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 (UN).

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, and the only women’s anti-war organisation so recognised.
Foreword from Madeleine Rees

In April 2015, WILPF will be 100 years old. As this report shows, the passion, commitment, and singular approach that WILPF has demonstrated during those 100 years continue to drive our organisation, as we seek an end to violent conflict by creating sustainable peace.

It is not easy. The world is experiencing increasing violence, as competition for power is fuelled by numerous fundamentalisms, including that of the free market, and by increased militarism. The backdrop of climate change only exacerbates these tensions.

In these pages we show how we have worked to effect change. We have consolidated the Integrated Approach adopted by our Congress in Costa Rica in 2011 and this is gaining traction and having an impact, both in countries where there is ongoing conflict and with the multilateral system.

In 2014, we also developed a Crisis Response programme, comprising and expanding the work done in the existing MENA 1325 Agenda project, but increasing to include other crises, in particular the growing conflict in Ukraine.

Our Sections are active and growing in numbers assisted by the Secretariat in Geneva, by our Swedish Section and by the technical expertise of the programmes.

2014 was also the year in which dedicated WILPFers prepared for the 100th Anniversary. From an idea, to a concept, to a growing reality, our Anniversary movement “Women’s Power to Stop War” has been developed into a Congress, a Conference, and we believe one of the major peace events, worthy of our founding mothers.

In peace,
Madeleine Rees
WILPF Secretary General

The Integrated Approach is given effect through the three pillars of WILPF in the Secretariat: the Disarmament programme (Reaching Critical Will), the Women, Peace and Security programme (PeaceWomen) and the Human Rights programme. All have expanded their activities in 2014 and worked closely together to ensure that we use the tools we have to greatest effect.

In 2014, we also developed a Crisis Response programme, comprising and expanding the work done in the existing MENA 1325 Agenda project, but increasing to include other crises, in particular the growing conflict in Ukraine.
Who We Are

Our Work

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

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 work towards fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.

We are very proud to be one of the first organisations to gain consultative status (category B) with the United Nations, and the only women’s anti-war organisation so recognised.

Our History

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

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

Our Vision and Mission

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.

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 men, and promote social, economic and political justice.

Our Integrated Approach to Peace

Ensuring sustainable peace and human security for all requires challenging the root causes of war. In WILPF, we believe that the compartmentalisation of human rights, women’s participation, disarmament, justice and development as isolated factors is artificial and hinders any advancement towards peace. Indeed, the international fora separate these debates as it fits better the militaristic understanding of international security.

WILPF works to overcome such divisions. We link human rights, women’s participation, disarmament, justice and development in all relevant bodies. We also link local, national, regional and international work. This is our Integrated Approach to peace.

The idea is to move towards a coherent and practical system ensuring that violence does not become the preferred means of conflict resolution.
Organisational Structure

Membership

WILPF is an international organisation with National Sections in 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 only 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. In 2014, WILPF had three new groups: Ghana, Cameroon and Uganda.

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

The International Congress

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

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, the Netherlands, in April 2015.

The International Board

The International Board (IB) is composed of the ExCom, one International Board member, with one alternate if the IB member is not available, elected by each National Section, and the conveners of the Standing Committees in advisory, non-voting capacity.

The 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 and in preparation for the Congress.

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

In 2014, the IB held an online board meeting, as allowed in the governing documents.

Standing Committees

WILPF has a number of Standing Committees. They are evaluated before each Congress and formally dissolved when their purpose is achieved or their function is not relevant anymore.

Each Committee usually is comprised of five to seven volunteers, of whom at least two are members of the International Board. In 2014, the following Standing Committees were active: Standing Finance Committee, Standing Constitution Committee and Standing Communications Committee.

This year, WILPF moved forward by hosting its first International Board meeting completely online. Embracing the technology of the 21st century, the meeting took place over four weeks, spanning representatives from over 28 of our Sections. The International Board meeting is an important tool for our organisation to connect to one another’s work, assess progress made and outline the steps ahead. This year’s meeting focused on WILPF’s upcoming centennial, the work of our committees and working groups, and the development of our WILPF 2015 Manifesto.
International Programmes and Projects

Human Rights programme

The Human Rights programme is based in Geneva and focuses on the active participation of WILPF International and its National Sections in the United Nations human rights mechanisms. It provides input and monitors the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) including the Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Treaty Bodies and other human rights instruments. It engages in bringing an Integrated Approach to disarmament, social justice, human rights and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda to such human rights bodies to include reflections upon the influence of weapons. Regular activities include the organising of panel events during the Human Rights Council, preparation of advocacy documents and shadow reports, bilateral meetings with delegations, negotiations and political processings at the human rights system with our multidisciplinary Integrated Approach.

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 armed drones, fully autonomous weapons and space weapons), 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 conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nayarit, Mexico and Vienna, Austria in 2014), UN General Assembly, UN First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament.

The engagement in advocacy and analysis at these meetings is further enhanced through cutting edge research in order to enhance the disarmament discussion while addressing gender related issues.

Women, Peace and Security programme

WILPF’s Women, Peace and Security programme works to promote WILPF’s vision of peace and freedom for all under three objectives: inclusive participation, accountability and conflict prevention. The programme is led by WILPF’s PeaceWomen team. PeaceWomen engages in advocacy, monitoring, knowledge sharing and capacity building around the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

PeaceWomen promotes inclusive participation by coordinating local and global advocacy and elevating voices of WILPF members and partners on WPS to global policymakers. In 2014, this included facilitating several delegations such as the delegation of 75 members of WILPF at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

PeaceWomen promotes accountability through our WPS advocacy and comprehensive monitoring of the United Nations, Security Council and States. PeaceWomen works with the other WILPF programmes to promote an Integrated Approach to peace and security.

PeaceWomen serves the entire WPS community through the provision of over 25,000 resources and analysis on www.peacewomen.org.

Crisis Response programme

During periods of transition or conflict, WILPF reacts by developing responsive projects. In 2014, WILPF had three active projects.

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 peace and security issues in the region. It seeks to challenge the militarised security frameworks currently in place in most countries in the region by linking security to women’s rights and the Women, Peace and Security resolutions of the Security Council.

In 2014, the project has supported key priorities of women civil society organisations at the national level to address peace and security issues from a gender perspective in their context. The regional conference promoted sharing of experiences and achievements among all partner organisations. The project has also strongly used the international mechanisms, such as the Human Rights Council, the Treaty Bodies and the Security Council to bring attention to recommendations for strengthening a gendered peace and security agenda in the region.

WILPF’s MENA Agenda 1325 project has a unique agenda, as it mobilises 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, including members and Sections where relevant, with WILPF International Secretariat as the lead organiser.

Women Organising for Change in Syria and Bosnia 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 2014, 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.

Ukraine project

WILPF’s Ukraine project aims to counter the current dominant narrative of “pro Russia” versus “pro Maidan” camps, which has prevailed and informed policy so far.

The Ukraine project brought women from Ukraine to the Human Rights Council on two occasions to brief member states, conducted two visits to work with women’s organisations and internally displaced persons in Ukraine to better understand their perspective and analysis of the real situation.

Its report, “Voices from Ukraine: Civil Society as a Driver for Peace,” showed that there is the possibility of real dialogue and narrative change.

The Ukraine project subsequently brought women from Bosnia to participate in a workshop on how to organise in conflict, and build inclusivity towards a 1325 process. At the end of 2014, WILPF hired a consultant to conduct the next phase of our engagement.
Operational Structure

Office Management and Human Resources

Office Management and Human Resources are based in Geneva. In 2014, the team consisted of one Office Manager, who took care of all office management, as well as human resources.

Finance

In 2014, a Finance Manager was hired to take care of all finances of WILPF International, with the support of the Office Manager and an external accountant.

Communications

The Communications Team is based in Geneva. In 2014, the team consisted of a Communications Manager, a Communications Coordinator (for almost a quarter) and an intern. The team takes care of both external and internal communication, hereunder the international website, newsletters, social media, publications etc.

What We Did

Human Rights Council Side Events

In 2014, we engaged in the 25th, 26th and 27th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC).

In March 2014, we organised a side event gathering women leaders from Tunisia, Libya and Yemen to share their insights, lessons learned and recommendations on participating in constitutional processes, national dialogues and the implications of state building on gender dynamics.

During the same HRC session, we co-organised a side event with Femmes Africa Solidarité and World YWCA on “Preventing Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. We also co-organised, together with many organisations, an event on human rights defenders in Mexico from a woman’s perspective, with the aim of discussing the challenges faced by women human rights defenders.

In June, WILPF convened a side event with Syrian women talking about the situation of women under the ongoing conflict. We also organised, with the support of the Permanent Mission of Peru, a side event on “Guns and Gender Based Violence” to analyse the impact of the use of firearms by civilians from a gender perspective.

During the 27th session of the Council, in September 2014, WILPF hosted a high level delegation of representatives from Palestinian women organisations. The event, titled “Changing the discourse on Palestine - Ensuring women’s participation”, addressed the human rights and gendered consequences of the conflict and occupation, and in particular responding to the military attacks on Gaza in July.

In addition to this, we organised a side event on “Military expenditures vs. Human Rights” in order to examine the harmful impact of military spending, including on women, and thus come up with solutions to address this issue.

WILPF also delivered a statement on armed drones and international law, expressing extreme concern at the use of drones for extrajudicial killings and to conduct attacks during conflict. We made several recommendations for states and other actors to prevent humanitarian harm and prevent violations of international law.

All these events were huge successes garnering wide attendance from civil society, NGOs and Permanent Missions.
In Autumn 2014, the International Catalan Institute for Peace (Institut Català per la Pau, or ICIP) announced WILPF as the recipient of the 2014 Peace in Progress award.

According to ICIP, WILPF was unanimously chosen “for its century-long involvement in the work of women for peace, its commitment to disarmament, the defence of human rights and the persistence to obtain the recognition of the role of women in the building of peace.”

In June 2014, WILPF attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London to highlight the need to address the root causes of conflict and violence. We amplified root causes of violence, specifically patriarchy, armament and exclusion through our three side events, advocacy and communications.

First up was the panel on the impact of escalating violence on the lives of women in Syria, during which women activists spoke of the deterioration occurring within Syria since the beginning of the revolution.

The second event was the screening of the film “The Whistleblower”, followed by a discussion on Bosnia and on what needs to be done in pre, during and post conflict settings so to involve gender perspectives.

WILPF’s last event involved a panel of women and men from eight countries, spanning from South Africa to Ukraine, each addressing issues of gender constructs, arms trade and its continued interconnectivity.

WILPF also participated in an event promoting implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. We focused on the Treaty’s provision for preventing armed gender based violence and critiqued major weapons exporters for profiting from humanitarian harm.

In February 2015, our International President Adilia Caravaca went to Barcelona to receive the Peace in Progress Award on behalf of the entire WILPF organisation.
Commission on the Status of Women

In March 2014, WILPF participated in the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

We supported the participation of 75 women from around the world and held and co-sponsored ten events. We aimed to show that there can be no development without disarmament and women’s full and equal participation and rights. As the Millennium Development Goals neared their 2015 expiration, we called for a Post-2015 sustainable development agenda that finances development with disarmament and which strengthens gender equitable conflict prevention processes.

What We Did

Special Syria Security Council Meeting

WILPF successfully organised the first-ever official meeting of the United Nations Security Council with Syrian civil society. Three Syrian women leaders spoke truth to power in the historic January 2014 high-level meeting.

In February, the Security Council unanimously adopted the first Humanitarian Resolution on Syria (Resolution 2139 (2014)) which did in fact include strong language on women’s participation.

14th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

WILPF facilitated a delegation of experts to participate in the 14th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 at the United Nations Headquarters. We held many events and meetings on global security and women’s rights, such as on the cycles of violence perpetrated by Boko Haram and an event on current situation in the Middle East North Africa region. We organised closed briefings on Syria and Iraq with women leaders speaking directly to Security Council members and decision makers, and we ran consultations on the 2015 Global Review of Women, Peace and Security.

Vienna Conference and Austrian Pledge

Throughout 2014, we stepped up our advocacy for a treaty banning nuclear weapons, producing research and policy analysis, working with governments and partners in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to promote the ban, and keeping a close eye on the debate in order to share it with the world. With great results: more and more governments are joining the call for a prohibition.

The Chair’s summary from the second conference on the humanitarian impact on nuclear weapons in Nayarit, Mexico in February 2014 called for the development of new international standards on nuclear weapons, including a legally binding instrument. And at the third conference in Vienna in December 2014, Austria issued a pledge called “Fill the legal gap” for prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons.

Arms Treaty Entered into Force

On 24 December 2014, the first-ever Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) entered into force after reaching more than 50 ratifications in September 2014. This was an historic achievement and we are looking forward to our ongoing work to promote its effective implementation.

We ran a campaign during the ATT process to make prevention of armed gender based violence legally binding in the treaty. The inclusion of this provision was supported by over 100 governments and hundreds of civil society groups around the world.
What We Did

2014 WILPF Regional Meetings

In 2014, WILPF organised four regional meetings at which our Sections could exchange their experiences and learn from each other at the regional level. The meetings were held in Berlin, for Europe, Cape Town, for Africa, Villa de Leyva, Colombia for the Americas, and Auckland for the Asia-Pacific Region.

Common themes discussed at each meeting were the development of our WILPF 2015 Manifesto and women’s vision for the next century of peace activism, the upcoming Anniversary and cross-regional themes.

These included emerging conflicts and the importance of 1325 National Action Plans for Africa, militarisation and labour exploitation in the Americas, and upcoming EU parliamentary elections and the situation in Ukraine for our European Sections.

The meetings offered a unique space for our members to meet and truly connect to one another, an experience that remains continuously valued in our organisation, and we aim to continue and further develop these meetings in upcoming years.

Bosnia/Syria Conference

WILPF organised a conference entitled “Women Organising for Change in Bosnia and Syria”, in Sarajevo in February 2014, gathering almost 70 women’s rights activists from Syria and Bosnia. The event was organised as part of a long-term engagement with women and civil society activists in both countries and aimed at blending the experiences and drawing lessons of women activism during and after conflict in both communities.

Ukraine Project

WILPF produced a report entitled “Voices of Ukraine” to show that there was a different narrative that could be developed and would lead to a negotiated settlement. To give support to women’s organisations in Ukraine we brought women from Bosnia and from Georgia to meet with them in Ukraine and discuss how conflicts evolve and how to organise to be part of the solution.
Sex and Drone Strikes: Gender and Identity in Targeting and Casualty Analysis

This paper by Reaching Critical Will and Article 36 addresses concerns that the sex of individuals is being used as a signifier to assume militancy in drone strikes target decisions and post-strike analysis of casualties.

Banning Nuclear Weapons: An Effective Measure for Disarmament

This paper explores the effective measures for nuclear disarmament presented by the New Agenda Coalition in its 2014 NPT working paper.
SMALL ARMS, BIG PICTURE: ARMED VIOLENCE BEYOND FIRST COMMITTEE
Ahead of the UN General Assembly First Committee, Reaching Critical Will and Instituto Sou da Paz published a briefing paper examining the relationship between small arms and armed violence reduction.

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON MILITARY EXPENDITURES
This updated questionnaire provides answers from several WILPF Sections on military expenditures to the independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

VOICES FROM UKRAINE: CIVIL SOCIETY AS A DRIVER FOR PEACE
This report provides context and analysis on the current political and security landscape in Ukraine. It examines the relationship between women and men in conflict and provides an in-depth analysis of civil society. The report concludes with several recommendations for the situation.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR
This updated brochure was produced jointly by all WILPF programmes. It makes the connection between military spending and gender equality and stresses the need to free up financial, technological, and human resources that are allocated to militaries to economic, social, and environmental programmes.

ASSURING DESTRUCTION FOREVER: 2014 EDITION
This updated study explores the ongoing and planned nuclear weapon modernisation programmes in China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan Development Toolkit

This toolkit by PeaceWomen shows how to use the global Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as a tool to promote greater gender justice, peace and freedom for all at the country level.

Leveraging UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans for Local Change: Civil Society Opportunities in the MENA Region

This research brief by PeaceWomen provides background and good practice options or modalities that civil society can draw in in the first phase of planning their National Action Plan (NAP) advocacy planning for the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region.

A Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons

This joint paper by Reaching Critical Will and Article 36 explores the development of a legal framework for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. It looks at possible principles and provisions of such a framework, how it could be accomplished, and its potential normative and practical impacts.

Caught Between Arms: The State of Women’s Rights in India

This shadow report was submitted to the 58th CEDAW Session, reviewing the current standing of women’s rights in India. It is a joint report by WILPF India and WILPF International.

More Arms Than Mahisasura: A Feminist Critique on Militarism in India

This paper expands upon the work done by Indian feminists on militarisation and the experiences of women in conflict. It links theory and national trends to critique the growth of military industries and militarised cultures in India from a feminist perspective.

Report on the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (NGO)

The 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2014. This summary by PeaceWomen provides an overview of CSW 58 events from a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) perspective.
WoMen and exploSive WeaPons
This publication draws attention to some of the unique impacts on women that explosive weapons have when used in populated areas. It highlights the impact of weapons on women and the importance of strengthening a gender perspective in disarmament and arms control in order to ensure inclusive security and prevent all human suffering.

Women Organising for Change in Bosnia and Syria
As part of WILPF’s initiative Women Organising for Change in Syria and Bosnia, a feminist solidarity conference between women activists from Syria and Bosnia was held in February 2014 in Sarajevo, Bosnia. WILPF published a complete report of the conference.

Syrian NGO CEDAW Report 2014
This report is based on the reports of UN agencies, international and local human rights organisation and other entities as well as information from documentation centres under or outside of the regime control.

The NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report 2014
At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, state 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 from 2011 to 2014.

The NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report March 2014

Women Organising for Change in Bosnia and Syria

Syrian NGO CEDAW Report 2014

The NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report 2014

Human Rights Programme Brochure
This brochure contains a presentation of the Human Rights Programme: its mission and vision, its objectives as well as its methods of work.

What We Said

WILPF 2015 Manifesto
Throughout the course of 2014, we have developed the WILPF 2015 Manifesto in preparation of its adoption at the Centennial Congress in April 2015. Through a complex participatory process, each WILPF Section engaged in different ways by highlighting their political vision of WILPF, ultimately leading to an overwhelming IB vote of approval of the final draft. Originally drafted by Cynthia Cockburn, the WILPF 2015 Manifesto process has helped us focus our political goals as an organisation, creating a solid foundation for our future work.
Advocacy Documents

STATEMENTS

WILPF’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PRE SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF BOLIVIA
On November 3, 2014

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT ON ARMED DRONES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
On September 8, 2014

STATEMENT ON THE RIGHT TO PEACE
On September 8, 2014

NGO WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY STATEMENT AT THE 2014 SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY, “DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS: LEADERS AND SURVIVORS”
On October 28, 2014

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES IN SYRIA
On September 15, 2014

STATEMENT ON MILITARY EXPENDITURES
On September 8, 2014

STATEMENT ON THE UPR OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
On September 8, 2014

JOIN STATEMENT BY WILPF AND MADRE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IRAQ
On September 1, 2014

STATEMENT BY WILPF INDIA ON CEDAW COMITTEE’S REVIEW OF INDIA – 58TH SESSION
On July 24, 2014

JOIN CSO STATEMENT ON THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO PEACE
On July 10, 2014

NGO JOINT STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
On July 9, 2014

INCLUDE THE ROOT CAUSES OF WAR IN THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO PEACE
On June 27, 2014

STATEMENT ON THE RIGHT TO PEACE
On June 11, 2014

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN’S REPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON INDIA
On June 11, 2014

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM FOR THE 58TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
On March 10, 2014

WOMEN’S MAJOR GROUP RESPONSE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL’S POST2015 SYNTHESIS REPORT
On December 18, 2014

OPEN LETTERS

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBER STATES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
On November 11, 2014

OPEN LETTER ON STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUITABLE CONFLICT PREVENTION IN THE POST2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
On October 23, 2014

OPEN LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF 1325: RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
On June 18, 2014

OPEN LETTER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY POST2015 OPEN WORKING GROUP: RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
February 2014

TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS
On June 11, 2014

WILPF UK OPEN LETTER TO THE UK GOVERNMENT REGARDING PEACEFUL PROCESSES
On August 7, 2014

OPEN LETTER TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN GAZA
On July 23, 2014

OPEN LETTER ON WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN IRAQ
On October 23, 2014

OPEN LETTER FROM WILPF NORWAY TO THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON JULY 29TH 2014
On August 7, 2014

WILPF OPEN LETTER TO THE UK GOVERNMENT REGARDING PEACEFUL PROCESSES
On August 7, 2014

OPEN LETTER TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN GAZA
On July 23, 2014

OPEN LETTER ON STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUITABLE CONFLICT PREVENTION IN THE POST2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
On October 23, 2014

OPEN LETTER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY POST2015 OPEN WORKING GROUP: RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
February 2014
WILPF Online

WILPF International continued to maintain its digital communications channels, as an integral part of its advocacy and outreach activities.

The international website, newsletters and social media are used to promote the work of WILPF and its programmes/projects and Sections. They are also a public information source to distribute facts, figures and information about the civil society field.

In 2014, WILPF started the revamping of its international website, to be completed in 2015, and published 125 blogs.

During 2014, WILPF International’s Facebook page almost doubled its page likes by receiving 3,259 new likes. We posted 404 status updates and reached almost 370,000 people on Facebook.

During the same period, WILPF International published over 400 tweets and published over 130 pictures on Instagram.

In 2014, we started working on the creation of an online membership forum to be launched in 2015. The idea is to foster online discussion on specific topics among WILPF members worldwide.

Credit: UN Women/Flickr
Preparing for our 100th Anniversary

Women’s Power to Stop War is the Anniversary Movement of WILPF, culminating in the major Hague events of April 2015, which mark our 100 years of activism. 2014 has been a big year for the Anniversary Team, focused on garnering support and broadening the global movement of women peacemakers.

ANNIVERSARY ATLAS

The Anniversary Atlas has been the key project of the global movement in bringing together the activities of hundreds of women peacemakers worldwide. In 2014, the Atlas developed from an empty map of the world to a complete index of WILPF’s vast history, with over 200 historic events now mapped out, including photographs and references to more detailed information. The Atlas is now well on its way to becoming a relevant, up-to-date tool as well, with now over 70 current and ongoing events logged by both WILPF and other peacemakers.

WSW WEBINAR SERIES

In 2014, the WILPF Academic Network hosted the WSW Webinar series, free and open to all, on issues of women, peace and security. The series is a learning tool for those less familiar with our work and provides a great opportunity to reach out to mainly a young audience. So far, we have featured seven episodes with speakers like Cynthia Enloe and Jacqui True. The topics featured so far included, “An Introduction to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda”, “Disarmament in Africa”, “Translating International Law to Grassroots Activism”, “Sexual Violence in Conflict”, “The Political Economy of Violence against Women”, “Gender, Violence and the State in Asia”, and “Men, Masculinities and Militarism.” With the total number of individuals viewing these webinars now at 1600, we hope to develop and grow our Webinar programme into a well-established, relevant learning tool for all peacemakers.

ANNIVERSARY PLEDGE

The Women’s Power to Stop War Pledge has been a great tool for us to spread the word on Women’s Power to Stop War, exhibit our support publicly, and collect contact details for future updates. The pledge page was completed and posted online in February 2014. At the time of writing we have now collected 1728 signatures from individuals and organisations and we’re still counting.

100 BLOG SERIES

The 100 Blog Series is a unique collection of the personal stories of women peacemakers. With the wide range of diversity in age and background of the contributors, the Series exemplifies WILPF’s broad constituency and offers inspiring insights for new members joining the cause.

50.50 WSW SERIES

The openDemocracy 50.50 Women’s Power to Stop War Series is a special selection of articles by the leading thinkers of the women’s peace movement. The collection of the articles offers a unique perspective into the state of world affairs, conflict and peacebuilding and the role of women in the modern age.

PREPARING FOR THE HAGUE EVENTS

As the biggest events WILPF has organised in over 40 years, the 2015 Conference and Centennial Congress require a lot of preparation. The Anniversary Team spent much time in 2014 on conference programming, working with over 40 participating NGOs working on over 50 conference events. This has included preparing many historic exhibitions, a large performing-arts festival and artistic and cultural programme elements. Preparing the over 50 publications needed for Congress and engaging a very wide group of stakeholders and WILPF members and working groups in its preparations has also been part of the work of the Anniversary team this year.

With all this work done in 2014 we look forward to the historic Hague events becoming a reality and leading the longest-serving women’s peace organisation into its second centennial.
A

**WILPF Albania**

In 2014, WILPF Albania planned a conference in Tirana on “Antifascist War and Peace Values”, in which some high level national authorities also participated.

In 2014 the Section hosted activities and conferences on the Anniversary movement and peace values in several Albanian districts, including Korça, Tirana, Shkodra, Berat and Elbasani, and held meetings and social cultural activities with students and pupils about Women, Peace and Security.

Throughout the year representatives from WILPF Albania visited bordering areas to discuss peace and minorities in the Balkans. The Section also prepared a book on peace realities and traditions of Albanian women personalities that personify peace values.

**WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand**

WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand focused on hosting the WILPF Asia Pacific regional conference. Members from the Australian, Japanese, Philippines and Tahiti Polynesia Sections were amongst those in attendance. The conference produced a statement for publication around the conference theme of “Militarisation in the Pacific: Women, Peace and Security.”

In 2014, the Section continued working on the issues of indigenous rights, racism and human rights. It maintained and developed relationships with other like-minded women’s groups, and worked with them on the issues of child poverty and in raising awareness of the Beijing+20 meeting.

**WILPF Australia**

WILPF Australia’s main focus areas in 2014 included preparations for the Anniversary, the implementation of UNSCR 1325, Defence White Paper, Commission on the Status of Women 59/Beijing+20, improving its research capacity, and working on the WILPF regional meeting in New Zealand.

It worked on the Anniversary preparations and was an active member of the Steering Group for the second Civil Society Dialogue and Annual Report Card on the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The Section also organised the Queensland Branch PeaceWomen Awards, compiled each State Branch’s history, and formalised intern research programs.

In 2014 WILPF Australia participated in the organising committee for, and 10 members attended, the WILPF regional meeting in New Zealand.

B

**WILPF Bolivia**

At the regional level, WILPF Bolivia focused on the promotion of Resolution 1325 and other laws against discrimination, human trafficking, harassment and political violence against women. Together with local charities, it organised a number of workshops aimed at providing technical training for migrant women in suburban and rural communities.

At the national level, WILPF Bolivia was an active member of the national women’s network and provided free legal advice to women victims of domestic, gender based, political or military violence. It took part in the drafting of proposed legislation to protect women’s rights and disarmament. WILPF Bolivia contributed to several printed and broadcast media pieces on the violation of women’s rights.

The Young WILPF Bolivia network worked on the prevention of gender based violence, military violence and violence linked to street gangs by disseminating information on Resolution 1325 in schools, universities, radio, and TV and by organising regional and national workshops.

C

**WILPF Canada**

In 2014, WILPF Canada’s Vancouver branch focused on raising WILPF’s profile by holding monthly meetings with public speakers on timely issues here and abroad. Meeting topics ranged from “Justice for Girls in Canada” to “The Saharawi: People in Exile and Under Occupation.” They also sent delegates to the first regional WILPF meeting of the Americas in Bogotá.

The Nanaimo branch raised community awareness on peace and the environment and liaised with other groups to raise funds and PR. It held its annual Hiroshima Lantern ceremony in August 2014. It worked with other groups to celebrate International Women’s Day, submitted a protest against a proposed pipeline, and lobbied city council successfully to have signs declaring the city a “nuclear free zone” reinstated.

**WILPF Colombia**

In 2014, WILPF Colombia hosted four public forums on “Women, identity and territory. Peace begins from my body” in 2014. In addition to this, it held conferences on Women, Peace and Security and Colombian peace negotiations at several universities, as well as workshops for public servants on issues on similar subject matter.

It also supported female victims of sexual violence in armed conflict by offering three groups of psychosocial support and lobbying meetings with public institutions. The Section focused on improving women’s rights mechanisms and protection offered by local authorities and reducing the risk of sexual violence against Afro-Colombian and indigenous women who are forcibly displaced.

**WILPF Costa Rica**

As part of the Ministry of Justice and Peace’s Red de Paz, a coalition of peace groups, WILPF Costa Rica continued to participate in meetings and workshops in 2014. It had a booth at the Festival de Paz where it gave out colouring books on building a peace culture.

It participated in a Festival for Migrants where it presented materials on how to secure documents for residency and rights to health, education and work. The Section sent its representatives at the regional meeting in Colombia and gave a talk to students at the UN University for Peace.

WILPF Costa Rica worked on its campaign against gun toys, sending out letters and photos of gun toys to media and to personalities to promote peace in families.

D

**WILPF Denmark**

In June 2014, WILPF Denmark participated in the Nordic Forum for Women in Sweden, where it had a workshop and a seminar on Women, Peace and Security together with NGOs from Norway, Finland and Sweden.

It arranged a seminar on Global Arms control together with Danish United Nations Association, which had significant reach, as it was followed up by an article in one of the biggest newspapers.

WILPF Denmark also prepared for an exhibition about WILPF’s story in the Women’s Museum in Aarhus in 2015, and worked with and for asylum seekers and women refugees throughout the years.

**WILPF DRC**

In 2014, WILPF DRC focused on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by training its members through capacity building workshops, sharing UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan experiences with other countries, and helping to build up other WILPF Groups in Cameroon and Uganda.

Preparatory workshops for WILPF’s 100th Anniversary in June 2014 made WILPF DRC more visible to...
other civil society organisations in the area. WILPF DRC also participated in the Regional Africa Meeting in DRC, Nigeria and South Africa, held workshops on International Peace Day and on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, and went into the field on the International Day of Rural Women.

WILPF Finland

In 2014, the Section focused on cooperation with immigrant women and other peace organisations in Finland, and the implementation of UNSCR 1325, particularly through meetings with other Nordic and European Sections.

It highlighted several disarmament concerns affecting Finland, such as the need to implement the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the presence of nuclear power.

WILPF France

In 2014, WILPF France continued its work to stand up for the abolition of nuclear weapons, support undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers, support the Palestinian people, and prepare for the WILPF Anniversary.

It participated in the NGO conference at UNESCO for the International Day of Peace in September 2014. A WILPF representative gave a conference on the “Place of Peace Education: which Education for Sustainable Peace?”

Its activities throughout the year included participation in the International Fast for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, the Scientific and Citizen Forum on the Genetic Effects of Ionizing Radiation in Geneva, and several events to defend the rights of women, such as Solidarity Day with the Greek women and support for women in Gaza.

WILPF Germany

In 2014, WILPF Germany worked on multiple subjects, from the implementation of Resolution 1325 with Women Security Council and European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, to countering the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), to participating in and reporting on the Sarajevo Peace Event.

The Section focused on ending human trafficking and sexual/gender based violence, as well as the de-Growth movement and sharing economy. It challenged militarism, particularly in the form of military exports in conflict zones such as the Middle East.

WILPF Germany also released “Frauen.Frieden. Freiheit.”, a book on 100 years of WILPF history, referring to specific aspects of WILPF Germany.

WILPF India

WILPF India was involved in several seminars and workshops throughout 2014.

In January 2014, WILPF members and postgraduate students visited Thaturwada village near Katol and emphasised the importance of hygiene and sanitation, nutrition and inclusion of locally available nutritious food in daily diet.

An international seminar on CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security agenda was organised by the WILPF Maharashtra Branch, Nagpur in February 2014. Various brainstorming issues such as human trafficking, Women, Peace and Security, the Armed Forces Special Act 1958 and participation of women in public and political life with special emphasis on Resolution 1325 were discussed.

Members of WILPF India also helped to organise a seven day workshop on women’s issues. Gender discrimination, participation of women in politics, mental health of women, effect of HIV and AIDS on women’s health, human trafficking, laws regarding domestic violence and women’s safety are some of the issues covered in the workshop.

WILPF Italy

In 2014 the Section’s biggest successes were in the meetings and with the actions against nuclear arms, including participation in the international meeting in Vienna on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

The Section engaged in the action against nuclear arms and organised meetings with Abuelas of Plaza de Mayo. It also promoted a project for helping the women of Gaza and did a project with a school in the Province of Rome about links between peace, environment and food. WILPF Italy also prepared for the UPR of Italy during the month of October 2014 in Geneva.

WILPF Lebanon

In 2014, WILPF Lebanon established a Young WILPF branch with eight new members. It assisted Syrian refugees by providing mattresses, blankets, gas burners, clothes and kitchen utensils. It also established a learning centre in one of the refugee camps and provided books, stationary and board for the children.

The Section also furnished a training room in its centre to be used for lectures, teaching and training women in all fields. It held symposiums and lectures to spread WILPF’s principles of gender equality, peace education, disarmament, and human rights.

WILPF Mexico

In 2014, WILPF Mexico focused on academic events covering women’s rights and femicide. The “Women, Peace and Security in the context of violence in Mexico” forum in November 2014 aimed to sensitise the academic community, civil society organisations, and the mass media about femicide and violence against women before the upsurge in violence by organised crime.

The Section worked on campaigns in schools and educational workshops in communities of low economic resources and rural areas, such as a workshop on culture of peace, education for gender equity and peace culture with primary and secondary schools in Puebla.

In Guerrero, it worked with indigenous communities, alternative energy, and projects with youth.

WILPF Nepal

WILPF Nepal was associated with the Inter Party Women’s Alliance to protest against gender based violence. It organised a one day rally and two day conference in November 2014.

It visited the District Administration Office in Kathmandu to protest against the denied women’s right of citizenship.

It has also been distributing WILPF Nepal’s magazine, “Women’s Voice”, along with pamphlets and brochures on WILPF’s 100th Anniversary.

WILPF Netherlands

In 2014, WILPF Netherlands focused on what UN Resolution 1325 means in the Netherlands and Europe, especially for refugees, human rights defenders and women peace activists. It looked at
human rights, demilitarisation, disarmament and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It also called for accountability of Israel’s violations of International Humanitarian Law and for Palestine to be recognised as a state by the Netherlands and the international community. The Section also focused on the preparations for the 100th Anniversary such as the statue of Aleta Jacobs, the portrait gallery, and music.

WILPF Netherlands participated in several panel discussions, working groups, and workshops throughout the year on topics ranging from peace in the 21st century to women in Colombia and MENA countries. It attended demonstrations against the Nuclear Security Summit and the TTIP.

**WILPF Nigeria**

In 2014, WILPF Nigeria focused on the promotion of women’s political participation and leadership and the localisation of Nigeria’s National Action Plan (NAP). It facilitated a wide range of activities, including trainings on Nigeria’s NAP in over 200 communities, discussions on women’s political participation in four geopolitical zones in Nigeria, skill acquisition trainings for 300 women, peace education for pupils in primary school, and the CSOs forum during the mission of the African Union special envoy on Women, Peace and Security to Nigeria.

WILPF Nigeria participated in a nuclear disarmament conference in Mexico, GIMAC regional meetings before the AU summit, and parallel events during the WPS open debate week in New York. It held a parallel event on African Women and Nuclear Disarmament at the CSW in New York and chaired the platform of the newly inaugurated Nigeria women platform for peaceful elections.

**WILPF Palestine**

In 2014, WILPF Palestine was active in responding to the needs of Palestinian women, especially in the Gaza Strip. It listened to the Gazan people’s stories and documented their suffering after the last crisis there.

Some members of the Section visited the families of those who lost their homes and suffered the killing of more than one member in their families. The Section’s work was guided by the aim to defend the dignity and rights of the Palestinian people by intensifying its activities according to WILPF’s strategic plan and goals.

**WILPF Spain**

Some of WILPF Spain’s biggest achievements in 2014 include the creation and consolidation of its communication with associates and the collaboration with other local organisations working for peace and gender equality. It increased the number of members in its Section and participated in the UPR for the first time.

The Section published a report titled “Visibles y Transgresoras”, held an exhibition on “1325 Mujeres Tejendo la Paz”, and hosted roundtables on the contribution of women to peacebuilding. It held lectures on WILPF history and the 100th Anniversary, prepared an exhibition on WILPF’s history, lobbied to defend migrant rights, and uncovered claims of truth and reparation of crimes committed by the Franco dictatorship.

**WILPF Sweden**

WILPF Sweden’s 2014 activities include information about EU and national elections, visits to the Colombian Section, participation at the African regional meeting in South Africa, at UNGA First Committee and the annual Security Council debate on Women Peace and Security. The Section also arranged consultations and summarised recommendations on a new Swedish National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and participated in the Vienna conference on nuclear weapons.

The Section got the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cooperate with it to facilitate an inclusive process on the new Swedish National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Its advocacy on nuclear disarmament was successful when the new government joined the humanitarian initiative, and the South Africa conference strengthened and broadened regional WILPF cooperation in Africa.

**WILPF Switzerland**

One of WILPF Switzerland’s main activities was the participation and financial support of the traditional Easter March in the capital of Berne at the end of April 2014.

The Section also organised informative events in solidarity with the ongoing war in Palestine and hosted a well-attended event on women and trauma in conflict zones. Another successful event entitled “What kind of peace do we want for Palestine and Ecuador?” focused on empowerment.

Finally, the Section organised information events on WILPF’s Anniversary and was involved in the Arms Trade Treaty process by writing letters to the Swiss government.
Meet our WILPF Women

Linda Eitrem Holmgren, aged 29, has been a member of WILPF Sweden for seven years

How did you first come across WILPF Sweden?

When I was 19 I starred in a theatre production as a young Palestinian girl living in Sweden together with an old woman who had survived the Holocaust. The old woman’s role was played by Ingebritt Granath, a Swedish WILPF member in her 80s. Ingebritt and I became great friends and wrote letters to each other for years to come. She told me about all the work she had done for peace through WILPF and inspired me to become a member.

What has been your favourite moment in 2014 as a member of WILPF?

My favourite moment of 2014 was when my local WILPF group in southern Sweden organised a seminar with Cynthia Enloe during the Nordic Forum in June. Our aim was to create an open discussion between Cynthia and the audience, with the majority of the seminar being a Q&A session instead of a traditional lecture. Thanks to Cynthia and the more than 70 dedicated participants the event was very successful.

What would you like to see in the future of WILPF?

I would like to see that local groups (and not just National Sections) become more interconnected and work together. I would also like to see that my local WILPF group reaches out more to all groups in Sweden, to make our work for peace relevant for more people. Of course, celebrating WILPF’s 100th birthday next year will be a great time to renew and re-energise our efforts to build a more peaceful and gender-just world without war and militarism.

Joan Macdonald, aged 82, has been a member of WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand for 39 years

How did you first come across WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand?

I attended a United Women’s Convention in Wellington with a group of feminists from Auckland in 1975 and the Wellington branch of WILPF had a workshop in which I participated. I was very impressed with their presentation about alternatives to violence in the family and the community. I had never heard of the organisation until then, so I took some information and when I returned to Auckland I made contact with the local branch, where I met up with some amazing women and soon became involved in their activities.

What has been your favourite moment in 2014 as a member of WILPF?

Meeting up with old friends from WILPF at the WILPF Asia Pacific regional meeting on “Militarisation in the Pacific” held here in Aotearoa/New Zealand in April. Strategising with the Pacific women and the women from the Australian and Aotearoa Sections and working out ways we can support each other and keep connected. The Pacific nuclear free and independence movement has always been a central focus of peace work for me.

What would you like to see in the future of WILPF?

I wish decision-makers of the world listened to the wise women of WILPF. I would like WILPF women to be involved equally, with the mainly male decision-makers we have at present, who seem only to be able to put up aggressive and militaristic proposals to deal with all the problems facing humanity. The aims WILPF has held ever since the beginning, such as worldwide disarmament and an economic system that provides for the wellbeing of all, need to be attempted if we are going to survive.
Rasha Mahmoud, aged 28, has been a member of WILPF Lebanon for one year

How did you first come across WILPF Lebanon?

I was invited by the President of WILPF Lebanon, Mrs Nouha Ghosn Beaini, to attend one of the information meetings. I found that the aims and aspirations of WILPF corresponded with my own aims and principles.

I am interested in the framework of this international organisation as it stays strictly out of local political issues to more universal matters, mainly disarmament, human rights, and Women, Peace and Security. The Middle East needs emergency protection of human rights after the Arab Spring.

What has been your favourite moment in 2014 as a member of WILPF?

In 2014, we organised a seminar on "The Education of Society between Freedom and Peace." It was really a successful event because we pointed out that the convergence in society is in education and the movement for democracy and justice is sweeping the world. I also want to mention our visits to Saadnayel’s Syrian refugee camp.

The refugees are in dire need of moral, material, and financial help to be able to sustain this situation. WILPF provides medical and other critical aid, such as mattresses, bamboo mats, blankets, camper gas stoves, some kitchen utensils, and clothing. We were proud to establish a one tent school and furnish it with desks, books and the necessary stationary.

What would you like to see in the future of WILPF?

The demand for deep change is stronger than ever. We have to promote peace and freedom and integrate them into meaningful work. In the Middle East and in Lebanon, it is impossible to predict political developments. As a result of this it is mainly risky to try to visualise in what situation human rights organisations will find themselves. Nevertheless, it is clearly necessary to try to explore the idea that self-development can change the world.

Viola Giuliano, aged 29, has been a member of WILPF International for one year

How did you first come across WILPF International membership?

Soon after joining Reaching Critical Will in Geneva as an intern, I liaised and worked with the WILPF team on the Questionnaires on military expenditures for the Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order. I was struck by the quality of their activities and the energy of their members.

What has been your favourite moment during your time as a WILPF member?

After spending six months in the fast-moving and inspiring environment of the Secretariat in Geneva, I have a long list of great memories. However, I particularly enjoyed the moments related to the preparation of the WILPF Anniversary! I look forward to both the Congress and Conference, as they represent an excellent way to connect with the WILPF network. Celebrating the WILPF Anniversary will give us the opportunity to reflect on our commitment to peace and gather new momentum in the face of future challenges.

Describe a notable WILPF moment from 2014 you participated in.

In October 2014, the Italian Section actively engaged in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review at the UN to share WILPF’s recommendations with the diplomatic community and with other civil society organisations. I coordinated the work between members of the Section and the Human Rights Team in Geneva. It was really great to see that our key recommendations were delivered to our country by different UN member states.
Lorena Terceros, aged 22, has been a member of WILPF Bolivia for seven years

How did you first come across WILPF Bolivia?

I was lucky enough to meet the Bolivian Section at the beginning of 2007, when my friends introduced me to WILPF. What they told me got me excited about the organisation, its activities and its Young WILPF network. Without hesitation I decided to join WILPF and that was very good timing because in June 2007 the organisation held its Congress in Bolivia and I could help with the preparations.

What has been your favourite moment in 2014 as a member of WILPF?

My favourite moment in 2014 was the great opportunity I had to participate in the regional meeting of WILPF Americas. The meeting was held in Colombia in Villa de Leyva in April 2014. There I learnt a lot about the issues affecting other participating countries, as well as armed conflicts and advocacy.

What would you like to see in the future of WILPF?

In the future I hope that WILPF’s participation and empowerment will be even more solid in those countries where that is still not the case. I hope that countries could communicate more as we can learn from each other’s expertise.

Oseji Olivia, aged 39, has been a member of WILPF Nigeria for six years

How did you first come across WILPF Nigeria?

WILPF was introduced to me and a group of other women by the current President of WILPF Nigeria, Mrs Joy Ada Onyesoh in 2008 on the occasion of WILPF’s 93 year anniversary. The occasion provided me the forum to have insights into the activities, aims and objectives of WILPF as a women’s peace movement.

What has been your favourite moment in 2014 as a member of WILPF?

My favourite moment with WILPF in 2014 was attending the African regional meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting afforded me a platform to learn and share experiences from other Sections, and ways we can work together to move the region to greater heights.

What would you like to see in the future of WILPF?

I would like to see WILPF have a stronger presence in the African region because of the increase of violence across the area.
WILPF has continued to grow in 2014 with the help of committed donors, who gave us the chance to face new challenges.

2014 was a special year for WILPF, as we entered the final straight before our 100th Anniversary in 2015. This meant extensive fundraising and outreach to be able to bring 1,300 people to The Hague to celebrate our 100 years of working for peace.

In this light and thanks to the support of members and donors, WILPF organised four regional conferences in 2014, strengthening our regional cooperation with the Sections and discussing what our members want to get out of this big event.

In 2014, WILPF got the chance with the renewal of certain funding to invite several of its members and partners, including women from Bolivia, India, Iraq, Italy, Spain and Syria to participate and engage in the different UN Bodies in New York and in Geneva in order to get their voices from the local to the global level.

WILPF continued to support several of its Sections and partners in the implementation of projects and workshops. WILPF also continued to strengthen its new project: the Bosnia/Syria initiative in organising a big conference in Sarajevo to bring women from these two countries together.

WILPF’s international office was given the necessary funding from UN agencies, foundations and private donors, to strengthen its work with regions/countries in conflict. With the situation in Ukraine, WILPF had to get involved in the struggle for peace together with the women on the ground. WILPF was then able to start a project with local organisations in Ukraine.

WILPF’s Communication Team has been busy this year with the upcoming Anniversary in outreaching and building the capacity of WILPF’s Sections in communication. The funding received in 2014 allowed our Communication Team to work on the development of an online membership forum, which will be launched in 2015. This will be a great achievement to give our members the opportunity to debate and share their views.

As our organisation grew, one of our priorities in 2014 was to reinforce our financial management. WILPF was able to expand its Finance Team and they worked hard to ensure accountability and transparency. With the support of our Standing Finance Committee, they have been developing new procedures to ensure strong internal controls. It will still need some time and efforts to appreciate the results of all this work and to reach long-term financial stability.

WILPF’s international office greatly appreciates all the support and generosity of all of our donors and all what was given to us in-kind, 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 2014, please visit our website:

www.wilpfinternational.org/audits-2014/