Vision

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

For more information please visit our website: www.wilpf.org

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2018 was a year of solidarity. Fearless and formidable women from around the world worked together to create change and transform obstacles into opportunities. This year, WILPF members and our many partners supported each other, envisioned peace, and took action to create a better world for all of us.

In 2018, we witnessed the culmination of years of growth of WILPF in Africa. Amongst the five new Sections and eight new Groups we welcomed this year, eleven are from the African continent. This wonderful, powerful, energy was vibrant during our 32nd International Triennial Congress in Accra, Ghana where more than 200 peace activists gathered under the theme “Building a Feminist Peace Movement.” In advance of the Congress, WILPF also hosted the “Feminist Peace Movement in Africa” Forum. The forum was an inspiring place to debate how to mobilise feminist solidarity for the strong and innovative nonviolent work in Africa.

While in 2017 we got a binding treaty against nuclear weapons, 2018 was the year we moved forward with lobbying for its entry into force through many actions and a unique resource guide for carrying on that work.

We believe that feminist political economy analysis is the key to understanding the underlying causes of conflict and war, and for transforming political, social and economic structures. Therefore, we have developed a simplified methodology for feminist political economy analysis which we have shared in 2018. We use our analysis to create dialogues with major multilateral power institutions. These discussions are a basis for moving towards sustainable changes in peace processes through the Women Peace and Security agenda.

The Middle East and North Africa region continues to endure political and social instability in highly militarised contexts. People from this region share similar experiences, characterised by human rights abuses, failure of the rule of law and cross-border insecurities. Gender inequality and discrimination remain rampant. In 2018, we continued our work to preserve and grow a feminist movement for peace by fostering an exchange of experiences among women within the region; producing knowledge through a gendered lens; supporting the growth of a powerful and resilient women’s movement to replace violence with peace; and amplifying partners’ concerns and recommendations in the multilateral system.

In 2019, we want to persuade more feminists worldwide, women and men, to tackle the failure of the current structures, reframe the discourse and lead the way towards sustainable peace. We will continue to use our political feminist economy analysis as the key to challenge systems of neoliberalism, militarism and patriarchy. Progress is being made, but working for peace is a long term goal – especially in the context of widespread backlash against our work.

Our membership is the core of WILPF, our heart. It makes WILPF what it is: an amazing and effective peace organisation.

Outgoing President (2015/2018) and incoming President (2018/2021)
A Historic Congress

2018 was a magical year as members from across the globe met at our International Triennial Congress, filled with hugs and laughter. From 20-22 August, our International Congress took place in Accra, Ghana, and gathered 200 participants under the theme “Building a Feminist Peace Movement.” The Congress Steering Committee coordinated the preparations.

The International Triennial Congress is the highest decision-making body of WILPF. Our members come together to meet, learn, share their expertise and collectively decide on our next steps. Important decisions are made including the election of the International Board, accepting new Sections, and adopting resolutions. Our programmes and policies evolve from the Congress, where different points of view and experiences within WILPF are heard and incorporated into a genuinely global plan of action.

This Congress was historic; it was the first to be hosted in Africa in our 103-year long history. Not only was it hosted in the African region, but we also elected our first International President from the region and accepted the highest number of new Sections and Groups from the African continent ever.

“FEMINIST PEACE MOVEMENT” IN AFRICA FORUM
18 August 2018

On 18 August 2018, WILPF hosted a forum spreading light on the feminist peace movement in Africa. The Forum brought together 250 participants, including women from 16 African countries – Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe – and many international participants.

The Forum created a space to mobilise feminist solidarity for the strong and innovative nonviolent work taking place in Africa. Discussions explored the historic and current realities of women working for peace in Africa, the root causes of violence, women’s role and impact in social transformation, economic justice and peace, as well as the synergies between Africa and global feminist peace movements. The work being done in communities across Africa and the rich history of African women was amplified. In the outcome report, the participants call for support for women’s influence, participation and rights, and for continued solidarity and alliances to strengthen the movement.

32ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
20-22 August 2018

Below are some of the key actions and decisions that took place at Congress:

Admission of New Sections and Groups
On the first day of Congress, WILPF admitted five new Sections, four of which are from the African continent, and eight new Groups into WILPF’s community.

Adoption of Revised Constitution and By-Laws
A revised Constitution and By-Laws was overwhelmingly adopted by the delegates. While maintaining Congress as the highest decision-making body of the organisation, the revised Constitution proposes a new governance structure with a new International Board. This structure will strengthen the links between local, regional, and global levels and increase effectiveness in communication and decision making. The revised Constitution was the culmination of a long and inclusive process among the membership.

Presentation and Adoption of the International Programme 2018-2021
Congress adopted the International Programme 2018-2021, a forward-looking plan for WILPF for the three-year period. The plan is the result of collaborative writing, during which the process itself was as important as the content of the programme. The programme’s four key work areas are “Building the movement”, “Defining security”, “Leveraging feminist perspectives on peace”, and “Promoting socio-economic justice”.

Adoption of Resolutions
Two omnibus resolutions were finalised by the Resolutions Committee, and adopted by Congress. They focus on migration and militarism respectively, with the aim of moving from words to action through collective work. A Statement of Support and Solidarity for issues submitted by Sections, Groups and members on other critical issues, was also adopted.

Workshop and Regional Meetings
The workshops and regional meetings provided space for members to share knowledge and co-create together. Each workshop was designed to look deeper at an area of WILPF’s work, and to share practical skills and learning under an area of the International Programme. The workshops were preceded by a group discussion on “strength in cultural diversity.” The discussions built trust and strengthened relationships between members across the organisation.

Celebration to Mark the Nobel Peace Prize
Ray Acheson, Director of the WILPF Disarmament Programme, presented the way WILPF contributed to the work of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and went through the key points that led to the success of the campaign. WILPF’s Disarmament Programme represents WILPF on the ICAN International Steering Group, and has contributed with advocacy, strategy, analysis, monitoring, reporting, and mobilisation. Acheson highlighted the fact that ICAN’s Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 was a collective prize.

Launch of the Environmental Peace Education Initiative
The initiative will support Sections and Groups through small grants by enhancing their capacity to engage in collaborative work with other organisations and networks and to advocate for environmental sustainability. WILPF has also applied for membership with the UN Environmental Programme.
INTERNATIONAL BOARD 2018/2021

Congress voted to elect the following members to the International Board:

President: Joy Onyesoh (WILPF Nigeria)
Treasurer: Kerry McGovern (WILPF Australia)
Vice-President: K. Margrethe Kvam Tingstad (WILPF Norway)
Vice-President: Melissa I. M. Torres (WILPF United States of America)
Secretary-General: Madeleine Rees

Congress also endorsed the appointment of Regional Representatives and Alternate Regional Representatives elected for the following regions:

Africa
Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo (WILPF Cameroon)
Olivia Oseji (WILPF Nigeria)

Asia Pacific
Kozue Akabayashi (WILPF Japan)
Janette McLeod (WILPF Australia)

Europe
Heidi Meinzolt (WILPF Germany)
Lina Hjärtström (WILPF Sweden)

The Americas
Beatriz Schultheiss (WILPF Costa Rica)
Janet T. Slagter (WILPF United States of America)

MENA
Shirine Jurdi (WILPF Lebanon)
Hanan Awwad (WILPF Palestine)

South-Asia
Jamila Afghani (WILPF Afghanistan)
Zarina Salamat (WILPF Pakistan)

NEW PRESIDENT

When Joy Onyesoh was announced as the new International President, the cheers were deafening. Joy Onyesoh’s commitment to peace is an inspiration to us all. She has been an active member of WILPF since 2007. She has led peaceful demonstrations in Nigeria, advocated for women’s meaningful participation in peace processes, facilitated workshops to challenge masculinities and violence, and much more in the pursuit of sustainable peace.

Since 2015, she has been WILPF International Vice-President and Africa Liaison and we are proud to see her in this new role.

Regarding plans for the future, Joy Onyesoh said, “As the new International President, I am looking forward to continuing with the section exchange sessions, where we share our experiences of working on the ground, and connecting our diverse realities to enriching our advocacy and programmatic interventions on feminist peace. I am also looking forward to a diversified and strengthened WILPF governance structure that speaks to our current reality as a movement, and to the current global context.”
Our overall aim is to advance equality, justice and demilitarised security in order to get peace. We believe this will happen by following two interlinked paths of change – that we think differently and act differently. Thinking differently means we question the status quo and analyse the root causes of violence through a feminist lens. Acting differently means we mobilise for non-violent action and challenge the root causes of violence.

WILPF’s International Secretariat organises work around six strategic outcomes. They are interlinked and structured around the two paths of change.

These outcomes are collaborative and mutually reinforcing in our work.

1. **Outcome 1: Transform Gendered Power**
   - Our goal is to improve the understanding of gendered power and participation of women, through advocacy and activism at global and local levels.

2. **Outcome 2: Stigmatise War and Violence**
   - Our goal is to challenge militarised thinking, systems and technologies of war at global and local levels.

3. **Outcome 3: Promote Feminist Political Economy**
   - Our goal is to promote feminist political economy as a driver of analysis, accountability, and actions at global and local levels.

4. **Outcome 4: Movement Building**
   - Our goal is to strengthen the WILPF Community and its contribution to the peace movement.

5. **Outcome 5: Amplify Local and Regional Change**
   - Our goal is to strengthen how women organise, participate and provide gender perspectives on root causes of conflict, conflict prevention, resolution, and peace process at local and national levels.

   In addition to our global work, we have prioritised five focus countries (Colombia, Nigeria, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ukraine) and two regions (Africa and MENA) for deeper engagement. Due to a timely opportunity to initiate the #WomenPeaceKorea campaign, we are also focussed on the Korean Peninsula in 2018.

6. **Outcome 6: Improve Multilateral Actions**
   - Our goal is to promote accountability and advocate for integrated policies of the multilateral forums.
**STORY 1  Towards a Feminist Security Council**

Women’s participation, protection and rights, must be at the core of all efforts to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace. This principle is led by Security Council resolution 1325 and our work is to support its implementation. We published “Towards a Feminist Security Council” Guidance Note, an innovative and evidence-based guide that provides solutions-oriented action for how the Security Council can be more feminist. The Guidance Note was widely circulated and well received among networks of civil society and international fora.

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**STORY 2  Solidarity with Sahrawi Women**

A forgotten conflict on the international agenda, 2018 saw the restarting of talks between the parties: Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and the Polisario Front. The peace talks did not include independent women. WILPF supported Sahrawi women to mobilise and organise in order to create a space for women with different ideologies, faiths, and Sahrawi tribes to speak together and to bring a joint message to the decision makers. In a powerful letter to the UN Personal Envoy for Western Sahara they called for independent women to be included in the peace process.

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**STORY 3  Collaboration with Allies to Transform Negative Masculinities**

Our active engagement with the MenEngage Alliance on transforming masculinities continued in 2018, through a number of seminars, learning circles, research and joint advocacy. The WILPF Secretary-General serves on the MenEngage Global Board, and many WILPF Sections engaged men and boys in their work. WILPF Cameroon, for example, worked with male-dominated media to build alliances that brought attention to women’s leadership for peace. This work affirmed the importance of addressing systems of power – patriarchy – and of engaging men in ending gender inequality.

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**Introduction**

Transforming gendered power, security and peace is not only about making war safe for women, but about ending war, and promoting peace, gender equality and justice. It is not just about counting the number of women. Rather, it is about making women count.

Our advocacy in 2018 had impact and made progress for more effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Our recognition as experts in the field of Women, Peace and Security meant that we were able to build consensus among civil society, UN and Member State stakeholders. This can be seen especially around the discussions at the Security Council Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, where concerted and dedicated advocacy resulted in moving the focus of the debate away from protection and towards prevention, recognition of women’s participation and empowerment.

We continued to conduct conflict analysis from a gendered perspective that exposes discrimination and power structures. This means exposing how mainstream understanding of masculinities and femininities not only violates women’s rights and participation, but also hinders inclusive peace.

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**2018 Highlights**

- Advocated for stronger gender analysis in the work of UN Commissions of Inquiry (CoI) including the CoI for Syria. This led to more explicit gender perspective in their reporting in 2018. WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees and Professor Christine Chinkin published a commentary with concrete recommendations on how to implement the UN CoI Paper “I lost my dignity’: Sexual and gender-based violence in the Syrian Arab Republic”.

- Influenced language on women’s meaningful participation at the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the High-Level Political Forum 2018. This resulted in an inclusion of references on the impact of conflict on women, including in rural areas, and an affirmation of the importance of the role of men and boys.

- Monitored National Action Plans on the implementation of Women, Peace and Security in 79 countries. Our National Action Plan monitoring and analysis is unique, well respected and the most used resource on our peacewomen.org website.


- Four women civil society speakers addressing the Security Council were WILPF partners. This is a record high number for WILPF.

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**Randa Siniora, Palestinian Woman Activist and Historic Civil Society Organisations Speaker to the Women Peace and Security Debate**

Randa Siniora works every day to bring change to the lives of Palestinian women. She is the General Director of the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), a WILPF partner.

In 2018, her recognised expertise on the conflict situation in Palestine and her advocacy work on gender equality resulted in her briefing the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security. She started with this sentence: “Today I bring to you the voices of Palestinian women, who still face violence, discrimination, deprivation and systematic violations of their human rights on a daily basis.”

Randa Siniora’s intervention demonstrated a key milestone to strengthening gender analysis and action in the work of the Council. Building on WCLAC and WILPF’s joint summary report for the Universal Periodic Review of Israel, her statement included three major points: structural barriers to a full enjoyment of women’s human rights, women’s participation and disarmament.

On structural barriers, she noted that the occupation reinforces the patriarchal structures of the Palestinian society. On women’s participation, she said “that without women, there can be no peace. The lives of Palestinian women are evidence that these commitments have not been met.”

Women have been at the forefront of the Palestinian liberation movement. The Palestinian Authority worked with grassroots women leaders to create a 1325 National Action Plan. Yet few have been represented in peace talks.

Finally, on disarmament, she called upon Israel to end its military occupation and settlement expansion, commit to a political solution, and immediately cease violations of its commitments under international law.

In 2018, 14 women civil society speakers addressed the Security Council on country-specific situations, four of whom were WILPF partners from Palestine, Libya, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen. This is a record high number for both WILPF and as a whole, and shows an increasing commitment from the Security Council to have more briefings from civil society organisations.
STORY 1  Progress toward Ratification of the TPNW

We campaigned at the local, national, and international levels for the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This collective action of WILPF, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the WILPF movement led to 12 new signatures and 16 ratifications in 2018.

STORY 2  Increase in Gender References in Disarmament Fora

Our contributions to feminist analysis of disarmament, weapons, militarism, and conflict have provided a solid understanding of decision makers. Several diplomats have cited our work as instrumental to their understanding of the importance of gender references.

For example, our advocacy contributed to a steep increase in references to the gendered impacts of weapons and women’s participation in disarmament, in resolutions adopted at the 2018 UN General Assembly First Committee. In 2018, 25% of the resolutions referenced gender, as compared to just 12% three years ago.

Including language in resolutions paves the way toward a more holistic, feminist gender analysis that challenges militarised thinking, systems, and technologies of war.

STORY 3  Holding Governments Accountable

WILPF conducted advocacy on extraterritorial human rights obligations regarding arms transfers, including in Universal Periodic Reviews of Germany, Cameroon, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in CEDAW reviews of UK, Colombia and Australia. Although not all advocacy led to concrete recommendations, it is important for us to continue to raise these issues to hold governments accountable and push for changes.

2018 Highlights

- Ensured that groundbreaking references to gender-based violence, gendered impact of small arms and women’s participation were made in a report adopted by the UN Programme for Action on small arms and light weapons. This language contributes to mainstreaming of gender in small arms control, and is a concrete result of WILPF’s joint advocacy work with other civil society organisations.
- Advocated for the urgent start of negotiations for a treaty banning fully autonomous weapon systems and raised concerns about their specific gendered impacts.
- Promoted feminist perspectives on weapons and war through statements, articles, and talks, and in advocacy materials directed at governments at the UN. Our analysis provides alternatives to weapons, war, and cultures of militarism and violence.
- Made a submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the impact of Germany’s arms transfers on economic, social and cultural rights in which we raised the importance of Germany’s fulfilling its extraterritorial obligations, including in relation to regulation of arms producers.
- Monitored disarmament fora on nuclear weapons, the arms trade, autonomous weapons, and more. We supported efforts that would improve how the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty’s obligation will prevent gender-based violence.

Stop Killer Robots in Cameroon, in Africa and everywhere – Sylvie Ndongmo

Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo’s inspirational journey with WILPF started in 2014 when she helped establish WILPF Cameroon. When asked “Why WILPF?” she responds: “WILPF fascinated me with its amazing work on ending war and preventing future conflicts, reducing military expenditure, and fighting for women’s rights and justice.”

Her activism has had impacts locally, regionally and globally. And all of these levels are tied together in an initiative to bring the global Campaign to Stop Killer Robots to her country and to other WILPF Sections in Africa.

As the Africa Regional Representative and President of WILPF Cameroon, she has played a leading role in WILPF Cameroon’s national campaign against killer robots, launched in May. The campaign aims to convince the government to join with other states in calling for a ban on autonomous weapon systems, an issue which it does not presently have a position on.

The campaign was launched with a workshop, a press conference and five meetings with stakeholders. It was immediately far-reaching: 40 participants joined the workshop including civil society actors, media, a government representative and students. There was significant coverage, with three press articles, one online article, two TV and three radio reports.

25 participants attended the press conference, at which 11 media were represented. A daily newspaper published an interview with Sylvie Ndongmo, and further coverage was obtained with a live TV programme about killer robots.

Sylvie Ndongmo said, “I hope that my engagement further expands WILPF’s vision in Africa by continuous regional cooperation and building on the common ties of our vision.” And she has already succeeded. WILPF Cameroon’s work to stop Killer Robots has had a ripple effect across the region, as it has shared best practices to strengthen joint actions.

Inspired by the success of WILPF Cameroon’s national campaign against killer robots, eight WILPF Sections and Groups in the region launched similar national activities: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Côte d’Ivoire.
2018 Highlights

- Published WILPF Guide to Feminist Political Economy. The guide is an important internal resource for WILPF Sections and builds a cohesive understanding of how a feminist political analysis is a powerful tool for peace.
- Used a feminist political economy analysis to show the gendered impacts of corporations on human rights in our submissions to the human rights mechanisms. For example, in the UPR of Canada, WILPF raised the abuses of mining companies and their negative impact on women in countries where they operate.
- Used a feminist political economy analysis to expose the European Union’s gender and conflict blind approach towards Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Continued work with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to grow interest from feminists inside the IFIs to include WILPF’s conflict analysis in their overall understanding of gender, conflict and economic transitions.
- Introduced feminist political analysis at the international level with UN human rights bodies, international financial institutions, the European Union and other multilateral structures. As a result of our advocacy, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made recommendations and asked questions on the human rights impacts of IFIs’ policies in its review of Germany and pre-session on Ukraine. Our contributions to the UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights greatly contributed to highlighting the specific impact of austerity measures on women in Ukraine and elsewhere.

Introduction

Militarism and neoliberalism are inherently linked and mutually reinforcing pillars of patriarchal power. Our task is to make them visible and challenge them through the promotion of a feminist political economy analysis.

A political economy analysis helps to put structures of power and inequalities under the spotlight and to understand root causes of war. We use feminist political economy to bring gender perspective into the traditional analysis and to lead the path towards an equal and just distribution of power and resources.

In 2018, WILPF further advanced a feminist political economy approach in an innovative way to open conversations and to challenge neoliberal assumptions.

The work done in Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 shows progress towards the use of this kind of analysis and advocacy in countries affected by conflict, and we continued to find spaces to share this learning with women from many other countries and regions where we work.

STORY 1 Advancing Feminist Political Economy in Bosnia

We have used feminist political economy as a tool to understand the ongoing situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to strategise on how to advance towards more equal socio-economic policies. We have done this by drafting an open letter to the representative of the EU following the launch of the EU strategy for the Western Balkans. We have also started opening up a discussion on locally centred Alternative Reform Plan for Bosnia.

STORY 2 Highlighting the Impact of Austerity Measures

In Ukraine, we have drawn attention to how austerity measures contribute to feminisation of poverty, deepening of gender inequalities within the family and in society, and pose significant obstacles to women’s inclusion. The Independent Expert on Foreign Debt said after reading our report/submission that the consultations “truly opened my eyes to the fact that almost all macroeconomic policies are often male-biased.”

STORY 3 Strengthening the Analysis

At our Congress in Ghana, we held a workshop to explore the political and economic realities of women and men, and the challenges and opportunities stemming from those realities. We looked into which spaces are open for participation of ordinary people in political and economic decision-making, the current approaches of governments, and discussed how to use feminist political economy in our peace work. Our workshop consolidated our movement’s understanding of feminist political economy analysis and its use in our work.

"CORPORATIONS ARE EXTRACTING NATURAL, HUMAN AND MONETARY RESOURCES AT THE EXPENSE OF PEOPLE AND THE PLANET."

Feminist Peace Movement in Africa Report
Introduction

Our movement is growing in every measurable way, including in terms of members, staff, funding, and Sections. This is key to making all of our work more effective. The membership is at the core of our organisation. Local activists carry out the work that forms the backbone of our organisation. They hold meetings and conferences, put pressure on those in power and develop initiatives to address local concerns. By sharing their experiences and inspiring others, they also establish new WILPF Groups in countries where there were previously none.

In 2018, we have supported Sections, Groups and partner organisations in their efforts to realise women’s rights, have a say at the table, change laws, increase women’s participation, challenge national and international militarised security plans, expand women’s influence in their communities, and much more. We do this by providing support, training sessions and grants to Sections, Groups and partners. The impact has been seen at the grassroots level, where women peace activists have put their efforts into bringing together members and local activists for advocacy and capacity-building activities.

Our online membership platform, myWILPF, has also proven to be an effective engagement tool and has helped members communicate, share knowledge and improve cooperation between Sections as well as with the Secretariat.

2018 Highlights

- Administered over 20 small grants to Sections and Groups, including eight targeted Environment and Peace Education Initiatives. These small grants support Sections to carry out advocacy activities relevant to their local concerns.
- Provided a space for Sections and Groups through the “We are WILPF” online webinar series for members to tell about their work and how they engage the public. In some cases, these webinars opened up the possibility for cooperation when Sections discovered novel ways to work on similar issues.
- Supported Sections with capacity-building activities, including joint training and cross-learning sessions on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) advocacy. This training was integral to the successes of WILPF Cameroon and WILPF DRC’s advocacy activities around the UPR of their countries.
- Provided support to 17 delegations of women peace activists in 2018 to participate in international fora and high-level meetings.
- Expanded WILPF partnerships and engagement with academic institutions, networks, coalitions and other partners which leverage outside expertise and broadens the reach of our movement.
- Supported 19 grassroots women’s organisations with a new flexible funding approach in the “Feminist movement for change in Syria” project, to enable them to further their feminist agendas.

STORY 1

WILPF Costa Rica’s Regional Solidarity

WILPF Costa Rica exemplifies the multiple ways that Sections engage in movement building. In March 2018, on International Women’s Day, members participated in a nationwide Women’s March, several events and educational activities; in April 2018 they initiated a solidarity campaign on the conflict in Nicaragua, sending letters to the government of Honduras and to the Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Relations calling for the respect for all parties and the support of dialogue and peace initiatives. In May 2018, they published a statement of solidarity with the Nicaraguans hoping “that the high-ranking officials in power in Nicaragua will reflect and open up space for true social dialogue, in a context free of violence, reprisals and disqualifications against dissident voices.”

In 2018, Katherine Ronderos (WILPF Colombia) was invited to speak at the SIPRI Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and Joy Oyeyosho (WILPF Nigeria) was invited as a gender expert at the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development’s Folke Bernadotte Academy’s regional workshops with the Economic Community of West African States in Nigeria.

STORY 2

Cross-Regional Cooperation between WILPF Sweden and African Sections

WILPF Sweden and Sections in Africa and South America are champions of cross-regional cooperation, which is vital to help each other evolve and work together across countries and regions. For years, WILPF Sweden has supported regional dialogue and facilitated space for WILPF Sections to share experiences and exchange knowledge on conflict preventive work methods, internal security and organisational capacity. As a result, in 2018 Katherine Ronderos (WILPF Colombia) was invited to speak at the SIPRI Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and Joy Oyeyosho (WILPF Nigeria) was invited as a gender expert at the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development’s Folke Bernadotte Academy’s regional workshops with the Economic Community of West African States in Nigeria.

STORY 3

WILPF’s Members in the Streets

Throughout the year, our members have organised marches and protests to promote peace and defend human rights. The Global Campaign Against US/ NATO military bases is one example of these remarkable actions. In November 2018, WILPF members from Chad, Kenya, Italy, Norway, Scotland, and the United States mobilised to raise public awareness and to create a global peace movement respectful of local and national efforts leading to a safe and sustainable world, free of the threat of nuclear war.

Small Grants: Reaching new Communities with Podcast

Anne Atambo is WILPF Kenya President. Along with other members within WILPF Kenya, in 2018 she took innovation and creativity to a new level by launching the Kenyan Women’s Voices podcast series.

The series gives a platform for Kenyan women to share experiences on gender issues. It includes discussions close to WILPF Kenya’s heart, and topics embraced small arms and light weapons, gender inequality, electoral violence, environment, and climate change.

The series was an immediate success as it truly dug into the truth, meaning and consequences of the root causes of conflict for Kenyan women today.

The impact was clear on the number of members of WILPF Kenya. “We received 20 emails from listeners asking to join WILPF Kenya and participate in our upcoming ventures,” Anne Atambo said. The project also crossed borders. “There has been surprising interest from audiences based outside of Kenya,” Anne Atambo noted.

The podcast series opened doors to make important new partnerships. At an example, the Government Ministry of Strategic Initiatives partnered with the Section to increase the focus on women’s issues in Kenya.

This project was an eye-opening process for WILPF Kenya. “It was a leap of faith mixed with an urge to create impact through an exciting, innovative medium. Stakeholder buy-in from government and CSO has been very pleasant,” Anne Atambo said.

And we have good news for all avid listeners: a second series is in production.

Anne Atambo reflected. “We believe that supporting local efforts this way is essential in promoting gender equality and creating sustainable peace. Because when local activism is strong, it has the power to affect real change.”
### Introduction

One of WILPF’s greatest strengths is our experience and credibility when it comes to engaging in multilateral fora. In 2018, we actively promoted accountability and integrated policies. We worked with local activists to demand transformation towards bottom-up, inclusive and gender-aware action across regional and global multilateral fora, such as the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the First Committee of the General Assembly.

We amplified the concerns of grassroots women peace activists and human rights defenders across multilateral fora, as well as supporting their work on the local level. Together with activists, we called for concrete action on women’s participation, human rights, disarmament and gender analysis.

WILPF’s monitoring and analysis of meetings of multilateral fora, as well as our advocacy and partnerships, contributed to strengthening transparency and accountability of the international community around global commitments on peace, justice and gender equality.

### 2018 Highlights

- Led or supported over 50 submissions and written and oral statements, to multilateral fora including the human rights mechanisms, the Security Council and the disarmament bodies.
- Published our Women Peace and Security Scorecard.
- Monitored disarmament and arms control fora. This contributed to improving multilateralism by increasing the transparency of these meetings and providing information to broader civil society.
- Published numerous reports, articles and blogs which provide insight and analysis on the issues covered in multilateral fora.

### Our strategy is really to get the international community to push for women's inclusion. The more visible we are, the harder it is to silence us.”

Nisma Mansour, Peace Track Initiative

### STORy 1

#### #WomenLead2030 Brings Feminist Peace to the SDGs

#WomenLead2030 is a successful social media campaign we launched during the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. It brings recognition to the development work of women peace activists. By mobilising recognition of local women’s work, we strengthen actions around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in a way that works for women.

### STORy 2

#### WILPF Cameroon and WILPF DRC on the Universal Periodic Review Process

Nathalie Wokam Foko (WILPF Cameroon) and Sandra Ngoy Boyoo (WILPF DRC), training and support from the Secretariat, learned about the mechanisms of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

WILPF Cameroon translated its on-the-ground expertise and analysis into human rights recommendations to UN bodies. It resulted in a high number of UPR recommendations to Cameroon reflecting the Section’s concerns.

Sandra Ngoy Boyoo used her in-depth knowledge of the UPR process to coordinate WILPF DRC’s preparation of a written submission to the UPR and to undertake advocacy activities at the national level with diplomatic missions. WILPF Cameroon and WILPF DRC also engaged with the pre-sessions of the CEDAW Committee, respectively. This resulted in the Committee’s List of issues reflecting comprehensively the Sections’ concerns.

Both Nathalie Wokam Foko’s and Sandra Ngoy Boyoo’s advocacy created new relationships with government entities in charge of human rights. They are sharing this knowledge with members of their Section, as well as with other civil society organisations. These positive results are a push for change at the local level.

### STORy 3

#### Starting with Local Women’s Perspectives

Bringing WILPF analysis to the highest level of the UN, Joy Oryesoh (WILPF Nigeria) spoke at the UN General Assembly’s High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in April 2018. Oryesoh called for a move away from top-down to bottom-up approaches, contextual approaches that amplify local women’s root cause analysis for nonviolence, participation, and justice.

### Influencing the Universal Periodic Review of Afghanistan

Peace negotiations on Afghanistan are unfolding without women’s participation. The importance of Jamila Afghani’s presence in Geneva for the UPR pre-session in December 2018 cannot be overstated.

The President of WILPF Afghanistan and WILPF Regional Representative of South Asia has boundless energy, and a clear vision to bring feminist peace to her country and region. It was her first time participating in a UPR—indeed, she did not know what it was until she was approached to engage with it. Indeed, most NGOs in Afghanistan do not know about the UPR process. By supporting Jamila Afghani, WILPF increased engagement from civil society. Considering this was Jamila Afghani’s first experience conducting advocacy within the UPR, she was natural. Of this she said, “I am an obedient student [...]. I deliver positive changes, and I try my best not to lose any opportunity to learn new things.”

Jamila Afghani spoke at the pre-session of the UPR and presented WILPF Afghanistan’s concerns and recommendations on the human rights situation in Afghanistan to UN Member States. She addressed the issues of women’s involvement in the peace process, the importance of women’s participation in the elections, child marriage, gender-based violence and discrimination against women with disabilities. She also called for the full implementation of Afghanistan’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and the effective adoption of the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Of her experience, she said, “What I saw and what I learned from previous pre-sessions was that there was not much reaction from other delegates, but in our pre-session, the reaction was very positive. [...] I received very positive feedback that they were concerned, and that they will push the government.”

Jamila Afghani plans to continue putting pressure on governments and building the capacity and awareness of her Section about the tools available for civil society to effect change.
WILPF is a membership-based organisation. Its members either belong to one of the 47 national Sections and Groups or are international members, in case there are no Sections or Groups in their countries.

The Sections and Groups carry out work in their national contexts and promote WILPF’s values. They address the root causes of violence through a feminist lens and mobilise for nonviolent action. WILPF also has partners and initiatives in countries (these are shown in colours).

“WILPF is one of the most influential organisations to address the serious impacts of conflicts on women groups in the country and advocate for their right to participate in peace negotiations and peace building.”

WILPF Sudan

“We are inspired to be part of a symbolic and practical network of women that wants a better world, supports women who suffer violence and influences global politics.”

WILPF Spain

“I dearly treasure the work we do as WILPFers and hope to further strengthen our impact locally and globally.”

WILPF Japan

“THE BIGGER WE ARE, THE MORE UNITED WE ARE, THE MORE NETWORKED WE ARE, THE GREATER THE POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BRING PEACE TO THE PLANET.”

Madeleine Rees, Secretary-General

AFRICA

Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ghana
Côte d’Ivoire
Kenya
Niger
Sierra Leone
Sudan
Uganda
Zimbabwe

EUROPE

Albania
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ukraine

AMERICAS

Argentina
Bolivia
Canada
Colombia
Costa Rica
Mexico
Nicaragua
United States of America

ASIA PACIFIC

Aotearoa/New Zealand
Australia
Japan
Philippines
Polynesia
Korean Peninsula

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan
India
Nepal
Pakistan

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Lebanon
Palestine
Israel
Egypt
Iraq
Libya
Syria
Yemen
Concerning women, peace and security.

2016 peace agreement, in particular the agenda international fora. It called for international political its experiences and exchanged best practices in organisation working on peace in Colombia. It shared also positioned itself as the leading women’s LIMPAL Colombia’s support. LIMPAL Colombia experienced positive and political impact through told the stories of local women leaders who have exhibition and booklet titled “20 Faces, 20 Voices” held celebrations across the country. A photo To mark its 20-year anniversary, LIMPAL Colombia Celebrating 20 Years of LIMPAL forms of capacity building.

Conflict across the country. This included legal and women and girls who had been victims of the armed LIMPAL Colombia provided support to around 2,000 Through its ‘Feminist School for Peacebuilding’, Feminist School for Peacebuilding Colombia co-produced the first research report ever about reintegration of former women combatants in the framework of UNSCR 1325 in Colombia. This report highlights the role of women in peace, preventing future conflicts and advancing gender-sensitive protection mechanisms in post-conflict settings. Its findings were presented in New York in October. Feminist School for Peacebuilding Through its ‘Feminist School for Peacebuilding’, LIMPAL Colombia provided support to around 2,000 women and girls who had been victims of the armed conflict across the country. This included legal and psychological aid, leadership training and many other forms of capacity building.

Celebrating 20 Years of LIMPAL To mark its 20-year anniversary, LIMPAL Colombia held celebrations across the country. A photo exhibition and booklet titled “20 Faces, 20 Voices” told the stories of local women leaders who have experienced positive and political impact through LIMPAL Colombia’s support. LIMPAL Colombia also positioned itself as the leading women’s organisation working on peace in Colombia. It shared its experiences and exchanged best practices in international fora. It called for international political pressure to support the implementation of the 2016 peace agreement, in particular the agenda concerning women, peace and security.

MOVING FORWARD

LIMPAL Colombia will work with local women leaders to bring the Women, Peace and Security agenda to all candidates in regional elections, in order to influence regional policies once elected. The Section will also advocate on behalf of and support women political leaders.

It will continue working with former women combatants to support their transition to civilian life and ensure they do not face gender discrimination or human rights violations.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

For over 50 years, Colombia has lived through a violent armed conflict that produced more than 7 million victims of forced displacement, extrajudicial killings, kidnapping, sexual violence, massacres, and other forms of violence. In November 2016, a Peace Agreement was signed between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army (FARC-EP). This agreement has a gender perspective and recognises women’s rights for the first time and is in compliance with the UNSCR 1325. LIMPAL Colombia’s advocacy and research was instrumental in integrating this perspective, and the Section is working with key actors to ensure the agreement’s implementation.

RESEARCH ON REINTEGRATION OF FORMER WOMEN COMBATANTS

Together with FARC-EP’s gender team, WILPF Colombia (LIMPAL Colombia) co-produced the first research report ever about reintegration of former women combatants. This report highlights the role of women in peace, preventing future conflicts and advancing gender-sensitive protection mechanisms in post-conflict settings. Its findings were presented in New York in October.

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Women, Peace and Security Roundtable WILPF participated in a Northeast Asia Roundtable on Women, Peace and Korea held in Beijing in December. Women from North and South Korea, the U.S., Japan, Canada, China and Russia discussed peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, releasing a set of Principles of Unity. These principles express that “there must be substantial representation and inclusion of women’s groups to advance women’s meaningful participation in the Korea peace processes.”

Women’s Peace Delegation We joined a coalition of women advocating for women’s inclusion in an important international meeting “The Foreign Ministers Meeting on Security and Stability in the Korean Peninsula” held in January 2018. The coalition delivered a letter signed by WILPF and 216 civil society organisations from 47 countries.

Korea Peace Now! Women mobilizing to End the War Together with the Nobel Women’s Initiative, Korean Women’s Movement for Peace and Women Cross the DMZ, we initiated a campaign demanding an end of the Korean war. The campaign seeks to mobilise local women and the international community to voice their views on peace, denuclearisation and the redefinition of security based on human needs and ecological sustainability.

REGION OVERVIEW

The Korean War broke out in 1950 and has, in fact, not ended to this day. It has only been suspended by an armistice for the last 70 years. Hostilities between DPRK, the Republic of Korea and the U.S., which has been heavily involved, remain high, and the peninsula remains highly militarised.

The idea of “national security” has repeatedly trumped human rights and freedom of speech, and fueled violence against women. An example of this is the systematic abuse of “comfort women”, or survivors of sex slavery under Japanese colonial rule. We admire and support the many survivors who have become women peace activists after 45 years of silence, leading the peace movement in the region.

MOVING FORWARD

The official #KoreaPeaceNow campaign launches in March 2019. We will be engaging in advocacy towards UN Member States and closely monitoring the political developments and summits between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the U.S., and between the Koreas. WILPF will continue to highlight the importance of international solidarity and peace movements in uncovering the root causes of war and building peace in the region.

WOMEN DEMAND TO #ENDTHEKOREANWAR.

"WE CONTINUE WITH OUR HEADS UP.

An ex-combatant from Agua Bonita (Caquetá)"

"#KoreaPeaceNow"

"REGION OVERVIEW

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2018 HIGHLIGHTS

#WomenforPeace Rally
WILPF Nigeria participated in this peaceful protest. It was organised by the Women’s Situation Room Nigeria in over 15 states in solidarity with sisters and brothers across communities experiencing armed conflict, wanton killings and other inhuman degradation.

Peace and Security Network
WILPF Nigeria held an inaugural meeting of the South East Peace and Security Network with civil society representatives from the South East Nigerian region. It was an initiative of the national-level Peace and Security Network, of which WILPF Nigeria is on the Board. The aim was to identify conflict drivers, engage communities and build NGO capacities, particularly in the areas of elections and the Fulani Herdsmen crisis.

Solidarity Dialogue Between MENA and Nigeria
Activists from the MENA region came together with WILPF members from Nigeria, sharing experiences. It was the first step to increase solidarity between activists from MENA and Africa, and allowed for in-depth discussions on Women, Peace and Security at a local level, and the fostering of new approaches to disarmament and participation.

Women’s Situation Room
The Women’s Situation Room is an initiative of WILPF Nigeria and focuses on election monitoring. A wide range of activities were carried out at the local and national levels. The initiatives have had a ripple effect across the continent as Sections and Groups met to exchange knowledge and best practices.

MOVING FORWARD
Key upcoming priorities include the monitoring of the 2019 general elections and the agreement and adoption of strategic plans for a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security among civil society. WILPF Nigeria plans to tackle the root causes of violence and mobilise for nonviolent action. They will advocate for enhanced implementation of the Women Peace and Security agenda, for improving early warning, and for strengthening conflict prevention mechanisms.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW
Nigeria is witnessing a dangerous rise in rhetoric of fear, hate and lack of solidarity. Recent tensions have been exacerbated by the decision makers’ failure to respond in a proactive, inclusive and systematic way. These growing trends, combined with political instability, dominance of violent masculinities, and discriminatory power structures, hinder peace and violate women’s rights and participation. They signal the need to urgently and proactively engage the normative framework of women in relation to peace and security in an accessible and practical manner. This context makes the upcoming 2019 election even more critical.

African Feminist Peace Activists Need to Unite Regionally and Continue to Connect with the Progressive Global Women’s Movement.”
Joy Onyesoh, President of WILPF Nigeria

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Africa Forum, First Congress in Africa and first President from Africa
In our 103-year history, our International Congress was the first to take place on the African continent, in Ghana. It marked a truly historic moment, and was preceded by a Feminist Peace Movement in Africa Forum, which convened 250 participants, including women from 16 African countries. It was particularly powerful that for the first time, the elected International President, Joy Onyesoh is from Africa.

Exponential Growth
WILPF’s presence in Africa has grown from one Section in 2007, to eight Sections, seven Groups, and two emerging groups across the continent today. This clearly demonstrates the need for and dedication to peace, as well as the strength and leadership of African women, despite the many obstacles and challenges they face.

Advocating for Peaceful Elections
Across the region, WILPF Sections and Groups have advocated for peaceful elections. This resulted in increased awareness and capacity building. WILPF Cameroon created and coordinated the platform “Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections” with 32 civil societies organisations, in order to prevent electoral violence and build a culture of peace in Cameroon. WILPF Zimbabwe also did grassroots outreach at a historic political moment.

REGION OVERVIEW
The African region has a very diverse context and different realities. A prosperous, integrated and united Africa, based on good governance, democracy, social inclusion and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law is the necessary precondition for a peaceful and conflict-free continent. Our regional growth demonstrates the vibrancy of the regional peace movement.

One example of regional collaboration occurs with political and election processes. These often come hand in hand with violence, and we have collaborated on strategies, such as the Women’s Situation Room, to resist this.

“...In the African region, we work across countries, we share our experiences, and we learn from one another.”
Sylvie Ndongo, President of WILPF Cameroon

MOVING FORWARD
The next African regional meeting will take place in Cameroon in May 2019. Sharing during regional meetings and other fora is of prime importance. It provides a wonderful time of collaboration and exchange of good practices and know-how. The region will continue to collaborate on the planning of Women’s Situation Room workshops, security protocol and on joint advocacy.
Connecting with the women in Syria and globally.

Strengthening its organisational capacity, and assisting them in building the movement's structure, a diverse group of Syrian women politicians and activists formed the Syrian Women Political Movement to work together towards a just and feminist agenda. We pushed for women's participation and promoted the opportunity to grow their influence.

We are also continuing our advocacy and support to the Syrian Women Political Movement and our advocacy work in Geneva, New York, Brussels and beyond.

International Advocacy for Feminist Analysis

We pushed for women's participation and promoted women and girls' rights in both political and humanitarian spaces. WILPF delivered statements around the importance of a gendered analysis, and facilitated dialogues between Syrian feminist leaders and influential decision makers. We closely engaged with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria around the importance of adopting a gendered approach when documenting human rights violations in Syria.

Syrian Women’s Political Movement

A diverse group of Syrian women politicians and activists formed the Syrian Women Political Movement to work together towards a just and inclusive Syria. WILPF provided support by assisting them in building the movement’s structure, strengthening its organisational capacity, and connecting with the women in Syria and globally.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Since the breakout of the uprisings in 2011, followed by violent repression and later an open armed conflict, civilians continue to be the first target of hostilities and constitute the majority of victims. The conflict in Syria is one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world today. Peace talks have begun – and failed. Throughout the process, women and grassroots activists have been largely excluded from the negotiations, undermining the prospect of finding a sustainable solution.

As the Syrian conflict continues, WILPF seeks to support grassroots movements working to promote peace, justice and gender equality in the country.

MOVING FORWARD

Our “Feminist Movement for Change in Syria” project aims to break the isolation that organisations in Syria face. We want to continue this inclusive, feminist approach to foster partnerships in future projects.

We are also continuing our advocacy and support to the Syrian Women Political Movement and our advocacy work in Geneva, New York, Brussels and beyond.

Assessing the Impact of Military Operations in Iraq on Women and Girls

We brought attention to the use and devastating impact of explosive weapons in Mosul by working on a special report, and advocated for the development of stronger and more explicit international standards, restrictions and prohibitions regarding their use.

Increased Activities in Yemen

WILPF created spaces for Yemeni civil society to be present on the margins of the official peace process and other important meetings. Our Yemeni partners “Peace Track Initiative” and the “Yemeni Women Solidarity Network” are supporting feminist movement building in the country, acting as the go-to partner for various UN bodies, and as a facilitator to secure space for Yemeni civil society in international fora. We ensured that a gender analysis flows directly from Yemeni women to those in power, that the disproportionate impacts of the armed conflict on women and girls in Yemen was raised, and that a road-map for inclusive peace was made.

Libyan Women Break the Silence

With our local partner “Together We Build It,” we supported consultations on peacebuilding process in Libya, we produced a policy brief and supported the campaign, “You are missing the full picture.” Our work had positive impact on the number of women participating in the Palermo Conference for Libya: initially no women were included, but eventually a delegation of women politicians and civil society was included.

REGION OVERVIEW

The MENA region faces a rapidly changing political and social scene in hostile and highly militarised circumstances. Whether battling renewed authoritarianism in Egypt, political turmoil in Lebanon, ongoing occupation in Palestine, militant extremism in Iraq, raging conflicts in Yemen and Libya or unprecedented displacement in Syria, civilians share experiences coloured by human rights abuse, failure of the rule of law and cross-border insecurities. Our work to stigmatise militarisation and violence, and to create space for feminist peace movements in the region is key to ultimately achieving peace.

MOVING FORWARD

Moving forward, we will continue our efforts to preserve and grow the movement for feminist peace in MENA, where women’s rights and gender justice are upheld. We will work with partners across the region to sustain and develop local feminist spaces and agendas, and to advance women’s rights, gender justice and women’s meaningful participation. We plan to continue supporting feminist peace movements in countries of crisis by building solid and sustainable projects in Yemen, Syria and Libya, thus further developing the capacity of partners and networks to advocate for feminist peace.

“WILPF UNDERSTANDS THE REALITY IN WHICH SYRIAN ORGANISATIONS OPERATE.”

WILPF’s Partner Musawa

“EVEN IF WOMEN ARE NOT PART OF THE FIGHTS IN LIBYA, WE SHOULD BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.”

Dr Rida Al-Tubuly and Aisha Al-Tubuly, WILPF’s Partners
Alternative Approaches to Political Economy

WILPF started working with activists and academics on developing an inclusive and alternative reform plan for Bosnia. This alternative reform plan is a forward-looking vision of what the reforms should look like. The vision is grounded in feminist political economy and strives towards a just, productive and environmentally sustainable economy for peace. This work contributes challenging gender and conflict-blind approaches in the country.

EU Advocacy

WILPF advocated towards the EU, both in-country through the Delegation of the EU to Bosnia, and in Brussels. The advocacy contributed to the process of building up the case for a need to rethink the EU's gender and conflict-blind approach in Bosnia.

Space for Women NGOs and Human Rights Defenders

WILPF created spaces for women NGOs and human rights defenders to discuss the current context of Bosnia, and from that perspective to strategise around different priorities for joint actions.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Our analyses of the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction processes in Bosnia have been used to raise critical questions and propose alternative approaches, as well as to extrapolate lessons and experiences from Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to, together with women peacebuilders from other conflict and post-conflict countries, better understand what it takes to create sustainable peace. In 2018, we have focused on facilitating feminist political economy research in the country. Our results are also being used in other post-conflict contexts such as Ukraine and Syria.

THE REFORMS IN OUR COUNTRY MUST ADDRESS THE EVERYDAY NEEDS OF WOMEN AND MEN.”

Mevlida Mehanovic, President of Podrinjka

Awareness of Gender-Inclusive Peacemaking

WILPF increased public awareness on gender inclusive peacemaking and socio-economic rights through its work in Ukraine. Our participation as speaker during five conferences about “Transformation of women’s everyday life during the conflict in Ukraine” gave us a platform to bring gender analysis to the discussions.

Sharing Knowledge

WILPF played a central role in creating space for grassroots women’s organisations in the country to discuss and promote inclusive approaches for sustainable peace.

Strengthening Advocacy

We organised a successful advocacy visit on the occasion of an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe conference in Vienna. In our advocacy with the pre-session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and with the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, we brought forward our feminist economic analysis to draw attention to how austerity measures are contributing to the feminisation of poverty and the deepening of gender inequalities within the family and in society, as well as posing significant obstacles to women’s meaningful participation.

WOMEN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IF THEY STRUGGLE TO MEET THE MOST BASIC NEEDS.”

Universal Periodic Review of Ukraine

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Since the November 2013 “Maidan protests”, the political and security landscape in Ukraine has altered drastically. Many structural long-term factors form the grievances underlying the current conflict, and a growing militarism within Ukrainian society makes it difficult to speak out against the conflict and a “military solution”.

Within this context, WILPF aims to strengthen the ways women organise, participate, and provide gender perspectives and responses within their national and international frameworks. Our focus in Ukraine is on human rights violations with a particular reference to those resulting from the policies of austerity and from the ongoing conflict.
**HUMAN RESOURCES**

The staff at WILPF International Secretariat is a committed team with competencies and expertise across our four programmes, and in the areas of finance, operations, and communications. It is led by the WILPF Secretary-General.

WILPF International Secretariat has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and a UN office in New York, United States. The Secretariat runs four programmes: Women, Peace and Security (PeaceWomen), Disarmament (Reaching Critical Will), Human Rights and Crisis Response. WILPF continues to strengthen its team and personnel procedures. In 2018, WILPF employed 12 staff/11.3 full time employees (excluding interns) in Geneva and 5 staff (excluding interns) in New York.

WILPF also hired more consultants in a number of areas to support the implementation of our 2017-2019 strategy and our monitoring and evaluation process. WILPF held its 32nd International Triennial Congress in August 2018 and hired short-term staff to support its organisation.

In 2018, WILPF continued to review its Personnel Policy and has a Standing Personnel Committee.

**MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)**

Learning is important. In 2018, we continued to build a robust MEL system. We tracked implementation of activities and used this information to reflect on the progress we are making. We focused on learning – within projects, and as an organisation – in order to be continually improving. For example, we conducted an internal learning review of our work on supporting Syrian women-led organisations and we learned that our approach to implementation – focused on participation, responsiveness, ongoing communication and learning – contributed significantly to our partners’ feelings of increased empowerment, resilience and not least: their freedom and ability to further their own feminist agendas.

Moving forward, we will continue to refine our MEL processes to explore our work more deeply and understand how change happens.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

WILPF continued to monitor and manage risks including risks related to our members, staff, reputation, finances and operations, and also liability to others and risks to property. The Standing Committee on Risk Management met four times in 2018.

The risks to partners, Sections and groups continue to be of concern. WILPF Security Protocol is a tool for all Sections to use. We held a special session on the risk protocol in Accra, Ghana for members of African Sections and Groups.

Challenges to WILPF over the last year include changing political contexts, dangerous rises in exclusion and fear, increased security situations, violence against activists, shrinking space for civil society and opposition to women’s rights and gendered discourse. We continue to respond to these challenges through our strategy and development of internal risk management procedures and specific mitigation actions.

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**Operational Reporting**

**Financial Reporting**

**WILPF 2018 INCOME:**

**CHF 4.3 MILLION**

**WILPF 2018 EXPENDITURE:**

**CHF 3.6 MILLION**

The income of WILPF has shown a steady growth, with the trend of the last six years shown in the income trend graph 1.

The combined income for WILPF International Secretariat in Geneva and WILPF UNO Inc. in 2018 was approximately CHF 4.3 million (deducting transfers between offices and deducting surplus from previous year).

WILPF International Secretariat income was CHF 3.7 million and WILPF UNO Inc. USD 0.9 million (excluding surplus from previous year). Sources of funds are shown in graph 2 and 3.

The combined expenditure for WILPF International Secretariat in Geneva and WILPF UNO Inc. in 2018 was approximately CHF 3.6 million. WILPF International Secretariat in Geneva expenditure in 2018 was CHF 2.8 million. WILPF UNO Inc. expenditure in 2018 was USD 0.8 million. Use of funds are shown in graph 4 and 5. Surplus shown in 2018 is carried forward for grants and projects continued in 2019 where funds were received in advance.

Main donors are governments and private foundations. Other income sources are the United Nations, partners and major donors, private donations, membership contributions, merchandising, bequests and legacies, and miscellaneous income sources. Fundraising and donations are accepted in line with WILPF Ethical Fundraising Policy. WILPF’s largest donors in 2018 were: The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, the OAK Foundation, and the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

WILPF has a Standing Finance Committee. This is our international oversight body, which is convened by a member elected by the Congress. It reports to the International Board. The WILPF Finance Management Manual is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the continuing process of strengthening internal controls and systems.

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 funds from the WILPF International Secretariat.

Audited financial statements for Geneva and New York (UNO) are available on mywilpf (members access only) or upon request.

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**GRAPH 1: Income Trend**

- 2013: CHF 4.1 million
- 2014: CHF 4.2 million
- 2015: CHF 4.3 million
- 2016: CHF 4.5 million
- 2017: CHF 4.6 million
- 2018: CHF 4.3 million
**GRAPH 2: Sources of Funds 2018 International Secretariat Geneva**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>2,454,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>161,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>829,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Donations</td>
<td>5,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**GRAPH 3: Sources of Funds 2018 WILPF UNO Inc. New York**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>19,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>180,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners/Major Donors</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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</table>

**GRAPH 4: Use of Funds 2018 International Secretariat Geneva**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Core Admin</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disarmament Programme</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Programme</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Response Programme</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement Building (Grants to Sections and Convenings)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2.8 MILLION CHF</td>
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**GRAPH 5: Use of Funds 2018 WILPF UNO Inc. New York**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNO Admin</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disarmament Programme</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Grants and WILPF Convening (Congress)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement Building (Grants to Sections and Convenings)</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>0.8 MILLION USD</td>
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Thank You

We thank the fearless and formidable women from around the world who are working together to create change and to lead the work towards peace.

Each day, we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteer and dedicate their precious time to contribute to the success of WILPF. The energy and dedication you put into our joint cause is priceless; without you the peace movement would not be the same.

We would especially like to send a warm thanks to WILPF members for your continuous activism and courage.

We appreciate WILPF donors for your partnership and support. Every day, your contributions bring us closer to a world that is peaceful and worth living in for our present and future generations.

We would also like to thank our interns and fellows who join us at our offices. You bring new perspectives and energy to the movement, and your hard work is greatly appreciated.
### Credits

Texts written by WILPF International with the help of Zala Žbogar
Graphic layouts by Nadia Joubert

#### Pictures Captions and Credits:

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 1</td>
<td>Charlotte Hooij</td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 3 to 6</td>
<td>Emmanuel - IntegritiMedia</td>
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</table>
The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation 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.

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