’s rights and responsibilities to participate in decision-making processes in all aspects of peace and security.

Vision

WILPF envisions a world free from violence and armed conflict in which human rights are protected and women and men are equally empowered and involved in positions of leadership at the local, national and international levels.

Mission Statement

WILPF’s mission is to end and prevent war, ensure that women are represented at all levels in the peace-building process, defend the human rights of women, and promote social, economic and political justice.

To achieve this mission, WILPF conducts programmes in three areas: Disarmament, Human Rights, and Gender, Peace and Security. The WILPF International Secretariat works alongside our global network of Sections, conducting peace building activities at every level, from the grassroots to the highest decision-making bodies at the United Nations.
Organisational Structure

**Membership**

WILPF is an international organisation with Sections in more than 30 countries and international members all over the world.

The National Sections carry out the international programme in their national context, as well as giving input to the work of the two international offices. Most Sections are run on a voluntary basis and occasionally a few Sections have a secretariat with paid staff. To become a National Section, the first step is to form a group. Only Congress can approve new Sections and the newest Sections are Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Spain, Mexico, Pakistan, and Nigeria, which were approved at the 2011 congress. In 2013, new groups were established in Ghana and Cameroon.

International Members are based in countries where WILPF does not have a Section.

**The Triennial International Congress**

The Triennial International Congress is the highest decision-making body of WILPF and the final authority in all matters concerning the organisation. All members can participate in the Congress.

The Executive Committee (ExCom) and the International Board (IB) carry out policies and programmes adopted by the International Congress.

The next International Congress will be held in The Hague in April 2015.

**The International Board**

The International Board (IB) is composed of the ExCom, one International Board member and one alternate elected by each National Section, and
the conveners of the Standing Committees in an advisory, non-voting capacity. IB is responsible for ensuring the means of financing the administration, the programmes and all other activities of WILPF in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

The IB also has the overall responsibility for establishing the necessary standing and ad hoc committees, and for determining the rules governing their constitution, mandates, operating modes, and dissolution.

IB held a board meeting in 2013 in Madrid, Spain.

**The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is composed of the International President, four Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and the Secretary General. The ExCom is elected at the Congress. The ExCom meets online every six weeks. Summaries from their meetings can be read on the international website.

**Standing Committees**

WILPF has a number of Standing Committees established by the International Board. They are evaluated at least every three years and formally dissolved when their purpose is achieved or their function is not relevant anymore.

Each committee comprises of five to seven volunteers, of whom at least two are members of the International Board. In 2013, the following Standing Committees were active: Standing Finance Committee, Standing Constitution Committee and Standing Communications Committee.

WILPF’s office in Geneva faces the United Nations, where WILPF participates in events during the year. In 2013, WILPF held six side events at the United Nations in Geneva.

Credits: Rowan Farrell
In February 2013, IB members, alternates and ordinary members met in Madrid for the IB meeting. The meeting was organised by WILPF Spain, one of WILPF’s newest Sections. The overall theme of the IB meeting was the Arms Trade Treaty and gender based violence, but during the meeting the members also discussed WILPF’s organisation, re-elected convenors of the Standing Committees, held regional meetings and organised a flash mob inside Madrid city centre.

Ad Hoc Committee on WILPF Organisation

At the IB meeting in 2013, the IB established an Ad Hoc Committee with a mandate to look deeper into the organisational structure of WILPF. The Ad Hoc Committee, named ‘Committee on WILPF’s Organisation’ did a survey, open for all members, which resulted in a report with suggested changes in the organisational structure as well as the Constitution and By-Laws.

The report will be discussed in the Sections and at regional meetings in 2014 and after input from members, the Standing Constitution Committee will take over the work and come with concrete proposals for changes in the Constitution and By-Laws for the International Congress in 2015.
International Programmes and Projects

WILPF operates two international offices; an office in New York and the international secretariat in Geneva. The international offices are run by the Secretary General. Together the offices run a number of programmes, projects and campaigns with staff members spread between the two offices.

The Human Rights Programme

The Human Rights Programme focuses on WILPF’s active participation in the human rights system, in particular the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), special procedures and treaty bodies, especially, but not limited to, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee). Our priority is to strengthen the participation of Sections and national partner organisations in the human rights mechanisms using our Integrated Approach.

Our activities establish a methodology of linking elements from a gender perspective in the human rights system. The Human Rights Programme works in close coordination with our other programmes and projects to bring expertise on Disarmament and Women, Peace and Security to the human rights bodies.

Common activities include the organising of panel events during the Human Rights Council or CEDAW sessions, preparation of advocacy documents and shadow reports, bilateral meetings with delegations, negotiations and political processes at the human rights system with our multidisciplinary Integrated Approach.

The Disarmament Programme

Based both in Geneva and New York, the Disarmament Programme is led by the Reaching Critical Will team and promotes WILPF’s mission and demands for peace and security through disarmament and demilitarisation. The programme focuses on six main areas of work: nuclear weapons, the international arms trade, explosive weapons in populated areas, emerging technologies of warfare (including drones, fully autonomous weapons and space), gender perspectives on disarmament, and reduction of military spending.

The programme is active in these areas by monitoring, reporting and conducting advocacy in major multilateral forums related to disarmament. A sample includes the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Oslo in 2013), UN General Assembly, UN First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament.

The engagement in the disarmament machinery is further channelled through cutting edge research in order to enhance the disarmament discussion while addressing gender-related issues.

The Gender, Peace and Security Programme

WILPF’s Gender, Peace and Security Programme works to promote WILPF’s vision of peace and freedom for all through advocacy, monitoring, evaluation, and capacity building around the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. The Programme is led by WILPF’s PeaceWomen team.

PeaceWomen promotes inclusive participation by coordinating local and global advocacy and elevating voices of WILPF members and partners on disarmament and human rights to global policymakers worldwide. In 2013, this included facilitating 75 WILPFers at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

PeaceWomen promotes accountability through our WPS advocacy and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation. In 2013, we successfully advocated for new Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2122 to support an ‘Integrated Approach’ that strengthens human rights and the full WPS agenda. PeaceWomen prevents conflict by working with the other WILPF programmes to promote this approach to peace and security across the UN system and beyond.
MENA Agenda 1325 Project

The MENA Agenda 1325 project focuses on advancing women’s rights by building the capacity of women to engage and participate in peace and security issues. It seeks to challenge the militarised security frameworks currently in place in most countries in the region by linking security to women’s rights.

The overall objective of the project remains the advancement women’s rights as called for in CEDAW and enabling women’s meaningful participation in all aspects related to peace and security in the MENA region, as outlined in the Women, Peace and Security resolutions of the Security Council.

WILPF’s MENA Agenda 1325 is introducing a unique agenda by mobilising women’s organisations in eight countries in the region: Iraq, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco. It operates through a network of partner organisations in the region and at the international level, with WILPF International Secretariat as the lead organisation.

Women Organising for Peace in Bosnia and Syria Project

Women Organising for Change in Syria and Bosnia and Herzegovina focuses on capturing real and true experiences of women working for effective change in war affected societies. The initiative aims at facilitating a dialogue between women in Syria and Bosnia and Herzegovina, thereby highlighting the importance of considering experiences and empirical knowledge of women who went through the armed conflict and struggled for women rights, in light of conflict prevention and peace building initiatives in Syria.

During 2013, round tables, workshops and panel discussions were organised in order to facilitate exchange and place a spotlight on the experiences of women from these and other war torn societies.

As a result of the work in 2013, Bosnian women activists prepared a set of retrospective reports covering 20 years of their experience working for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Findings from these reports were used by the Syrian women activists in discussions and preparations of their own strategy in light of conflict prevention and peace building initiatives in Syria.

Office Management and Finance

Office Management and Finance are based in the Secretariat in Geneva. In 2013, the team consisted of one person, who took care of all finances, office management as well as human resources.

Communications

A Communications Team is located at the Geneva Secretariat. In 2013, the team consisted of a Communications Manager and an intern. The team takes care of both external and internal communication, hereunder the international website, the international newsletters, the international social media, publications etc.
Syrian women travelled to Geneva to lobby to be involved in the Syrian Geneva II Peace Talks. 
Credit: Rowan Farrell
We Made it Binding

On 2nd of April 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We were particularly excited by this historic moment as it is the first treaty that recognises the link between gender based violence and the international arms trade.

WILPF’s Disarmament Programme, Reaching Critical Will, worked with WILPF’s Gender, Peace and Security Programme (PeaceWomen) to run a campaign during the ATT process to ensure that the prevention of armed gender-based violence was legally binding in the treaty. WILPF worked hard together with many WILPF sections to gather support from all over the world, and together lobbied governments vigorously throughout the negotiations to ensure that gender perspective was not dropped at the last minute.

In the end, the inclusion of this provision was supported by over 100 governments and hundreds of civil society groups around the world, finally making it into the adopted treaty.

Although the treaty is far from perfect, it is a starting point for addressing the human suffering caused by arm transfers.

The adoption of the ATT is a success story not only in terms of what the treaty entails but it has become a key catalyst for building momentum and progress around gender and disarmament within other parts of the UN mechanism. It also further raised the profile of WILPF in the disarmament world, as we are the only organisation that has worked extensively on the linkages between gender and disarmament.

The inclusion of gender based violence in the Arms Trade Treaty made it clear to the international community that disarmament can be a key step in preventing gender based violence; an argument that WILPF has been making since our founding in 1915.

After this campaign, not only do we have a gender sensitive ATT on our side, but also disarmament is emerging as a new theme of the UN agenda on gender dimensions of peace and security. This makes for a number of valuable references and stepping-stones for WILPF.
Human Rights Council Side Events 2013

During 2013 we engaged in the 24th and the 25th sessions of the Human Rights Council. In both of these sessions, WILPF’s Human Rights Programme hosted side events.

For the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council, WILPF co-organised a side event with Femmes Africa Solidarité and World YWCA on ‘Forgotten and Ignored Conflicts: Are Some Conflicts Less Important then Others?’. The event was designed to bring to the attention of the human rights community that conflicts of a lower intensity still have devastating consequences for women and their economic and social rights.

In the 24th session, WILPF along side CARE International jointly organised ‘Arab Spring or Arab Autumn: A Roundtable on Women’s Role in the Middle East and North Africa and the Role of the UN Human Rights Framework’. We discussed issues such as the practicality of how international human rights frameworks and its treaty bodies can be used to advance women’s rights and participation.

Both events were huge successes garnering wide attendance from the NGO and permanent mission communities.

Women Lead to Peace

During 2013, WILPF joined a coalition of NGOs under the international campaign titled “Women Lead to Peace”.

This campaign was established by women’s organisations as a means of placing pressure on UN Member States to include Syrian women in the Geneva II peace talks. The intention was to set a precedent for future peace negotiations that are inclusive to civil society by including Syrian women in the talks.

WILPF worked throughout the last couple of months in 2013 to the beginning of 2014 for the inclusion of Syrian women as dictated by UNSCR 1325. Unfortunately these women were not included, but work continues under the Women Organising for Change in the Syria and Bosnia Initiative and the MENA Agenda 1325 project.
Consultations Connected to the Syrian and Bosnian Initiative

From September to December 2013, Bosnian women activists and organisations conducted a set of thematic meetings during which they discussed how much work has been done by women on addressing crucial issues affecting their lives. The focus was primarily put on the post-war reality and the effects the conflict has on their lives. They also looked into the constitutional structure of the Bosnian state, which has created a democratic deficit, and the denial of human rights.

This retrospective exercise identified the lack of vision by women NGOs on how to move things forward and the lack of real social movement amongst women for change. These conclusions motivated the women to start re-thinking their strategies and identify a set of issues around which they could start building solidarity and a common advocacy platform towards a real social movement for change.

During these couple of months, 15 different thematic meetings were held with over 40 women champions participating. The outcome of these meetings were seven reports covering the following issues: peace negotiations and women in post conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina; access to justice, transitional justice, sexual violence in conflict, refugees and the return process; gender based violence in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina; and economic and social rights.

Paths to Justice

Paths to Justice has been a small project of WILPF since 2012, focusing on Peacekeeping Accountabilities.

Since the exposure of the conduct of DynCorp in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there have been continued reports of UN peace-keeping operations’ personnel and employees and private military and security companies (PMSCs) perpetrating serious crimes, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation, abuse and rape.

In 2013 following the legal conferences in 2012, WILPF set out to clearly define the international legal frameworks that govern the current peacekeeping accountability system. An outcome document was produced and then converted into more accessible materials such as an infographic and the one-page advocacy sheets.

Most recently, activities for this project have consisted in advocacy work at the Human Rights Council Working Group focusing on creating a General Assembly Resolution on the use of PMSCs by the UN.
PeaceWomen Awards

The fourth PeaceWomen Awards was held on the 19th of April 2013, organised by the Queensland branch of WILPF Australia.

The theme for this year’s awards was transformation, with each recipient of the award speaking at the ceremony about the transformation in their work as peace builders within their communities and themselves.

There were six award recipients, the first was Ms Heather Millhouse for her work as a community educator in non-violent communication and conflict resolution. Ms Ravina Waldren received the award for her community peace building especially in indigenous communities, Dr Ros Kidd for her research and activism on the human rights of indigenous Australians, Associate Professor Marianne Hanson for her research on disarmament, teaching and community engagement, Dr Olvera Simic for her research on women’s rights in conflict situations and Dr Aila Keto AO for her research and activism on the preservation and conservation of rain forests.

WILPF Palestine Youth Coordinator Awards

2013 marked a huge accomplishment for Shireen al-Far, the Young WILPF Network coordinator in the Palestinian section. Shireen was awarded the third prize for Television at the annual conference of Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism.

The conference features journalists that fight against the constraints of censorship and work towards superior journalism in the Arab world.

Shireen al-Far was celebrated for her story ‘The Middlemen’. It focuses on the investigation into the extent in which Palestinian middlemen exploit Palestinian women by securing their employment in Israeli settlements in exchange for legal labour rights and fair wages.

The important work conducted by Shireen al-Far within the news industry further emphasised the significant role that women play in the many facets of the peace process.
WILPF India

On the 22nd of April 2013 the Maharashtra branch of WILPF India held an event at the Vasantrao Naik Government Institute of Arts and Social Sciences in Nagpur. Organised to celebrate the 100 years of WILPF, it focused on the role of women in sustainable development as well as the role of women in peacekeeping. The aims of the seminar were to inform about the broad security agenda of WILPF and to motivate young women to participate in the Anniversary movement.

The day hosted many acclaimed academics from India who gave presentations on recent publications or spoke about prevalent issues in the field of international security and the role of women.

WILPF’s Neelima Sinha presented a paper on the “Importance of Peace Education in School Curriculum” alongside a multitude of academics speaking about peace and security from a gender perspective.

The day ended with an interactive session and the presentation of certificates to participants.

The Twinning Effect - WILPF Sweden

WILPF Sweden’s collaboration with other Sections started to increase a few years ago and it has steadily developed since then. During 2013 Sweden closely collaborated with the sections in Nigeria, DRC, Costa Rica and Colombia. An important part of their project is experience sharing, capacity building and to make each section stronger through learning from each other’s similarities and differences.

WILPF Sweden’s focus in the twinning process has been capacity building. It is important to have strong WILPF sections around the world, especially in conflict countries. Along with this, WILPF Sweden also applied for funds to secure WILPF sections’ participation in international meetings at the UN for example.

In the Nigerian and the Congolese case the sections have been able to build their capacity including support to register as official NGOs with operative offices and staff. The sections in the DRC and Nigeria have also been able to seek collaboration with women activists in other countries and have thus strengthened the work for peace and WILPF’s visibility in the region. The collaboration with Colombia was focused on financial support for them to carry out their local and national activities.

Members from WILPF Sweden Visiting WILPF DRC
Throughout 2013, multiple WILPF Sections worked tirelessly on the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. Sections have hosted events and peaceful protests on the topic of participation. Below is a brief sample of what the Australian and Nigerian Sections did during 2013.

**Australia**

WILPF Australia initiated and chaired a UNSCR 1325 NGO Forum event on the 6th of February, 2013. Following this, an annual civil society dialogue was set as a follow up mechanism. The inaugural dialogue was held on the 15th of April 2013.

The dialogue included representatives from Australian government departments and international organisations, key academics, NGOs and development agencies.

WILPF Sections work on UNSCR 1325

Designed around UNSCR 1325, it included eminent panels on participation, protection, relief and recovery.

**Nigeria**

WILPF Nigeria has an ongoing project TEAM 2015 which was launched on the 9th of May 2013. The project Team 2015 is an awareness creation project on the critical need for women to participate in political processes in their country at different levels. The project is thus a direct response to the challenges faced by women in Nigeria in the arena of governance and democratic processes in the nation.

WILPF Nigeria employed strategies such as town hall meetings with local stakeholders, advocacy programmes, capacity building programmes for women and meetings with female political aspirants.
On the 31st of October 2000, the United Nation’s Security Council passed the resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The resolution reaffirms women’s participation in the field of peace and security.

Credit: UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras
In 2015, WILPF will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary!

In light of this monumental event, WILPF gave name to the movement it has been advocating for the past 100 years, Women’s Power to Stop War. The movement is aimed at strengthening, connecting and celebrating these years of peace building from a gender perspective.

To celebrate the anniversary, WILPF is hosting an important conference on Disarmament, Gender and Security in The Hague. With the culmination of the movement at the conference, WILPF will forge a new peace agenda for the 21st century.

20 years after the Beijing Platform for Action and 15 years after the signing of the Millennium Development Goals and the UNSCR 1325, women peacemakers will come together again at the conference of the century.

It is time to take stock of these events.

The anniversary preparations were launched in 2013, with section launches and an international launch in New York.
In 2013, a visual profile was produced to manage the Anniversary’s imaging. A visual manual was also created alongside the launch. It reveals the Anniversaries colours and fonts and it also dictates the styling of visuals.

Originally the profile was developed around the colour red, but after feedback from the Section an alternative blue version was created for Sections based in countries where the colour red is not politically appropriate.

The campaign image of the movement is available in multiple versions. They are available with or without the tagline “A Global Movement of WILPF” and the WILPF Logo.

Since the release of the visual profile, there have been multiple resources available directing and advising on their usage. Most importantly, a webinar was hosted in July 2013, which went through the visual profile step by step.

From these guidelines, WILPF designed the ‘Anniversary look’, which has been reflected through Women’s Power to Stop War online and printed materials.
During the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February 2013, WILPF launched the naming of the movement ‘Women’s Power to Stop War’.

The launch took place at The Vermilion Restaurant on Lexington Avenue in New York, and WILPF International Secretariat invited all their partner organisations and the whole WILPF CSW delegation.

The International President, Adilia Caravaca, opened the launch, followed by Secretary General Madeleine Rees. Also Nobel Laureate, Jody Williams, who unfortunately could not be at the event in person, sent a video explaining why she and the Nobel Women’s Initiative supports the movement.
In 2013, WILPF Sections in Albania, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Nepal, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine (located in Jordan), and the Philippines launched a variety of events in celebration of the Anniversary.

Thanks to financial support provided by the Channel Foundation, participating sections were able to conduct activities that officially introduced the WILPF 100 to their countries, in addition to providing an opportunity to encourage WILPF capacity building at national and local levels.

WILPF Sections in India and Albania used this opportunity to conduct several workshops in different regions of their countries, and the Palestinian Section initiated contacts with women’s organisations in Jordan. These contacts helped in the organisation of events in Aman, Jordan.

Furthermore, WILPF Nepal celebrated the launch of the 100th Anniversary of WILPF by arranging a capacity building workshop focusing on women’s human rights. Over 46 participants attended and included women’s political leaders, women’s rights activists, women journalists and WILPF Nepal Section members.
Publications

**BLOGS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE 22ND HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS 2013**

The Human Rights Programme at WILPF published a compilation of the blogs and statements from the 22nd Human Rights Council in 2013. The publication features blogs from both the Council and the International Film Festival and from the Forum on Human Rights that was hosted at the same time.

**FIRST COMMITTEE BRIEFING BOOK**

WILPF’s Disarmament Programme published a briefing book for the First Committee forum at the United Nations. This publication gives an overview of the state of play during 2013 and the issues addressed during the First Committee. On top of this it also provides recommendations for governments on behalf of main civil society coalitions working on those topics.
HAWEENKA! SOMALI WOMEN IN WAR AND PEACE

In 2013, WILPF Finland released a publication titled ‘Haweenka! Somali women in War and Peace’. This publication provides insights into the living experiences of women in Somalia, which is perpetually in a state of conflict. Additionally, these women impart their thoughts on the current state of affairs in their country that stands along a blurred line of statelessness.

This publication was supported and funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is available in Finnish and partially in English.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS (FEBRUARY 2013)

This publication examines the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons on health, environment and agriculture, economy and development and law and order. The publication reflects on three case studies, the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands and the effect of a nuclear blast over India’s Bombay. It is aimed for civil society actors, academics, and governments that are interested in approaching weapon negotiations with a humanitarian lens.

PREVENTING COLLAPSE: THE NPT AND A BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS (OCTOBER 2013)

This publication examines the complementarity relationship between the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and a ban on nuclear weapons. It argues that rather than constituting a challenge to the NPT, a process to ban nuclear weapons that arises from the discussion around the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has the potential to prevent the NPT’s collapse.
UNSPKABLE SUFFERING: THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF STILL ASSURING DESTRUCTION FOREVER

This report provides updates to the country summaries from the 2012 publication. The previous version was WILPF’s first report published on global nuclear weapon modernisation.

WORDS FOR PEACE

WILPF Australia’s ACT branch headed an education campaign named ‘Words for Peace’ during 2013. This was to raise awareness of peace. Envisioned by WILPF as a means of connecting with Australian youth, 94 young people between the ages of nine and 17, sent in their poetry, prose, songs or artwork expressing what peace means to them. Half of the submissions were then published in a book entitled ‘Words for Peace’.

VISIBLES Y TRANSGRESSORAS. NARRATIVAS Y ESTRATEGIAS VISUALES PARA LA PAZ Y LA IGUALDAD (VISIBLE AND TRANSGRESSIVE. NARRATIVES AND VISUAL STRATEGIES FOR PEACE AND EQUALITY)

This publication, published by WILPF Spain, identifies key visual and narrative patterns that give visibility to women working for peace and development. This is relevant because of its educational and transformative potential, teaching us to look at reality in a more comprehensive way that incorporates and engages the acts of both men and women in the achievement of social change.
On the 12th of October, WILPF’s Secretary General Madeleine Rees was featured on the renowned online news source The Huffington Post in a HuffPost Live segment. As part of a series sponsored by the Post and The Nobel Women’s Initiative, it sought to highlight the prominent women working for peace and equality internationally as part of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence campaign.

Luckily if you missed it, you can still view the video and blog online!
PeaceWomen Mobile Application

Did you know that less than half (45%) of country-specific Security Council resolutions from 2000-2012 include language on women and gender, and only about a quarter (25%) of countries have National Action Plans on implementing Women, Peace and Security commitments?

In an effort to combat this gender bias, WILPF’s Gender, Peace and Security Programme launched our expanded edition Women, Peace and Security mobile application on the 10th of December, International Human Rights Day.

The WPS app is a tool for activists at all levels to monitor the international community’s progress on integrating gender into its laws and policies. The app contains six sections: About Women Peace and Security, News, Security Council Tools and Analysis, WPS Resolutions and Statements, National Implementation, and civil society’s Key Role.

The first edition of this app was the first ever of its kind, and this edition continues to break new ground in creating accessible and powerful advocacy tools. Download it and use it for advocacy and education, and give us feedback on your experience!

The App is available on the iOS, Android and Blackberry app stores.

WILPF Online

WILPF International Secretariat continued to maintain its prolific online presence on various platforms including social media throughout 2013.

The extensive use of online platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are integral to WILPF’s communication. These platforms are utilised for promoting WILPF’s activities in the international offices and Sections, as well as a source of distributing information about the civil society field.

On the WILPF international website, 93 blogs were published on a variety of issues.

From the 1st of January 2013, WILPF International’s Facebook page received 1,933 new page likes and 11,400 page visits. On top of that, throughout the year WILPF made over 440 tweets.

This extensive use has produced fantastic results, which further emphasise its importance.
What We Said

Statements

Each year, WILPF releases a number of written statements. In 2013, 20 statements we released. They can be found on the international website wilpfinternational.org under ‘Advocacy Documents’.

Human Rights Programme

STOP WAR IN SYRIA
On January 11, 2013

ELIMINATION AND PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
On January 16, 2013

CALL FOR A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
On March 6, 2013

A GENERAL MECHANISM FOR CASES OF NON-COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
On March 18, 2013

THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ARMS TRANSFER IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS
On September 13, 2013

SYRIA, ILLICIT TRANSFER OF ARMS AND THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
On September 17, 2013

IMPLICATIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECREES 092 AND SCR 1325 ON VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN COLOMBIA
On October 9, 2013

Disarmament Programme

WILPF STATEMENT ON THE VIOLENCE IN EGYPT
On August 23, 2013

SYRIA, CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND AVOIDING MILITARY INTERVENTION
On August 30, 2013

WILPF STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2013
On March 12, 2013

WILPF STATEMENT DELIVERED DURING THE PANEL I OF THE OEWG
On May 14, 2013

WILPF STATEMENT ON SYRIA, CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND AVOIDING MILITARY INTERVENTION
On August 30, 2013

What We Said
ENSURING INCLUSION OF SYRIAN WOMEN IN THE MEDIATION OF THE CONFLICT
On June 4, 2013

THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA
On August 30, 2013

Ensuring the Effective Participation of Women and Women’s Rights in the Syrian Peace and Mediation Process

On the 19th of December 2013, as part of the Women Lead to Peace campaign, a group of Syrian women addressed the United Nations, State Delegations and international NGOs, highlighting the importance of Syrian women’s voices in the peace process at Palais de Nations in Geneva.

Since the outbreak of conflict in Syria, women have played a crucial role in the relief and recovery. They have worked for peace within their communities, the documentation of the violence and supporting those who have fallen victim to the conflict.

WILPF’s MENA Agenda 1325 project along with, ICAN, Human Rights Watch, Kvinna till Kvinna and Oxfam, produced an outcome document from the women’s experiences. The document describes the five step approach needed to ensure effective women’s participation and women’s rights in the Syrian peace and mediation process.

ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN THE SYRIAN PEACE & MEDIATION PROCESS: A FIVE-STEP APPROACH

WILPF POSITION ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ARMS TRANSFERS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS
On September 13, 2013

Gender, Peace and Security Programme

NGO’S URGE UNHCR TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF IRANIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ
On June 3, 2013

EGYPT WILL NEVER BE FREE UNTIL WOMEN ARE FREE
On July 3, 2013

SYRIA: CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND AVOIDING MILITARY INTERVENTION
On August 30, 2013

SYRIA: WOMEN, PEACEWORK, AND THE LESSON FROM BOSNIA
On October 28, 2013

MENA Agenda 1325 Project

CSW57, ENDING DISCRIMINATION AND ENHANCING WOMEN’S SECURITY AT THE MENA REGION
On March 8, 2013
Summaries from some of WILPF’s Sections
WILPF Albania
During 2013 WILPF Albania lobbied with other organisations and deputies to promote WILPF’s identity. The Section’s work promotes peace values and women’s voice against war.

WILPF Albania set up projects focusing on security, nuclear weapons and disarmament in collaboration with ICAN. These projects were applied in the three sections of Albania.

WILPF Albania spoke in both rural and urban areas and in particular to students on social issues such as corruption and social conflicts concluding with messages about women’s role in the culture of peace. WILPF Albania continues to work around the conflicting political environment between the government and the opposition post elections.

WILPF Aotearoa
WILPF Aotearoa marked International Women’s Day in 2013 with vigils in Wellington and Auckland, made several submissions on proposed legislation, including New Zealand’s Constitutional Review, Vulnerable Children Bill, Human Rights Amendment Bill, and sponsored an Urgent Notice of Motion at the National Council of Women annual meeting.

WILPF Aotearoa commemorated Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries with lantern floating ceremonies and sent items to the Philippines for the Philippines Support project. Also they assisted Nga Raukura O Maraenui, a group aiding the children of women in prison. They supported ICAN, the Living Wage campaign, Asia Pacific Human Rights Coalition, and Peace Movement Aotearoa.

WILPF Australia
In 2013, WILPF Australia was a key driver in bringing together many NGOs, academics and top government officials for the inaugural Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security held as follow up from an UNSCR1325 NGO Forum that WILPF initiated and chaired earlier in the year. On the second day participants met to prepare for a shadow report on the Australian UNSCR1325 National Action Plan. WILPF hopes that these recent conferences and forums will raise the status and effectiveness of our Australian NAP.

As a member of the IPAN network, WILPF Australia, together with like-minded organisations as well as prominent Australians, signed a public statement sent to the Defence Minister outlining proposals for Australia’s independent and peaceful defence and foreign policy.

WILPF Colombia
WILPF Colombia held the first Caribbean Regional Meeting of Women Peacebuilders in Cartagena, with 70 women in attendance. In collaboration with the WILPF International Office, they successfully participated in the CSW, UPR and CEDAW meetings, lobbying the Colombian government and the UN for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including the incorporation of women in peace negotiation. Jointly with the Colombian Coalition 1325, WILPF Colombia developed the monitoring report of 1325. It supported local governments in Bolivar for developing Local Action Plans for 1325 and started a research report on women’s challenges in implementing 1325 at local level, to be published in 2014.

WILPF Costa Rica
During 2013 WILPF Costa Rica worked on promoting the Arms Trade Treaty to local communities and advocating for stronger gun permit laws. They participated in fairs for International Peace Day and
International Day Against Violence Toward Women and in an art fair with their project, Drawing for Peace.

Their articles on the danger of firearms and on the need for the Arms Control Treaty were published in the press. Along with this, there were several WILPF cartoons in Humor del Pueblo with a focus on social issues. WILPF Costa Rica’s annual campaign against toy guns received impressive results and they joined the police department in a children’s Christmas party with cooperative games.

WILPF Costa Rica continues its work for migrants’ rights and women’s rights, which led them to win an award as builders of peace.

**D**

**WILPF Democratic Republic of Congo**

Throughout 2013 WILPF DRC conducted several activities in relation to the project collaboration with WILPF Sweden and the funding from Folke Bernadette Academia Foundation. Numerous events were carried out under the capacity building around UNSCR 1325 for WILPF members and other women’s organisations.

Some of the events organised by WILPF DRC were: launch day for the 100th WILPF anniversary, International day of Peace, Africa regional meeting with WILPF Nigeria and WILPF Sweden in Kinshasa, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and the National Assembly Elective with the executive committee of WILPF DRC.

This same excitement and momentum will be carried on throughout 2014.

**F**

**WILPF Denmark**

The focus of WILPF Denmark in 2013 has been on UNSCR 1325, the Danish involvement in Afghanistan, and the war in Syria. WILPF Denmark has lobbied the government, written letters and statements concerning both the Afghan women and children refugees in Denmark who are threatened to be sent back, and for a specific budget for the women in Afghanistan. Further, they approached the government concerning the Danish aggressive and militaristic attitude in favour of a military intervention in Syria, lobbied for Syrian women to be part of the peace negotiations and continued their work with asylum seekers. The Section represented Denmark in the seminar ‘Women Peace and Security’, and in the workshop, a United North for UNCSR 1325, at the Nordic Forum in June 2014.

**WILPF Finland**

WILPF Finland participates in the Finnish Network 1325 and has based a major part of its work on the resolution.

The Section continued its cooperation with Somalian women and completed a new report, Haweenka: The forgotten voices of Somalia, published on our website.

WILPF Finland arranged a meeting to discuss the situation of women in Nepal. They also organised an event around the upcoming WILPF 100th Anniversary and published a statement directed at Finnish politicians appealing for them to consider the preconditions of peace, social and political justice and human rights.

At the Nordic WILPF meeting, WILPF Finland proposed to the Nordic countries and the Nordic Council to focus on new security solutions and peace initiatives based on dialogue and non violence.
Finally, WILPF Finland participated in the IB meeting in Madrid.

WILPF France
During the year 2013 WILPF France’s Claire Nancy attended the International Board meeting in Madrid. After this meeting, the Section experienced a period of change as new co-chairs were appointed.

Along with this, the Section embraced a new youth based approach, welcoming in a flurry of new younger members and supporting Young WILPF Network.

WILPF France launched its new blog, providing regularly updates of the Section’s work and details of WILPF’s history both in French and English. With its new office, WILPF France is working towards the Centennial with a spirit of growth and renewal.

WILPF Germany
In 2013, WILPF Germany continued working on a booklet about 100 years of ‘herstories’ with a specific German perspective. During the year a seminar was organised with other NGOs on the ‘Interests Power Armament’ and a demonstration against the annual NATO Security Conference. WILPF Germany members participated in demonstrations and actions, such as the 24 hour blockade at the ‘Women’s Gate’ at the nuclear base of Buechel.

WILPF Germany worked in building the framework of the ‘Women’s Security Council’ and the establishment of a National Action Plan for 1325 and its implementation in cooperation with inter-ministerial working groups. Also WILPF Germany participated in the ESF in Florence and WSF in Tunis.

WILPF India
During 2013, WILPF India’s sections worked on a variety of issues. Highlights of the year were firstly the Delhi Branch President Shilpa Padley travelling through the US and speaking at high schools about WILPF and its international and national activities. Secondly, the Maharashtra branch hosted a WILPF Anniversary event, focusing on the role of women in sustainable development as well as the role of women in peacekeeping.

WILPF India continues to work on issues such as women’s participation in the peace process creating awareness in schools.

WILPF Italy
WILPF Italy had a busy year during 2013. Some of the many projects undertaken included promoting the ‘For a life without violence’ project supporting women in the Gaza territory together with Tavola Valdese, participating in the Italian Committee for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, became a part of and contributed largely to the Italian section of ‘Alleanza Mondiale contro la fame e la malnutrizione’ within FAO and attended the world meeting on sustainable nutrition within FAO. It also lobbied the CIDU for the continued application of the UNSCR 1325 Resolution and engaged in monitoring of the UPR implementation.

During 2013 WILPF Italy created a blog to detail the section’s work. This has subsequently strengthened the relationships between members dispersed nationally but similarly with other international women’s groups.
J

**WILPF Japan**

In 2013, WILPF Japan held a symposium entitled Education for Women Returning to Work. It was supported by the Gender Equality Bureau of Japan and was a huge success. In an annual lecture meeting Ms Yoshiko Kijima talked on human security from her experiences at the Foreign Ministry of Japan.

As for fundraising, WILPF Japan hosted three kinds of events: a Film Day (this year a Korean film ‘A Bird in Winter’), a classical vocal recital, and several bazaars. In addition we have two reading circles in Japanese and English: now a history of modern Japan and articles from “Peace Women”.

**WILPF Lebanon**

WILPF Lebanon worked on three decisive issues during 2013. Firstly targets for reorganising and recruiting new members were met by utilising vast numbers of young supporters. Secondly, WILPF Lebanon participated with other NGOs in discussion panels, lectures, demonstrations and sit-ins to achieve the rights of women to non-sectarian secular laws that implement the decrees of the CEDAW as well as UNSCR 1325. On April 1st 2014, the government passed a law that protects women against domestic violence.

For more than a year now, WILPF Lebanon has been helping the Syrian refugees with the aid they received from members in Lebanon, Australia and Europe. Blankets, mattresses, mats, and clothes were provided for those living in miserable tents, and there is still much to do.

**WILPF Nepal**

WILPF Nepal was quite active during 2013, taking on many projects and initiatives. In preparation for the upcoming 100th WILPF Anniversary, multiple events were conducted during the year. Most notably an interactive programme headed by WILPF Nepal’s President Neelam K.C. who visited many Nepalese cities including the remote and hilly regions to promote WILPF and its Anniversary.

Throughout the year WILPF Nepal published its magazine titled ‘Women’s Voice’ and has begun a sharing books programme with WILPF’s members, where books about human rights are distributed.

WILPF Nepal also worked on the Arms Trade Treaty by sending a memorandum to the foreign ministry stressing the importance of initiatives that prevent armed gender based violence against women.

**WILPF Netherlands**

In 2013, WILPF Netherlands moved forward on the preparations for the centennial anniversary of WILPF in April 2015 in The Hague. The section secured the placement of a statue of Aletta Jacobs in the Peace Palace, to be presented during the centennial festivities. Beside the regular thematic member discussion meetings, a public event was organised titled ‘Economics and Armed Conflict’. It explored the linkages between arms trade, arms production and the economy. WILPF Netherlands actively contributed to the drafting of the Alternative Trade Mandate and was part of national UNSCR 1325 initiatives and co-developed a project in Colombia to be implemented with WILPF Colombia in 2014.
WILPF Nigeria

In the year 2013 WILPF Nigeria organised a series of skill acquisition workshops for community women in Abuja, Lagos and Enugu States to create more opportunities for added income and networking among women.

The section launched the national project, ‘TEAM 2015’ which is geared towards promoting women’s political participation in Nigeria’s upcoming 2015 general elections. They also took part in the launch of the National Action plan on UNSCR 1325 in Nigeria. WILPF Nigeria also raised awareness through a seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty as a tool for reducing violence against women and promoting human rights.

Lastly, the section worked with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development during the review of the National Gender policy in Enugu.

WILPF Norway

During 2013 the Norwegian section, including its four branches, attended and arranged meetings and seminars from the government to NGO level as well as disseminating WILPF information targeting the general public. WILPF 100th preparations coincided with the 2013 100th anniversary of Norwegian women’s voting rights. WILPF Norway contributed to the hearing of Norway’s second UPR in 2014. Other central issues addressed were the Syrian conflict, the Arms Trade Treaty, Post 2015 Development Agenda, Uranium Weapon Campaign cooperation, food security, High North and Keep Space for Peace, UNSCR1325, militarisation (General conscription for women became statutory in 2013). Lastly WILPF Norway created a new web site and published a magazine and two books.

WILPF Palestine

WILPF Palestine engaged in multiple aspects on the agenda of women, peace and security. They hosted an important workshop about the UNSCR 1325 and its implications in Palestine.

A key ongoing focus from 2013 is the prisoners’ cause. WILPF Palestine worked on the negotiation of prisoners and submitted documented papers and statements on this to the United Nations and the international community requesting that pressure be placed on Israel to release prisoners. Also WILPF Palestine attended the international peace congress as a guest for their work on releasing prisoners.

WILPF Palestine’s Youth Network Coordinator was recognised for her work in investigative journalism for her story covering the abuse of Palestinian women working in settlements, by Israeli and Palestinian brokers.

WILPF Philippines

During 2013, the WILPF Philippine section issued protest statements against the damage done on the Tubathaha reefs by the USS Guardian minesweeper, the dumping of toxic wastes by US ships on Subic Bay, presence of US-made drone in Masbate; the arrival of the USS Blue Ridge, the flagship vessel of the US 7th fleet; the US-RP Mutual Defence Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement and the continuing disregard of their sovereignty. WILPF Philippines lobbied Congress to channel the military budget and debt budget to social services and joined the One Billion Rising campaign by WILPF International and local organisations. Additionally, they conducted relief work among victims of typhoon Yolanda.
WILPF Spain

WILPF Spain hosted the 2013 International Board meeting and continued spreading knowledge of the organisation to increase membership. For this, WILPF Spain organised a dinner in Madrid, gave several talks in different Spanish cities, shared a panel with Amnesty International and translated to Spanish many advocacy documents. Additionally, WILPF Spain wrote letters to the Immigration Minister, protested against blades installed in the Ceuta and Melilla borders and attended the Summit of Women for Peace in Bogotá. They wrote on the UNSCR1325 implementation in Spain, accompanied the work of Ruta Pacífica on the Truth of Colombian women and participated with the Platform for a Truth Commission of Dictatorship victims. Also WILPF Spain lectured in Managua while receiving the Martin Luther King Medal by the Institute MLK.

WILPF Sweden

In 2013 WILPF Sweden continued their work for disarmament and regulation of arms trade and welcomed the Arms Trade Treaty adopted in April 2013. Moreover, the Section lobbyed and advocated strongly for abolishing nuclear weapons by engaging in the global campaign ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons). WILPF Sweden continued their collaboration with sections in Colombia, DRC, Costa Rica and Nigeria and visited all of them to learn more about their work for peace, women’s participation and women’s rights. The Section also increased their work with social media to spread messages and reflect about news related to our work.

WILPF United Kingdom

In 2013 the UK Section participated in several anti nuclear demos in Aldermaston, Faslane and Glasgow. Branches reached out locally to promote WILPF through street stalls, talks, international women’s day events and the MENA Agenda 1325 Project. Members protested against the proposed bombing of Syria. Similarly, work began on the anniversary history project as women recorded WILPF’s involvement, including audio clips by Mary Alys before her passing. WILPF UK participated in a seminar focused on UNSCR1325 with local reflections from Northern Ireland. Also a training against gender based violence and a communications workshop were run with the help of a WILPF grant. Finally looking on to the 100th Anniversary, branches began fundraising for 2015.

WILPF United States

In 2013 WILPF US worked towards advocacy and cooperative programmes supported by Local2Global and continued to bring students and branch members to New York during meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Other activities WILPF US hosted included side events at the CSW, Iowa WILPF held an international symposium ‘Working for a Democratic Food System’, WILPF’s Earth Democracy Committee led workshops on Guardianship of the Earth for Future Generations. WILPF US Advancing Human Rights Committee collaborated with United Methodist Women to raise awareness of Human Trafficking. Finally, branches protested drone warfare and joined Moral Monday demands for states to protect the vote.
Meet our WILPF Women

María Villellas Ariño, aged 35, Spanish, Member of the Spanish Section for three years

How did you first come across WILPF Spain?

When Carmen Magallón and Manuela Mesa decided to create the Spain section they invited me to join. We already knew each other as we are all part of a peace research network that is active in Spain. I eagerly answered to them ‘yes! I want to join’. I knew of WILPF’s work internationally and for me, becoming part of the organisation was personally a very important moment. We had our first meeting in Madrid where women from all over Spain came generating a very exciting and powerful moment, having the feeling of joining a global women’s network against war and militarism.

What has been your favourite moment as a member of WILPF?

The annual meetings we have with all the members from the section. We come from all over Spain and meet once a year in a different city. It is a very nice opportunity to share our yearly work with the rest of WILPF, to meet new women willing to participate and contribute to peace and it gives impulse to our

Tell us about a significant ‘WILPF Moment’ from 2013?

Regarding the work of our section, at the end of 2013, after our annual meeting, and inspired by our Italian sisters that were reporting on the situation in Lampedusa, we decided to send a letter to the Spanish home ministry expressing our concern for the use of concertina wire in the Melilla and Ceuta fences to prevent immigrants from entering into Spain. From our point of view this represents a gross human rights violation and as WILPF members we could not be silent.

I was also really proud after the ATT signature. Although I did not take part directly I was following it closely. The inclusion of gender in the treaty is a milestone and to achieve it, WILPF’s work, together with that of many others, has been vital. This achievement encourages us to keep working against the use, production and trade of arms.
Orlidys Vergara, aged 26, Colombian, member of the Colombian Section for seven years

How did you first come across WILPF Colombia?

I came across LIMPAL (WILPF in Spanish) in 2001 because my sister joined as member, but it was not until 2007 that I was invited to a workshop about women’s rights and decided to get involved. I really liked the workshop and the approach of the organisation. I was invited to become a member and here I am.

What has been your favourite moment as a member of WILPF?

The experience I appreciate the most was the opportunity to do a formal training (Diplomado) on the UNSCR 1325, held in partnership with the National University in 2011. Thanks to this training I identified myself as woman human rights defender. It also helped me to grow as an activist. I started to lobby and advocate for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at local level, develop my own workshops to offer training to other women about this important resolution and our role in peacebuilding, in particular in the ongoing peace negotiations.

Tell us about a significant ‘WILPF Moment’ from 2013?

One of the most exiting moments in 2013 was the opportunity to participate in the national women’s march for peace in Bogotá in November. Also, it was very empowering to me to be able to participate actively in the development of the 1st Regional Caribbean Meeting of Women Peacebuilders, organised by LIMPAL Colombia in Cartagena in June. Finally, it was important to start working with young LIMPAL members and provide support for their leadership skills.
Fiona McAlpine, aged 25, Australian, member of the Young WILPF Network Australia for four years

Around the World

How did you first come across WILPF Australia?

There was a UN conference in Melbourne with a youth quota, so WILPF Australia’s Victorian Branch reached out to me. My mother and grandmother are also WILPF members.

What has been your favourite moment as a member of WILPF?

I was invited to the Young WILPF conference in Sweden and became involved in WILPF that way. This was a great bonding experience, with like-minded young women from around the world, most of whom I have stayed in touch with through social media. I also had a fantastic time as an intern with the PeaceWomen team in New York.

Tell us about a significant ‘WILPF Moment’ from 2013?

Working with WILPF India in Nagpur and Ahmedabad in 2013 and early 2014. These branches were wonderfully welcoming, and visiting them allowed me to travel to parts of India I never would have.

Zeina Aboul-Hosn, aged 34, Lebanese, Member of the Lebanese Section for eight months

How did you first come across WILPF Lebanon?

My mother joined WILPF and she insisted I come along to a meeting, as she felt the subjects and projects discussed are exactly the kind of thing I am interested in. I joined for a meeting and I am still there!

What has been your favourite moment as a member of WILPF?

Listening to our founder in Lebanon, Sitt Anisa Najjar, describe how she started with WILPF at the first meeting I attended was a very special moment. She just turned 100 years old, and she inspired me to join and get involved.

Tell us about a significant ‘WILPF Moment’ from 2013?

I represented WILPF Lebanon at the SIDA International Training Programme in Stockholm, for UNSCR 1325 Training. It was great to hear about the integral role WILPF played in making 1325 happen and getting the women’s movement for peace and security this far. I hope we manage to do more in the future.
2013 saw WILPF going from strength to strength financially as the organisation grew. The increased revenue from the previous year continued into 2013. This, along with the continuous support from donors and members, allowed WILPF to continue its mission.

During the year, the Geneva office saw its financial support renewed from numerous governments, foundations, and from several other partners and private donors. Along with membership contributions, WILPF persevered in amplifying the voices of women from around the world at both local and global levels.

The funds afforded several WILPF members from our Sections, including women in the DRC, Nigeria, India, Colombia, and the MENA region, the opportunity to fly to Geneva and New York to participate and engage in the UN human rights system. Moreover, WILPF was able finance and develop the projects of our partner organisations and WILPF Sections.

In 2013, WILPF International office created the Bosnia/Syria initiative in order to respond to the Syrian crisis and build peace. This new initiative has been financially supported by private donors, foundations, UN agencies and governments. This has aided WILPF to support Syrian women in trying to get access to the peace negotiations table on the one hand and to bring Bosnian and Syrian women together to work on conflict prevention and peace building on the other.

In February 2013, WILPF members got the opportunity to meet at the International Board Meeting 2013, which took place in Madrid, Spain. Thanks to the financial contribution of WILPF’s national Sections and external public and private donors, most our sisters were able to attend this important meeting.

However some Sections were missing, which shows there are still some financial difficulties to overcome.

As the organisational capacity of the Anniversary grew, in 2013, WILPF officially launched our 100th Anniversary preparation and the “Women’s Power to Stop War” campaign. Special thanks must be extended to the donors that enabled for such progress to take place. 2013 also saw the race begin for the fundraising for the WILPF Conference and the Congress. These efforts will be continuing up until April 2015!

The communication team is constantly working to share the International Secretariat and the Sections’ work with the world. Throughout the year, we have also been able to help several Sections build their websites by strengthening WILPF’s image and supporting them in gaining more national visibility.

The working capacity of WILPF’s International offices continued growing in 2013, along with the establishment of greater fiscal sustainability. However, there is still a continuous struggle to get longer-term financial stability. The members of the Standing Finance Committee have been active in setting up new policies and on supporting the office in achieving that goal.

WILPF’s International Secretariat greatly appreciates all the support and generosity in helping us prevent and end war, and make the world a more peaceful place for today’s and future generations.

To access and view WILPF International offices’ audited financial statements for 2013, please visit our website: www.wilpfinternational.org/audits2013.
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.

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