

## Annual Report 2016

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### **Box:**

*Our history began in 1915, when 1,136 women from the US and Europe gathered in The Hague, the Netherlands, to discuss how to put an end to World War I. Instead of placing blame and arguing who was responsible for the conflict, the meeting focused on finding a form of mediation that could bring peace to war-torn Europe. WILPF was established as an outcome of this historic meeting. In 1915, WILPF's long-term vision was formed: to identify the causes of war and conflict, address these and work towards ending them.*

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## Message from the International President and Secretary General

In 2016, we witnessed an increase in populist, xenophobic, misogynist, white nationalist agendas creating a climate of fear and increasing support for a militarised approach on a global scale. WILPF refuses to stop our work in the face of hate and fear. We continue to stand up for the rights of women and minorities, to strive for positive change, work for peace, address new challenges and to keep moving forward despite the odds.

WILPF has demonstrated time and again that we possess the ability to connect the local and the global. WILPF's work helps women change their own lives by enabling them to organise, participate and work together to prevent violence. By way of example, in 2016, WILPF facilitated meetings between women activists from Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina in order for them to share experiences of conflict and peace building. We used the reporting process to both CEDAW and the Universal Periodic Review, to bring women together in Ukraine to identify common issues of human rights violations.

Another example is from the Asia-Pacific, where International President, in the midst of the military buildup and the tensions that have intensified in the region, has continued to participate in non-violent direct actions to stop the build-up as well as in the activities to bring peace on the Korean Peninsula. This was done together with the global group of feminists who in 2015 crossed the Demilitarised Zone between North and South Korea, advocating for a peace treaty to end the Korean War.

A variety of some of our other initiatives focused on feminist mobilising across the world are shared in this annual report.

While enormous sums of money are spent on armed forces, weapons and war, there is a serious lack of funding in crucial areas such as women's economic empowerment, family planning, security and female political participation and leadership. Many believe that change at the international level is too big and unachievable, and that it is way beyond our reach – but we believe this is not the case. Change is indeed a comprehensive and long-term process, but it is not an impossibility. We believe that every effort counts.

As we have done since our founding in 1915, WILPF walks the talk and has a feminist, non-violent approach to tackle the problems of the world. But non-violent action requires solidarity for impact. So, to move beyond a politics of fear, we must all find ways to act in solidarity to uphold the rights of those most marginalised.

We need our solidarity, our organising and our commitment more than ever: if we can imagine it, we can do it!

Kozue Akibayashi  
International President

Madeleine Rees  
Secretary General

## Message from WILPF Executive Committee

### **WILPF Executive Committee 2015-2018**

#### **Kozue Akibayashi, International President**

Kozue Akibayashi joined WILPF in 2000 and later served as Vice-President from 2007 to 2011. She is Professor at Doshisha University Graduate School of Global Studies in Kyoto, Japan. Her research focuses on the issues of sexual violence by the military in overseas host communities, militarism, militarisation and demilitarisation, and decolonisation, analysing them from a gender perspective.

#### **Kerry McGovern, International Treasurer**

Besides being the International Treasurer of WILPF, Kerry McGovern is also the Treasurer of the Australian Chapter of the Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH). She has a Master of Philosophy in Governance and a Master in Public Administration. Kerry McGovern is an expert in public sector governance, asset and financial management.

### **Catia Confortini, Vice-President**

Catia Confortini has been a member of WILPF since 2004. She is Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Her research focuses on the contribution of women's peace activism to peace studies as an academic field and as a practice, and on global health justice.

### **Joy Ada Onyesoh, Vice-President**

As well as being the Vice-President of WILPF, Joy Ada Onyesoh serves as the President of WILPF Nigeria. She is currently researching for her Doctoral Degree in Transformative Studies and studying for a Bachelor of Law degree. She has over fifteen years of experience working with women from diverse cultural and philosophical backgrounds and is committed to the substantive participation of women in peace processes in Nigeria.

### **Margrethe Kvam Tingstad, Vice-President**

Margrethe Kvam Tingstad has been a member of WILPF for more than 30 years. She is also the Council Leader of the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue, a board member of the Norwegian Peace Council, and since 2000 a full time Adviser in research management at the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA). She has a very broad academic background, from Agri- and Horticulture to International Business Administration to Languages and Communication, and holds a Master's Degree in Management and Organisational Theories.

### **Madeleine Rees, Secretary General**

Madeleine Rees has been the Secretary General of WILPF since 2010. She began her career as a lawyer in 1990, and in 1998 she started working as Head of Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as gender expert for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. From September 2006 to April 2010, she served as the Head of the Women's Rights and Gender Unit for the OHCHR. Her work involved describing and outlining how men and women can experience events differently, particularly in post-conflict situations.

## **Building a global feminist movement**

Movement building is more than just a buzzword. Building collective power and working across movements and organisations is the only way forward if we are to overcome current global instability. We believe that for WILPF to catalyse change through movement building, our role as the Executive Committee (ExCom) is to guide this process but also to strengthen WILPF as a feminist organisation.

In 2016, ExCom met ten times online and once face to face to work extensively on how to build and grow WILPF in order to reach our goals and be a strong player in the feminist peace movement.

Two of the many things making WILPF unique are our hybrid structure and our local-global-local approach. We have sections, groups, partners, networks, individual peace activists, organisational boards and committees. ExCom is the glue that holds together this big WILPF community.

We have, in 2016, worked intensively with the Secretariat on internal evaluation and strategy development, we have worked with our Standing Committees on determining how we can optimise WILPF's organisational structure, and we have on a regular basis been in contact with our national sections to stay updated on their many activities. We also adopted three new national groups, who will become part of the WILPF family at the Congress in 2018.

For the rest of our term, we will continue strengthening WILPF internally and connecting the activists working for peace at all levels within the WILPF Community. Movement building is indeed a long-term effort, but the right way forward if we want to change values, discourses and the political agenda. And yes, this is exactly what WILPF aims to do.

- WILPF Executive Committee

## About WILPF

WILPF is a membership organisation but also includes the Congress, the International Board (IB), the Executive Committee (ExCom), national sections and groups, WILPF International (our offices in New York and Geneva) and a number of WILPF partners across the globe. The national sections carry out work in their national contexts and connect with both WILPF International and each other across borders.

Two Nobel Peace Prize winners: Jane Addams (1931) and Emily Greene Balch (1946)

Knowledge-sharing and movement-building are key aspects of WILPF's work: 6 webinars, 96 newsletters sent in 2016, 17,771 subscribers to our newsletters.

Advocacy is a tool to create change in the world and to strengthen the local-global-local approach: 33 statements, 156 blogs.

Followers on social media: Facebook: 13,956; Twitter: 6128; Instagram: 470  
WILPF is a GLOBAL COMMUNITY of WOMEN'S RIGHTS and PEACE activists. Our members range from ACADEMICS to STUDENTS and COMMUNITY WORKERS, and people in all age groups strive to create POSITIVE CHANGE in the world. We have 33 SECTIONS and SIX NATIONAL GROUPS across the globe.

## Peace is possible: WILPF International Strategy 2017-2019

In 2016, WILPF International developed a new strategy based on an analysis of the current global context and the strengths of our organisation. The strategy emerged through a

participatory process, through the collective work of our 100th anniversary (April 2015), through an in-depth organisational evaluation (June-September 2016) and a strategic planning process (June-October 2016). The strategy sets out our Theory of Change to advance a feminist peace and to work for equality, justice and demilitarised security. WILPF's mission, principles, manifesto, international programmes and unique hybrid structure direct our new strategy.

Thinking differently requires challenging the status quo. Acting differently is about taking back power and influencing decision-making, and at the same time rejecting the implicit consent and agreements governments and non-state actors have assumed about militarism, war and violence. Acting differently is essentially about mobilising for nonviolent action.

WILPF's Theory of Change allows us to develop and grow our approaches of movement-building, advocacy, empowerment, policy change, actions on the ground and learning across various situations and decision-making fora. WILPF is thereby building on a proven track record and seeks to both multiply and deepen the application and impact of our approach to feminist peace in the future.

We believe that a strong feminist movement is necessary in order to combat some of the challenges we face today. Investing in a strengthening of the WILPF movement internally is part of our new strategy, since it will result in WILPF being able to impact the world around us more effectively. When we enable space for feminist solidarity and feminist communities, we invest in the individual strength of each activist and in the synergies from our collective power.

Despite all the challenges, WILPF has never sought to capitalise on the potentials of feminist solidarity, peace building and advocacy, even amidst conflict settings. And we never will.

## **Defining the world of tomorrow through feminist peace**

A core element in WILPF's 2017-2019 strategy is the promotion and realisation of feminist peace. But what exactly is feminist peace?

Feminism is committed to the belief that women – in all their diversity – matter, that their experiences and needs deserve to be taken seriously, that they can never be reduced to their familial or social status, and that they are invested with the full array of human rights. This intersectional understanding of the world serves as the backbone of WILPF's work and lies behind every project, campaign or initiative we conduct. The belief in the possibility of equality is a stepping stone for every action we take.

To grasp the conflicts of the world today, it is essential to understand that gender relations of power are implicated in every conflict and every peace process. This is exactly why a feminist lens is relevant and why an understanding of the relationship between gender, peace and war is essential.

## **The importance of a gender analysis**

WILPF believes that feminist peace entails breaking down divisions by advocating for the inclusion of gender analysis into policy, decision-making processes and institutions at all levels.

A feminist peace is also about understanding power structures, and describes all forms of hierarchy, marginalisation and oppression as interrelated. WILPF integrates a gender analysis of power and questions systems and practices that deepen traditional gender roles facilitating conflict and militarised security. This means challenging and analysing the causes and consequences of patriarchy, militarisation and neoliberalism as the dominant order and instead providing feminist alternatives for peace.

To achieve feminist peace, a strong feminist movement is needed. Creating a space for mobilising women can therefore create long-lasting nonviolent alternatives to the militant approaches we witness to many of today's conflicts. We believe that mobilising collective power is essential in creating the change in the world we want to see. WILPF has a leading role in feminist peace advocacy internationally and we intend to continue this important work. Being one of the oldest peace organisations in the world, we continue a strong tradition of peace work and through partnerships, movement building, activist initiatives on the ground and our local-global-local approach we play a leading role in mobilising and strengthening the feminist movement on an international scale.

## **WILPF in the world**

WILPF has 33 sections and six national groups. This list below shows a snapshot of some their many activities in 2016.

### **WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand**

Ran Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day memorials around the country and supported the White Poppies for Peace scholarship and peace vigils for the World War I Centenary Peace Project.

### **WILPF Australia**

Played a key role in the Civil Society Dialogue and Annual Report Card on Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

### **WILPF Cameroon**

Conducted a baseline study on the impact of armed conflicts on women and girls, which outlined priorities for UNSCR 1325.

### **WILPF Canada**

Participated in "Let Peace be Their Memorial – Mourning Less-Recognized Victims of War," a free public, city-sanctioned ceremony to commemorate civilian victims of war and conflict.

### **WILPF Colombia**

Contributed to the inclusion of a gender and women's rights perspective within the peace agreement, and launched the research report "Disarming life - Reflections on Resolution 1325, disarmament and women in Colombia".

**WILPF DRC**

Focused on the revision of DRC National Action Plan 1325 by leading several activities.

**WILPF Denmark**

Organised workshops on the conditions under which refugee women have to flee, and held panel discussion on what constitutes feminist peace.

**WILPF Finland**

Focused on implementing the UNSCR 1325 and collaborating with immigrant women. Had two major projects: *Haweenka*, organising training for upcoming local female leaders in Somalia, and *Together Ahead*, a social integration project with Iranian and Afghan immigrant women.

**WILPF Germany**

Organised a meeting of European WILPF Sections in Berlin. The newly formed group Young WILPF Berlin organised a number of Political Women's Cafés with refugee women to put their challenges on the agenda.

**WILPF Ghana**

Launched the *Stop Gender Violence* national campaign to influence attitudes, behaviours, policy and practice to prevent violence against women in Ghana. Was actively involved in a special election observation project following the progress of female parliamentary candidates in Ghana during the 2016 electoral cycle and also participated in the election observation and monitoring.

**WILPF Italy**

Held a press conference at the Italian Parliament along with the “disarmament demanding activists” after the UN adopted a resolution to launch the negotiation for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The press conference was well attended and was an important initiative to say, “Yes” to banning nuclear weapons.

**WILPF Japan**

Organised public lectures on the human rights of women and the UN, and continued to protest against sexual violence by the US military and military build-up in Okinawa and Kyoto.

**WILPF Netherlands**

Focused on influencing policy on a European and national level. Sent a lengthy letter to the Dutch parliament about the budget proposals and focused again on WILPF's core aims and principles.

**WILPF Nigeria**

Has organised ongoing activities on the Localization of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 through its Women Situation Room Nigeria (WSRN) project. The WSRN project has also observed elections in various states, the most recent being the Lagos state local government elections where it deployed an all-female observation team.

**WILPF Norway**

Opposed Norway's NATO membership through campaigns, advocacy work and political activities.

**WILPF Pakistan**

Sought to bring women of all faiths in Pakistan together to discuss issues and find solutions collectively to help bridge the differences and divisions for a more pluralistic and cohesive Pakistani society.

**WILPF Palestine**

Moved to the heart of events with 1,325 meetings and workshops. Participated in different international meetings on the status of Palestinian woman and human rights.

**WILPF Philippines**

Held a series of discussions and drafted a framework for a resilient, integrated, sustainable and ecological national food system with the Center for Health Initiatives and Management of Ecological Systems (CHIMES) in a joint advocacy on food sovereignty and peace.

**WILPF Spain**

Was very active in advocating for a new NAP on 1325, the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty as well as promoting the women, peace and security agenda among Spanish political actors.

**WILPF Sweden**

Gained national recognition as an important part of civil society by taking part in the Swedish National Commission on International Law and Disarmament, led by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs. Proved successful in advocating for disarmament when Sweden decided to vote "Yes" to banning nuclear weapons.

**WILPF Switzerland**

Organised event during the international campaign "16 days of activism against gender-based violence". Invited a former WILPF intern from Yemen to talk about the war and the women's situation there.

**WILPF Uganda Group**

Held the second Annual General Meeting under the theme "Peace", which was attended by a representative from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Afterwards, WILPF members were invited by the Ministry to participate in a meeting for the revision of the UNSCR 1325 and the Goma Declaration.

**WILPF United Kingdom**

Organised the seminar "Gender matters in International Peacekeeping". The seminar contributed to the revival of the London Branch of UK WILPF.

The entire list includes:

WILPF sections:

- 1) WILPF Albania
- 2) WILPF Bolivia
- 3) WILPF Costa Rica
- 4) WILPF France
- 5) WILPF India
- 6) WILPF Israel
- 7) WILPF Lebanon
- 8) WILPF Mexico
- 9) WILPF Nepal
- 10) WILPF US

WILPF Groups:

- 1) WILPF Afghanistan Group
- 2) WILPF Chad Group
- 3) WILPF Nicaragua Group
- 4) WILPF Zimbabwe Group
- 5) WILPF Burundi Group

## Selected work

In 2016, the initiatives and achievements of WILPF International, our programmes, partners and many sections across the world were varied and diverse. With activities on every continent, we demonstrated our ability to incorporate the local perspective and the knowledge, experiences and recommendations of women on the ground. From Nigeria to Colombia, from Bosnia to Syria, our staff and sections worked brilliantly to think differently and act differently. As you will see in the eight selected stories here, WILPF works on a number of different topics and uses different approaches in the pursuit of strengthening women's rights and creating a peaceful world. The following stories are just a snapshot of the many activities and work carried out in 2016.

## The risks of working for peace

All over the world, women human rights defenders and peace activists faced serious threats in 2016. Risks faced by WILPF members, partners, beneficiaries and staff included serious death threat incidents, cyber-attacks and challenges related to working in situations of open armed conflict, increased militarisation and rising religious and extremist ideologies. These realities accelerated WILPF's risk management work and in 2016 we developed specific tools to minimise the dangers faced by WILPF activists.

### **WILPF Security Protocol: Addressing the Risks**

In September 2016, under the shadows of the Colombian peace agreement, Cecilia Lozano, a member of one of WILPF Colombia's partner organisations, found an envelope under her door. Inside the envelope was a letter signed by a dangerous paramilitary group with cut-out

newspaper letters spelling out a threat due to Lozano's work reclaiming the land people were once forcibly displaced from.

Cecilia Lozano is far from the first WILPF member and women's rights defender to have been targeted for her activism. WILPF has noticed a rise of threats against women speaking out publicly and, as a response, we developed and launched the Security Protocol, which aims to help the WILPF Community and WILPF partners to be able to assess and address – as far as possible – the degree of risk, and take actions to minimise these risks. It covers a number of different safety areas including: personal safety, political activity, health, armed conflict, civil unrest, IT and office security. With current social and political instability worldwide, the Security Protocol becomes an important tool to help sections and partners strengthen their security measures and being aware of possible risks in their specific country. If risks are identified and analysed early, prevention and protection mechanisms become easier and faster to manage. An organised approach to security can help sections and members to protect themselves and their work, thereby strengthening the voices and demands of the women's movement.

Furthermore, the Security Protocol is a way to illuminate how different aspects of security are interlinked and connected, and how physical, digital and psychological security issues affect the safety and well-being of the brilliant activists in the WILPF community. “Although we recognise that security and risk management are important for our work, we don't take it seriously until something happens, I think the new Security Protocol comes extremely handy and useful right now,” says Katherine Ronderos, Director of WILPF Colombia.

### **myWILPF: A Much-Needed Safe Space Online**

Today the internet plays a significant role in both the spread of information and knowledge, as well as in activist mobilisation and organising across the globe. The internet gives WILPF the opportunity to communicate to a larger audience, and it makes it easier for WILPF members and feminist peace activists to communicate with each other across cultural and geographical borders. However, using the internet and various technological platforms involves certain risks, especially in conflict areas, vulnerable states and high-risk environments. So while the internet on the one hand expands the opportunities for global mobilisation, it also increases the risks that women activists face in their work to create global change. In some countries, governments strategically use social media platforms as a way to identify activists and political groups, thereby limiting or disrupting their work.

To challenge these risks and to help members and activists around the world, WILPF created an online discussion and resource hub called myWILPF. The online platform is a closed space only accessible to WILPF members, and thereby security and safety is considerably increased compared to other online platforms. Through interactive discussion groups and fora, WILPF members can share knowledge and experiences, stay updated on the work of WILPF International and all the national sections, and talk over ideas and doubts, without the risk of this information ending up in the wrong hands or institutions. Safety is not just about being safe in the physical world; it is also about creating safe spaces online.

Furthermore, sharing knowledge and experiences helps the sections create bridges between their work and get a closer connection to the global WILPF movement. The network is constantly growing and every voice shared is another voice in the building of sustainable peace.

## Do not underestimate my strength: Building solidarity within the feminist movement

WILPF creates unique spaces and contributes to movement building through processes of organising and participation. In June 2016, WILPF and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation convened a solidarity dialogue between women activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine, after recognising certain parallels between the situation in Ukraine and the earlier and ongoing situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The dialogue was called “From War to Sustainable Peace” and by sharing their experiences the women who participated contributed to a better understanding of conflict, post-conflict and the role women can play in creating sustainable peace and positive change in society.

### **Women’s voices are only as strong as the feminist movement**

The dialogue created the foundation for the women activists to share their understanding of what peace is, how to achieve it and how to hold on to it. As Bosnian activist Jasminka Drino Kirlic explained: “Peace is not ‘please’; peace is ‘I demand’. And just to make sure I do not forget it – even when the peace agreement is signed – the war does not go away. It is in the heads, in the threats, in the fears, in the weapons, in the voting ballots.”

The workshop was about more than knowledge-sharing. It was also about strengthening the global feminist movement and reinforcing the solidarity amongst women peace activists. A strong feminist movement with links across borders is necessary in creating social change and working for sustainable peace on a global scale. As the Ukrainian activists highlighted during the workshop, women’s voices are only as strong as the feminist movement. As one of the Bosnian activists said: “Women’s nongovernmental organisations are laboratories from which examples of good practice can be drawn.”

### **Sharing experiences**

Hearing about the Bosnian experience, it became even clearer for the Ukrainian activists that women must actively participate in the peace process. As one of the Ukrainian activists stated: “The experience of Bosnian women points the way forward in Ukraine.” Furthermore, the workshop gave the Ukrainian activists technical assistance on how to monitor and document human rights violations during and after the conflict. The Solidarity Dialogue helped the women apply a more strategic and analytical approach to their work.

The Ukrainian activists agreed that much of what they heard from the Bosnian activists was extremely important to understand and contextualise their own experience, and provided much insight from which they could learn. Herein lies the relevance of facilitating workshops with

knowledge and experience-sharing like this one, while still paying attention to the local circumstances. As Jasminka Drino Kirlic said: “There are no recipes for peace activism. Each country is specific; the activism and its forms are sought in each country’s culture, tied to the specific needs of the people in that country. We must set an example through our work and try to transfer our knowledge.”

The Solidarity Dialogue allowed the participants to listen and learn from each other’s mistakes and successes while reminding each other not to give up. As one of them said: “The bridge to understanding, tolerance and respect must be reinforced one brick at a time.”

## We get what we pay for, so let’s #MoveTheMoney

At WILPF we have always argued that you get what you pay for. Bloated military spending raids funds set aside for human security and sustainable development. Militarism reduces transparency and accountability; it maintains violent patriarchal systems and promotes cycles of violence and conflict. The trade-offs are immense: just \$500 would support a woman in the DRC to get a year of job training skills. If the \$1676 billion spent on military security in 2015 was directed toward human security, this would provide a substantial portion of the total needed to realise the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. As Abigail Ruane, Director of WILPF’s Women, Peace and Security programme stated, “We reject the idea that there is no money for gender justice.”

WILPF has always lobbied to make governments reallocate resources spent on the military towards activities that benefit women and humanity at large. Since the establishment of the organisation, we have shed light on the paradox of using violent military actions to achieve non-violent stability. For WILPF it is obvious: we get what we pay for. If we want peace, then we must invest in inclusive participation, gender justice and human flourishing, and not in bombs.

WILPF sees the creation of a just and feminist economy as part of achieving feminist peace. A feminist political economy lens uncovers the power, conflict drivers and dynamics that are often invisible in political discourses about security.

### **New initiative from WILPF: #MoveTheMoney**

In September 2016, WILPF launched the #MoveTheMoney initiative which brilliantly illustrated why it is beneficial to move the money from military spending to investments in development and gender equality initiatives.

The innovative analysis and tools of the #MoveTheMoney initiative aimed at stimulating advocacy, discussion and action among non-governmental actors and civil society, and to push the UN and national governments to shift their funding focus. The #MoveTheMoney initiative illuminated how any set of funding priorities either strengthens or undermines gender equality and peace. The online toolkit included a knowledge-sharing platform on [peacewomen.org](http://peacewomen.org), explainer video, trade-offs “slider”, social media infographics, key messaging and other material. The materials were shared by thousands of activists worldwide. Through this initiative, WILPF

demonstrated the ability to connect the links between spending priorities and gender inequality and conflict.

“If we want peace, we must invest more in women’s rights and gender justice,” says Abigail Ruane. “Our #MoveTheMoney initiative shows that the international community must strengthen transparency and accountability on military spending, and prioritise investing in gender-responsive budgeting, National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, and civil-society inclusive funds.”

### **Invest in women’s organisations**

Another important aspect of the #MoveTheMoney initiative was its key messaging, which provided evidence-based analysis for why it is important to invest in feminist movements and institutions promoting gender equality.

We know that women’s rights are human rights. In addition, research now shows that gender equality is the number one predictor of peace, and feminist movement building is the number one predictor of policies on reducing violence against women. Yet the international community continues to spend the money badly. OECD data shows that funding for women’s rights organisations fell by more than half between 2010 and 2015. A global survey from The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) found that 740 women’s organisations worldwide had a combined income of only \$106 million in 2010. This is less than the cost of one F-33 fighter plane (which costs about \$137 million)! This clearly illustrates that the problem is not a lack of money; it is rather about a bad use of the money available.

Current misappropriation of funds puts the advancement of women’s rights and gender equality at risk. It is imperative for donors and states to evaluate the impact of their investments, and prioritise funding women’s organisations and systems that promote women’s rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights.

With the initiative #MoveTheMoney, WILPF reminds the international community that it is time to recognise that you get what you pay for: trillions on war and pennies for peace and gender equality will only lead to injustice and violence. We will continue our work to make governments and the international community understand the importance of investing in gender equality, social justice policies, and women’s organisations and movements for peace.

With the #MoveTheMoney campaign, WILPF has demonstrated that it is possible to think differently and, more importantly, to act differently.

## **Getting the voices of women activists to the UN**

When looking back at how the events of 2016 affected women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region it is hard not to feel horrified and exasperated. However, the incredible work conducted by WILPF’s members and partners in the MENA region gives hope. This is also

the case with our Syrian partners, who in 2016, with support from WILPF, collaborated to prepare a coalition submission for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Summary of Stakeholder's information Report. The submission analysed and highlighted how armed violence and conflict have disproportionately affected women in Syria.

Every five years a State is reviewed by the UN Human Rights Council through the UPR, and NGOs get the chance to submit a report to document how that state is behaving and whether it is fulfilling its human rights obligations. We admire the determination of the many grassroots organisations that engaged in this process despite the extensive targeting of activists and the extremely serious humanitarian and human rights situation in Syria.

### **Women's voices are important**

The work of women's organisations in Syria covers a wide range of activities, and in every part of the war-torn country women activists strive to build peace. Their analysis of the root causes of the conflict, the peace and security concerns, and the needs of their local communities is therefore absolutely necessary to ensure an inclusive and sustainable peace process. However, even though women's grassroots organisations in Syria are crucial and important actors for change, they are often marginalised from political negotiations and the peace process. Since the women activists and human rights defenders face increasing risks, creating safe spaces where the voices of these women can be heard is therefore essential. This is why WILPF, in collaboration with partner organisations, facilitated a workshop in January 2016, bringing together women from ten different Syrian organisations that made the joint submission for the UPR of Syria.

### **A gendered perspective on the situation in Syria**

During the workshop, WILPF shared our experience with preparing submissions to the UPR in relation to women's rights, providing technical assistance, advocacy support, training and information, although the drafting of the submission was carried out by the coalition of women's organisations. WILPF thus coordinated the work but did not impose any specific content or decide what was to be written. The report is therefore a testimony to the work of the women and a reflection of the needs, issues and recommendations as seen from the perspective of Syrian women experts on the ground. It is an insight into the realities imposed on the Syrian people by suppression, militarisation and dysfunction of the international system, and how all of these affect Syrian women locally.

The report "Violations Against Women in Syria and the Disproportionate Impact of the Conflict on Them" brought a gendered perspective on the conflict in Syria to the UN, making it unique among numerous other submissions. It covered and added insights into topics like violence, detained and disappeared women, the impact of siege on women, displacement and proliferation of weapons.

### **The importance of movement building**

By facilitating the workshop, WILPF demonstrated how we operate as a feminist organisation in that it was a bottom-up approach and not top-down. "During the workshop, the WILPF team succeeded in creating a safe zone and motivated all of us to take part in preparing the report," says Rula Asad from the Syrian Female Journalist Network who participated in the workshop.

By bringing together the ten women's organisations, WILPF continued a strong tradition of movement building, and the safe space enabled dialogue between the women and instigated a process of change.

Another participant, Raheb Alwany, highlighted why the meeting with women from other organisations was important for her: "I believe that the UPR preparation workshop was one of the most valuable experiences I've had in the last couple of years. Apart from the great report itself, I felt really privileged to get to know many female activists from different women's organisations closely. We shared experiences, learnt from each other's expertise, listened to each other's stories and above all we got to know what it means to stand together and never give up the uphill struggle fighting for our rights in one joint action," she says.

### **The importance of women's perspective**

Women activists in Syria are not only challenged due to the general threats that civilians face in the country – lack of safety, bombardment of civilian areas, detention, enforced disappearance, etc. – but also have to confront and overcome patriarchal values and attitudes that severely limit their freedom and activist work. Getting their voices and perspectives to the international arena is therefore of uttermost importance.

Raheb Alwany explains why the UPR report was important to write and submit: "I think that whoever reads the report will understand how important it is to deal with the disproportionate impact that conflict has on women, not only in Syria but in any conflict zone. Being the first of its kind in Syria, this report shed light on a bunch of extremely important and sensitive aspects in Syrian women's life under war conditions, which have sadly gone unnoticed by other human rights defenders and organisations," she says.

### **Advocacy work: A tool to create change**

From March 2016, when the UPR report was submitted to the UN, and up until the review of Syria in March 2017, WILPF and the coalition of Syrian partners carried out various follow-up activities. That meant consistent advocacy work for a whole year, thereby showing the world that the voices and perspective of women in Syria must be taken seriously.

In June 2016, WILPF brought a delegation of women who had taken part in the writing of the report to Geneva. Here, the delegation of Syrian human rights defenders raised awareness about the disproportionate impact of the conflict on women and girls.

Both WILPF and the Syrian partners found representatives of Permanent Missions to the UN to be responsive to the recommendations outlined in the coalition report, with some stakeholders requesting private meetings with the Syrian women activists. This was an opportunity to further raise the voices of the Syrian partners. In addition, and during another advocacy delegation in October 2016, a Syrian human rights activist delivered a statement at the UPR presession event in Geneva focusing on three key issues identified in the coalition report.

Advocacy is a key element in WILPF's work, because it constitutes one of the most important mechanisms to effect and influence the political debates on conflict and crisis, and how states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security. In the case of Syria, advocacy becomes of importance since it gives Syrian feminist NGOs and grassroots activists

the opportunity to bring their localised and gendered analysis to the international level and share it with state representatives, UN officials, stakeholders and the general public, who need to hear about the actual situation.

WILPF's local-to-global approach provides solid linkages between international and local levels, and thereby harmonises the efforts being invested at both levels.

## DRC: Gendered aspects of corporate human rights abuses must not be ignored

In 2016, WILPF published the report “Life at the Bottom of the Chain: Women in Artisanal Mines in DRC”. The report was based on research conducted by Annie Matundu Mbambi, President of WILPF DRC, and Léonnie Kandolo, member of WILPF DRC, who travelled to the Haut-Katanga region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to visit three different artisanal mining sites, interview women working in the mines, and conduct direct observations on the sites. This field work illuminated numerous issues faced by women working in artisanal mines, and through the many interviews brought a unique insight into the gendered aspect of the mining industry, highlighting the link between mining and the armed conflict afflicting the country.

### **The mining industry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The mining industry plays an important role in the economy of the DRC. Looking into the working conditions of the artisanal mines was relevant, since artisanal mining accounts for over 80 per cent of mined products exported by the country, and women generally play a much larger role in artisanal mining than in the large-scale mining sector. The role of women working in the mines is often overlooked, even though women in general perform the most dangerous tasks within the industry. WILPF found this problematic and decided to investigate the case.

In spite of the difficult conditions in which women work in the artisanal mines, they still play a fairly substantial role in overall mining production, both nationally and in the local economy. Ignoring the experiences of these women is therefore highly problematic and understanding the mining industry from a gendered perspective became a high priority for WILPF. “We decided to study the circumstances of women in these mines because the living conditions there are inhumane and the human rights violations overwhelming,” say Léonnie Kandolo and Annie Matundu Mbambi.

Mining is a very patriarchal industry and a fairly hostile sector towards women, which affects the working conditions. Another important aspect highlighted by the research was how women are the most impacted by the militarisation of the sites stemming from the use of private security forces. The research showed that 71 per cent of the women encountered in the artisanal mines do not feel safe on the sites. In the artisanal mining industry, women experience a number of serious violations such as gender discrimination, slavery-like conditions, deterioration of reproductive health, violence, forced displacement, sexual exploitation, and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Furthermore, the women have no access to the justice system because it is too remote from the mines.

### **Why women's experiences should not be ignored**

The report underlined how activities of corporations are not gender-neutral, and how such activities might cause or even exacerbate gender discrimination because of pre-existing gender roles and structures within the community the business operates in. The mining industry is no exception, and women experience direct and indirect consequences of mining activities in different ways than men.

The report on women in artisanal mines in the DRC contributed to important awareness-raising on the gendered impacts of mining companies and why it is crucial to integrate a gender perspective in treaties on businesses and human rights. Applying a gender perspective means seeking to prevent and address negative gendered impacts by analysing the particular ways in which corporations may affect the rights of women, and identifying a response that is adapted to women's needs, taking into consideration the intersection of other discriminations, such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic status, which have additional and negative impact. By listening to the demands and experiences of the women at the mining sites, and analysing the measures that could be taken in order to improve the women's situation, WILPF helped bring their voices to the international level.

In addition, by analysing the mines through a gender lens, WILPF brought issues to light that are often unseen, ignored or forgotten.

### **Taking women's missing voices from the mining sites to the international arena**

WILPF strategically released the report a few days before the start of the second session of the intergovernmental working group on a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland (24-28 October 2016).

The findings of the report were presented to other women's organisations, civil societies and key players working in the field of mining in the DRC at the AWID Forum in Brazil in September 2016. On that occasion, a representative from WILPF DRC participated in the event "Positioning the binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations towards protecting the rights of women human rights defenders and minority constituencies" organised by WILPF. Annie Matundu shared the artisanal mining case study, highlighting the negative impacts on women's lives, and presented possible alternatives to the women's current situation. She explained the activities of business enterprises, their impact on women and their relationship with the root causes of conflicts within the DRC, thereby showing the necessity of a legally binding framework to prevent such violations.

The findings of the DRC research were also presented at numerous key fora to amplify WILPF's advocacy messages and encourage greater integration of a gender analysis in UN processes on business and human rights. The findings of WILPF's research on the situation of women in the artisanal mining sector in the DRC has been a key advocacy tool on issues such as corporate accountability and human rights, natural resources and women's rights in general. In particular, in the context of the UN process for the drafting of a treaty on business and human rights, WILPF has drawn on analysis in the DRC report to support its advocacy on the need for a gender perspective to be fully integrated throughout the treaty drafting process.

### **Corporations must be held accountable**

Transnational enterprises today are very powerful in their financial operations and sometimes they actually become more powerful than the states in which they operate, which can result in massive violations of human rights. This is why WILPF and WILPF DRC continue to work for a world where transnational corporations are held accountable for their every action – a world without armed conflicts, supported and fuelled by international industries. Women cannot be out of sight or out of mind in efforts to prevent adverse human rights impacts of business activities.

### **Building a conflict prevention initiative from the ground up: Women’s Situation Room Nigeria**

The importance of women’s meaningful participation in peace processes and in political elections cannot be overstated. According to research, there is a 20 per cent increase in the probability of a peace agreement lasting two years when women are included in the process, and a 35 per cent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years when women are included. Every day, WILPF sections and partners work hard to make sure that women’s voices are heard and that women play a role in political processes at local, national and international levels. One of the WILPF sections that tirelessly continue this work is WILPF Nigeria, who in 2015 monitored and observed the Nigerian General Elections through the initiative “Women’s Situation Room Nigeria” – an initiative that proved to be successful and which the section continued working on in 2016.

### **Nigerian activists to combat inequality**

Nigeria has a long-standing history of political, ethnic and religious conflicts that has disproportionately impacted women and girls. The country is ranked 118 out of 144 listed countries on the 2016 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI), and a large number of women experience sexual violence and forced displacement. Despite this low ranking, Nigerian women activists do not give up but keep working for greater gender equality in the West African country, and continue to advocate for the expansion of women’s political and economic empowerment and the prevention of gender-based violence.

### **The importance of strong partnerships**

The advocacy work to give women a stronger voice in Nigerian society is ongoing and continues to be important. Supporting sections that take up this work is likewise highly significant, and as part of its ongoing partnership WILPF supported a Women’s Situation Room Nigeria train-the-trainers workshop in June 2016. During the workshop, the participants developed and shared action plans for each of Nigeria’s six geopolitical zones. The plans addressed election observation, community peace dialogues and community women mobilisation. Furthermore, the training strengthened capacity on analysis, reporting, mapping, and team building – skills that are much needed in the continued objective to make women’s voices count and to change the political environment in the country. The action plans were shared with over 800 coordinators,

including six Zonal Coordinators, 36 State Coordinators, and 774 Local Government Coordinators.

The Women's Situation Room Nigeria also organised various other workshops on capacity building, conflict resolutions and peace-building processes. The women managed to hold network meetings across the different geopolitical zones, thereby strengthening the movement building even further. According to WILPF Nigeria, the attendance at these workshops was high; amongst the participants were the National Coordinator, Zonal Coordinator, and State Coordinators, who were trained and thereby had their knowledge of these important topics increased.

### **Meaningful participation**

Meaningful participation requires that women have the ability to exert influence and power, and to bring about change in society. Meaningful participation means women's perspectives, priorities, rights and needs are intentionally integrated into the peace negotiations process and into the entire content of the peace agreement. It will enable women to make and sustain peace as full partners. But this meaningful participation of women is not something given; it is something we have to continue to work for and maintain.

Joy Onyesoh from WILPF Nigeria explains why the WSR is relevant in terms of meaningful participation: "The Women's Situation Room has been able to project the image of women as peacebuilders. It has been able to build the capacity of women at both state level and grassroots level through implemented activities aimed at empowering and strengthening their competences," she says.

Failure to include women and their perspectives into the process and content of peace, or in the political processes during elections, further disempowers women and destabilises local communities. If people do not 'own' the peace and if the peace agreement does not reflect who they are and their needs, it is not theirs to live. Women's meaningful participation in peace processes and political elections is therefore beneficial for both local communities and for the country as a whole. This is why the strengthening and continuing of initiatives like the Women's Situation Room Nigeria is important. "It is about building a network of women sharing a similar belief in the peacebuilding process and conflict resolution," says Joy Onyesoh.

### **Arms trade: Holding states accountable**

Military spending is a key indicator of the level of militarism of a society. Since there is a lot of money invested in militarism, those profiting from the production of arms have an interest in sustaining the system of war. As activists for peace, human rights and gender equality, we need to seek and articulate effective strategies that challenge war profiteering. This has always been a cornerstone in WILPF's work, and in 2016 we conducted a range of in-depth research, produced articles and research policy papers on preventing gender-based violence through arms control, lobbied for states to uphold the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the UN Programme of Action on

Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA), and explored the gendered dimensions of weapons use and trade.

### **The connection between weapons and gender-based violence must be illuminated**

According to WILPF's Disarmament programme (Reaching Critical Will), small arms and other conventional weapons, as well as armed drones and the development of new technologies of violence, are part of a global armed violence epidemic. The manufacture, trade, proliferation, possession and use of weapons facilitate sexual and gender-based violence, human trafficking and armed conflicts, and are integrally tied up with violent masculinities and the militarisation of communities.

Some states want to keep the arms trade in the shadows, where they can profit from the death and destruction of millions of lives, comfortably out of sight from public scrutiny or international pressure. But at WILPF we do not accept that. Throughout 2016, we challenged the international arms trade and the use of armed drones, lobbying to prevent the development of autonomous weapons and to put an end to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. We argued loudly for the ending of impunity for private military and security companies, and took on those who produce and manufacture weapons.

### **Joining the dots: linking explosive weapons with human rights violations**

2016 was a busy year for the sections and programmes working for disarmament. Amongst others, WILPF produced three shadow reports that were delivered to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' (CESCR) 58<sup>th</sup> session and focused on France, Sweden and the UK. These reports analysed the connections between the international arms trade, which provides among other things explosive weapons used in populated areas during conflicts, often resulting in human rights violations – including rights related to education, health and housing. In addition, WILPF submitted reports to the CEDAW Committee on arms transfers by France and Sweden.

The reports showed how, in this globalised world, human rights violations can occur across borders and cannot be successfully addressed if the legal response does not take this transnational character into account. For this reason, the duty of states to protect human rights is not limited to their own territory, but also to subsequent actions that violate human rights extraterritorially. This is something which the CESCR reminded the UK of when it recommended that it conduct thorough risk assessments prior to granting licences for arms exports and refuse or suspend such licences when there is a risk that arms could be used to violate human rights.

### **Holding states accountable**

In 2016, WILPF also published a major research report looking at the connections between the international arms trade and gender-based violence. The report provided information and resources for the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty's provisions about preventing gender-based violence, in order to give arms export officials the tools they need. WILPF also produced two important case studies focusing on Sweden and Spain, two of the big arms exporters.

Spain is the seventh largest arms exporter in the world and is the main supplier of weapons to some of the biggest importers in the world, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Vietnam, countries where human rights violations are recurring phenomena. The case study identified a number of arms transfers that may have violated Spanish legislation, as well as regional and international agreements to which the country is a party.

Sweden is the world's eleventh largest arms exporter. At WILPF we find this to be a paradox, since Sweden prides itself on its "feminist foreign policy". In its action plan to implement this policy, the Swedish government highlighted as a priority for 2016 to strengthen the human rights of women and girls in humanitarian settings and combat gender-based and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. For WILPF it is of utmost importance to connect the dots between the arms trade, violence, conflict and violations of women's and human rights. Furthermore, we believe that states need to be held responsible for the claims they make, so if a state proclaims a feminist foreign policy, like Sweden, we will make sure that they uphold these claims.

WILPF's Disarmament programme highlights the importance of accountability in the form of public scrutiny and international pressure. Transparency and public reporting are a huge part of this accountability.

Transparent and comprehensive reporting is therefore essential to effective implementation and promoting of the universality of the ATT, and in 2016 WILPF demonstrated our ability to do exactly that.

The production of the above reports show the ability WILPF has to work together between programmes and national sections. WILPF Sweden and WILPF Spain acted as experts for the reports on Swedish and Spanish arms trade practices and policies. WILPF's programmes and the many sections across the world have an important role to play as experts in this field. Since the publishing of the report, WILPF Sweden has continued working with these aspects in Sweden in order to promote better implementation of the feminist foreign policy and the new national arms trade legislation that is currently being discussed in the country. The link between violence against women and the arms trade cannot and should not be ignored. "The work we do is important because it limits arms proliferation, but also promotes WILPF's goal to secure women's political participation and to guarantee resources to foster equality and women's human rights," says Gabriella Irsten, Policy and Advocacy advisor, WILPF Sweden.

### **Arms trade belongs in the past**

A well-developed and thorough gender perspective must be integrated into all discussions of the impact of arms transfers on human rights. WILPF believes this is possible and is an important step towards the realisation of feminist peace. We will keep denouncing militarism in all its forms and its consequences within or across borders. Above all else, weapons are tools of violence and repression. This is why we keep lobbying and communicating the importance of strengthening the ATT and the UNPoA.

## Steps forward on the long road to peace

The road to peace has been a long one for the Colombian people. Over 50 years of armed conflict between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) claimed more than 220,000 lives, over seven million people forcedly displaced and thousands of women victims of sexual violence with an immunity rate of over 90 per cent.

2016 was an important year for Colombia on this road to peace. The women’s movement in the country worked tirelessly, demanding the inclusion of women on both sides of the table as well as the participation of women throughout the process. Little by little they succeeded, advocating for the inclusion of women’s rights and a gender perspective in the agreement. They successfully pursued the establishment and engagement of the first ever Gender Subcommittee. Many different local, national and international initiatives were carried out in order to make women’s proposals and recommendations visible.

WILPF International acknowledges this dedicated work for peace in Colombia and especially the work by WILPF’s National Section in Colombia, named in Spanish “Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad” (LIMPAL Colombia).

### **LIMPAL’s contribution to peace**

LIMPAL Colombia supported the peace process from the start, and actively collaborated with the women’s rights movement to ensure that women were able to participate and influence the process, that women victims were taken into account and their voices heard, that women’s political participation was fundamental to a successful negotiation and that all levels of violence against women in the context of the armed conflict, in particular sexual violence, were visible, recognised and investigated.

As a member of the National Summit of Women and Peace, LIMPAL was able to travel to Havana, Cuba, in October, after losing the referendum, to influence the new round of negotiations to maintain the gender perspective in the agreement, and make clear that women’s rights are not negotiable. LIMPAL also influenced the need for a specific approach to women’s perspective in the context of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) and the importance of strong measures for the prevention of sexual violence during the presence of the UN Political Mission of international observers in Colombia, as well as the inclusion of women in high numbers in the Mission itself.

A participatory and grassroots approach to political advocacy was key to LIMPAL Colombia. Their approach of empowering women, mainly victims, has been their key force when it comes to mobilising women to make their voices heard. LIMPAL Colombia has worked for the promotion and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820, as well as local Colombian laws that are designed to respect and guaranty women’s rights, the protection of women and the prevention and sanctions of violence against women. In 2016, LIMPAL led

advocacy efforts for incorporating the creation of a Local Action Plan of UNSCR 1325 in the Development Plan of the city of Cartagena (Bolívar).

In collaboration with WILPF International, LIMPAL hosted a meeting with the Nobel Women's Initiative, during the special visit of the Peace Nobel Laureate Jody Williams to Colombia. This meeting marked the 101<sup>st</sup> WILPF anniversary, on 28 April, with 25 representatives of about 18 major Colombian women's organisations, where challenges for women's participation in the peace process and the need for visibility of crimes against women, including sexual violence, were discussed with Jody Williams for support and international advocacy efforts.

### **The many obstacles on the road**

An important moment for this process was the referendum on 2 October, a day when the signed agreement was going to become real and its implementation phase could start. But voters who were against the agreement won the referendum. "For women victims, this was a slap in the face and we missed an important opportunity for peace and reconciliation, because for the first time, a gender perspective was included in the text of the final agreement. For the first time, women's rights were recognised," explains Katherine Ronderos, Director of LIMPAL Colombia.

The second and final agreement between FARC-EP and the Colombian government was then signed on 24 November, and later ratified by Congress on 30 November 2016. LIMPAL Colombia is supportive of the peace agreement and believes that implementation is critical. "The agreement is not perfect; we knew that from day one. It is not an agreement that will make deep transformations on gender equality, and important sections on LGBTQ rights were eliminated, but it is a good start," says Katherine Ronderos.

WILPF International also supported the Colombian journey during this critical time, and provided joint advocacy, funding, media and communications, strategic support and support for women activists who are under threat. For example, WILPF International contributed to localisation work on the UNSCR 1325 and disarmament from a gender perspective in Colombia, which enabled LIMPAL to launch their research report *Desarmando la Vida* (Disarming Life) in August, including in its recommendations the ratification of the UN Arms Trade Treaty as a measure for the protection of women and the reduction of femicides. WILPF International also worked with LIMPAL to develop a case study showing how women in Colombia are analysing root causes of gendered violence and mobilising through coalitions to strengthen women's rights, conflict prevention and peace.

### **The work for peace is ahead**

The efforts of women's organisations in Colombia, including LIMPAL, do not stop, since a great amount of work is needed in the aftermath of the peace agreement. The women peace activists know exactly how important continued advocacy work is for the meaningful participation of women in post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation and sustainable peace.

"It is now important that the results we have achieved to date in terms of gender equality and women's rights in the agreement stay. Although we succeeded in incorporating the language of women's rights, it will be a great challenge for us to follow and drive implementation. Women's

participation in decisions on the implementation of the peace agreement is crucial for a sustainable and lasting peace in Colombia,” says Katherine Ronderos.

WILPF International will continue to help strengthen women affected by the armed conflict, their work for the implementation of the peace agreement, and the inclusion of a feminist perspective in post-conflict policies and strategies at local and national level.

## Operational reporting

In 2016, WILPF took operational steps to improve how we work. WILPF established a Standing Committee on Risk Management and developed formal processes to manage risk, recognising the specific macro risks and challenges that affect our ability to operate, including risks to our people, reputation, finances and operations, liability to others and risks to property. An organisational risk assessment was conducted and a Risk Register was created.

To address the findings in the Evaluation Report of 2016, WILPF focused on the ability of our programmes and teams to collaborate on joint projects. A Human Resources review process was also started in 2016 and is to be finalised in 2017.

While WILPF International has looked into its internal structures and the operation between programmes, the ExCom and standing committees took concrete steps to streamline WILPF’s governance functions and structures for more effective organisational performance.

2016 was the year where we established the framework for an internal Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) process. This will be an important tool for improving our efficiency and effectiveness, and we will roll out and finetune an internal MEL process in 2017.

## Financial reporting

Since 2015, WILPF’s Finance Management Manual has been fully operational and is being reviewed annually as part of the continuing process of strengthening internal controls and systems.

2016 has been a year of strengthening WILPF International’s management and organisation as part of a continuing process of moving the organisation forward.

Our external Evaluation Report of 2016 found that “excellent work has been carried out by WILPF in strengthening financial controls and systems; [...] it leaves WILPF well-placed to manage current and future growth, reporting and accountability.”

WILPF Community resources extend beyond WILPF's financial resources. This includes financial and human resources, including significant voluntary and in-kind contributions.

Budgets and resources for work financially managed through our sections and partners are not reflected in full in the budget of WILPF International.

Members of the Standing Finance Committee and the Executive Committee have been proactive in setting up improved financial management systems and in supporting the two offices toward that goal.

WILPF will continue to implement and develop effective fundraising and financial management systems. As stated in WILPF's Ethical Fundraising Policy, we are guided by a sense of integrity in our relationships with our donors. WILPF's ethical foundation is built on the assurance that the trust of the donor, our members and our organisation is maintained, which requires openness, transparency and respect.

Fundraising and donations are accepted in line with WILPF's ethical fundraising policies.

WILPF International Secretariat in Geneva and WILPF UNO Inc. in New York are two different legal entities that share implementation efforts. WILPF UNO Inc. is therefore the sub-grantee receiving the funds from the WILPF International Secretariat. All funds transferred to WILPF UNO Inc. are subjected to agreements and contracts between the two offices, requiring compliance with partners' and donors' terms and conditions.

In 2016, WILPF International had combined annual revenues of approximately CHF 2.5 million.

**Income/revenue summary:**

CHF 1,800,849 for Geneva Office

USD 695,796 for New York Office

**Expenditure summary:**

CHF 1,646,133 for Geneva Office

USD 681,240 for New York Office

**Source of funds in 2016 – International Secretariat Geneva**

Governments: 1,015,523

United Nations: 158,711

Private foundations: 468,024

Partners/Major donors: 36,529

Donations: 16,415

Individual International Membership fees: 2,090

Section fees: 83,777

Section contributions: 1,000

IB/Congress registration fees: 261

Revenue from New York Office: 11,330

Miscellaneous income: 6,989

**Total:** 1,800,649 USD

### **Use of funds in 2016 – International Secretariat Geneva**

Secretariat governance and administration: 25%

Communication: 1%

Crisis Response programme: 57%

Disarmament programme: 10%

Human Rights programme: 4%

External evaluation and monitoring: 3%

### **Source of funds in 2016 – New York Office**

Bequests and annuities: 22,252

Donations and contributions: 14,755

Government grants: 158,661

United Nations: 246,400

Foundation grants: 17,902

Net investment revenue: 5,114

Revenue from Geneva Office: 230,712

**Total:** 695,796 USD

### **Use of funds in 2016 – New York Office**

UNO Administration: 12%

Women, Peace and Security programme: 70%

Disarmament programme: 18%

## **Appreciating the WILPF community**

### **Thank you**

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals around the world who have volunteered and dedicated their time to contribute to the success of WILPF in 2016.

We appreciate the energy and dedication you put into the cause; without you the peace movement would not be the same.

WILPF International would also like to send a warm thanks to WILPF members for your continuous support and generosity. We also appreciate WILPF donors for your partnership and support. Every day, your contributions help prevent war and conflict as we strive to make a world that is peaceful and worth living in for ours and future generations.

We would also like to thank our Interns and Fellows who join us at our offices in Geneva and New York. You bring new perspectives and energy to the movement, and your hard work is greatly appreciated.

### **Back Cover**

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation (NGO) with national sections covering every continent, an

International Secretariat based in Geneva, and an office in New York focused on the work of the United Nations (UN).

Since our establishment, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace. 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.