

April 2021



WILPF

Heritage Month

#Feminist  
Peace



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April, 2021

WILPF Heritage Month

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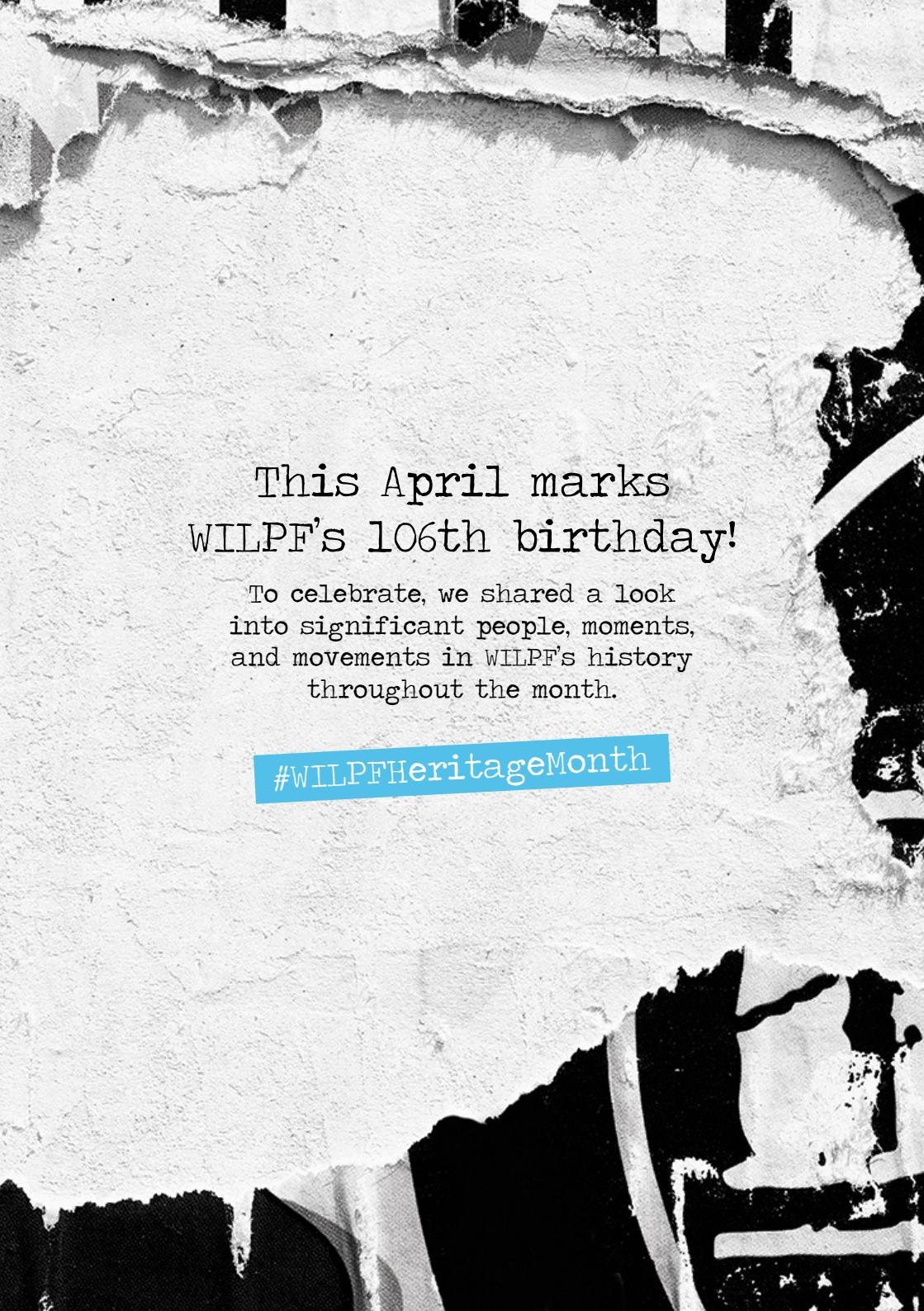
**Authors:** Thanks to WILPF Sections and Staff.

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All photos and illustrations are from the WILPF archives, Sections, partners, and the former WILPF international magazine Pax et Libertas.

[www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)





# This April marks WILPF's 106th birthday!

To celebrate, we shared a look  
into significant people, moments,  
and movements in WILPF's history  
throughout the month.

#WILPFHeritageMonth



# 1910s

## 1915

WILPF's first Congress took place in The Hague, the Netherlands in April 1915. Our first Resolution called for an end to "the madness and the horror of war."

Read all of WILPF's original Resolutions from 1915.



"We women, in International Congress assembled, protest against the madness and the horror of war, involving as it does a reckless sacrifice of human life ..."

## 1919

One of the co-organisers of the International Women's Congress for Peace and Freedom in 1915, Anita Augspurg (1857-1943) was a woman ahead of her time. A rebel at heart, she studied law in Zurich in 1890 and spent her entire life fighting against the patriarchal system. With her short hair and unconventional clothing, she never went unnoticed. She also fiercely opposed anti-semitism, and fought for the end of capitalism.

"I call out to the men to strive to suppress the use of weapons. I know that this is infinitely difficult for us women. But I also know that the power of women is completely gone the moment men have the weapons in their hands."

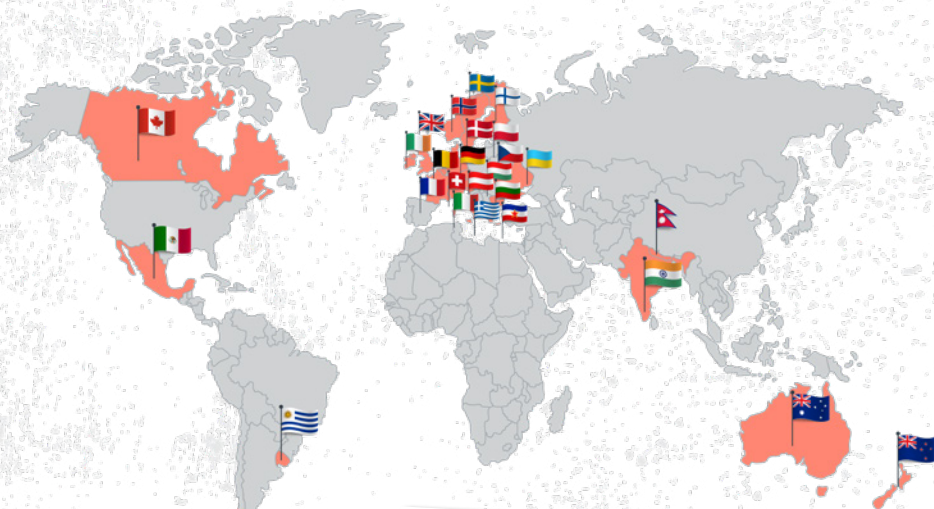
Anita Augspurg  
at the 1919 Zurich Congress





# 1920s

WILPF's global movement for feminist peace started strong!  
In our first five years, 19 Sections launched around the world.



WILPF Japan is one of the oldest Sections outside of Europe. It was created in 1921 and its emergence was inspired by international solidarity. In 1923, WILPF pioneer Jane Addams travelled to Japan and met with the members of WILPF Japan. WILPF Japan is celebrating its 100th year anniversary this year. Congratulations!



## 1923





# 1926

The Great Peace Pilgrimage of 1926 was organised by WILPF UK, but united over 28 women's and peace organisations under the banner of "Law Not War". The participants, who assembled on 19 June 1926 in Hyde Park for a pageant, had travelled from all over the UK along seven different routes. On their way, they organised meetings and rallies in over 1,000 small villages and towns. They wanted the British Government "to agree to submit all [international] disputes to conciliation and arbitration, and to take the lead in the proposed Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations to show that Great Britain does not intend to appeal to force."



Law Not War

## 1930s



# 1931

In 1931, WILPF's founder, Jane Addams, became the second woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jane Addams



Watch this video to hear her speak at 0:37 and 1:30!



In 1932, WILPF collected an incredible six million signatures for the World Disarmament Petition, which was delivered to the World Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

# 1932



Six million strong!

AUJOURD'HUI  
1/2 MILLIONS  
DE SIGNATURES

# 1940s

"The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom desires solemnly to affirm its adherence to the necessity of firmly maintaining respect for the human rights of each individual friend or enemy alike."

WILPF Resolution passed  
at the 10th Congress

# 1946



WILPF's first Congress after the Second World War took place in Luxembourg from 4–9 August 1946. The first Resolution passed reaffirmed a collective commitment to upholding human rights for all.



# 1947

Nobel Peace Prize  
winner Emily Greene  
Balch (1867–1961)  
was one of WILPF's  
original founders.  
Learn about her life  
and work by listening  
to this radio play  
from 1947!

Emily

Greene Balch

[Listen to the clip](#)

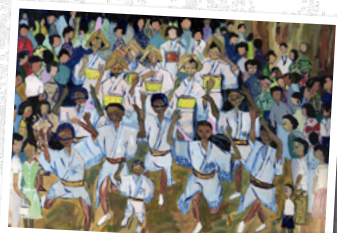
## 1950s

In 1946, a WILPF  
group in Pennsylvania  
launched a campaign  
called "Art for World  
Friendship" and  
exhibited drawings  
created by children  
from around the  
world.

The art pieces show  
how the children  
envision a world in  
which all people live  
together in harmony  
and equality, and  
where war has been  
abolished.

You can see all the art pieces in:

[Swarthmore College Peace Collection](#)





# 1960s



*Speaker at WILPF's 50th anniversary celebration*

In 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the keynote speaker at WILPF's 50th anniversary celebration in The Hague. Thank you Swarthmore College Peace Collection for the photo!



Martin

Luther King

## 1965

In 1968, WILPF member Coretta Scott King spoke at a WILPF press conference calling for an end to the Vietnam War.

In her 1969 book *My Life with Martin Luther King*, Coretta Scott King shared her motivations for joining WILPF: "[The] women of the world, united without any regard for national or racial divisions [could] become the most powerful force for international peace and brotherhood."



Coretta

Scott King

## 1968

“

"As long as we kill men, women and children in Vietnam, millions of poor people face an unnecessary death and suffering in America."



# 1965

In December 1965, the Queensland branch of WILPF Australia hired and decorated a tram. The dozens of balloons they brought on the train were printed with the slogan NO WAR TOYS PLEASE. WILPF mothers and their children then rode it across the city in the company of Father Christmas to spread their message.

For WILPF Heritage Month, Jeanette McLeod of WILPF Australia shared with us pictures of a 1965 protest against war toys.

No war toys  
please



# 1970s

## BOOKS

### Women

*The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir. English edition published by The New English Library, n. 4/6. Feminists have often been taunted by their opponents with "proof" of women's inferior status. In all history, there have been but a handful of world class women scientists, inventors, statesmen, musicians, or artists. It is therefore very important to us to examine our whole background and to discover if there is any justification for the undeniable fact that women are second class people.

Simone de Beauvoir, in her invaluable book, takes us through the development of the human being, male and female, contrasting the different treatment that babies, children, teen-agers and adults receive. She points out that our conditioning is different from that of our brothers, no matter what class we are born into. The biological functioning of our bodies is dealt with in great detail as are the customs and attitudes which, during our formative years, mould us into the sort of people we are to become.

We have begun to accept that education in a "c" stream can result in "c" status results no matter what the original potential of the child, and Simone de Beauvoir shows us how education to become a "woman" inhibits the full development of the individual, and explains in part why so few women have reached the top.

That it is still a man's world is scarcely in question. Even in socialist countries, with equal pay, an enlightened position with regard to women in industry and the professions, and adequate facilities for the care of young children of working mothers, it is the men who hold the key jobs, and who fill the top echelons in the government.

with a bow to the "mother" but only as a woman, and for many millions throughout the world, is not content as a human seal at all, but is "emancipated" countries, a woman is "free" and she sees her fulfillment in marriage, as wife or mistress on the work of her man, to carve out a career for herself, in the hope of raising her "true" vocation, or others.

It is the very real difficulty of doing two things, for it is still generally accepted that men are charged of course, but it is still "good" of a man if he plays his part as a husband and father, rather than as a careerist as a human being.

was first published in 1949, the Second Sex is topical and is essential reading for all who wish to understand world problems. It appreciates not only the problems of being a woman's world, but also helps us to realize that we are underprivileged everywhere. We can see the failure of the poor in a rich country to many things. We can feel the exploitation of every kind, and the waste of so much human potential, and in our problem, we are all the victims.

Our work in WILPF consists of trying to bring about the consequences of these various kinds of groups of "Women's Liberation Movement" are changing the whole concept of male dominance. It might be going a long way along the road to solving the problems which are holding up human progress, and which, if left uncorrected, could lead to disaster.

Check out this review of Simone de Beauvoir's famous book *The Second Sex* by an anonymous WILPF member in an early 1970s edition of *Pax et Libertas*.

According to the reviewer:

"Simone de Beauvoir shows us how education to become a 'woman' inhibits the full development of the individual and explains in part why so few women have reached the top".

Of course, not every person who identifies as a woman was raised as a woman. But de Beauvoir's book was groundbreaking for its time: it showed how gender as a social construct is in part enforced through education, and how this influences the opportunities we have access to.



1971 was the UN-designated International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. WILPF used the opportunity to call for action.

In the January to June 1971 issue of *Pax et Libertas*, WILPF listed all governments that had not yet signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (passed in 1969).

# 1971

REGISTER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR THE VICTIMS OF APARTHEID  
AND RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA



Volume 36 No. 1-2 January-March 1971

## pax et libertas

### Against Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 21 December 1965. This Convention is the first international instrument to be adopted since the end of the Second World War which is specifically directed against racial discrimination in all its forms.

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WILPF then called on the National Sections to "undertake efforts to bring about ratification of the Convention" by these governments. In the same article, WILPF members were also asked to organise against the Apartheid in South Africa.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LIBERATION  
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA & AGAINST APARTHEID  
NEW DELHI: Sept. 28 to Oct. 2, 1970



# 1973

## Hanoi Peace Agreements

In January 1973, WILPF delegates met in Hanoi with other international women's organisations to negotiate peace agreements with Vietnamese government officials. They saw first-hand the devastation caused by the Vietnam War and US intervention and shared the information in their respective countries. WILPF Sections were some of the earliest opponents to the war.





## International Women's Year

1975 was known as International Women's Year. To mark the occasion, Kay Camp — WILPF's then-President — created a book featuring the stories of 50 women working for peace and justice.



1975

Check it out on our archived website!

1980s

The Stop The Arms Race (STAR) Campaign was started in 1982 under the slogan 'One million women can stop the arms race. Be one in a million' and involved most WILPF Sections across the world. The campaign aimed to collect a million signatures against nuclear weapons development and testing, as well as in support of UN disarmament efforts.



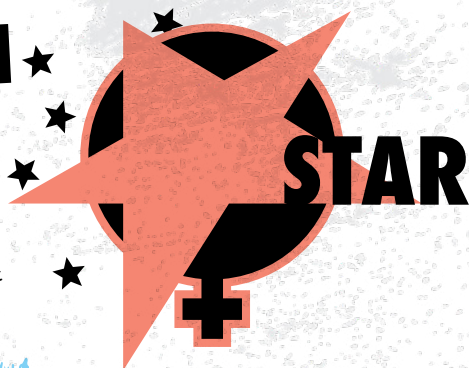
1982





## Stop The Arms Race

The STAR campaign was a huge success and in 1983, one year after its kick-start, WILPF was able to deliver the petition with one million signatures to NATO in Brussels. A huge protest was also organised for the occasion.



"Considering that the sale of arms to foreign countries is a means to maintain, encourage or start wars, Congress calls upon all governments to stop the sales of arms to foreign countries."

WILPF Resolution passed at the 22nd Congress in 1983

# 1983



At WILPF's 22nd Congress, which took place in Sweden in 1983, the focus was on disarmament and an end to the arms trade.

Read the full list of Resolutions

In 1983, Harriet Otterloo – Chairwoman of WILPF's Göteborg branch – wrote that "Peace work includes knowledge of and respect for the earth ... Therefore the ecology movement is part of the peace movement."

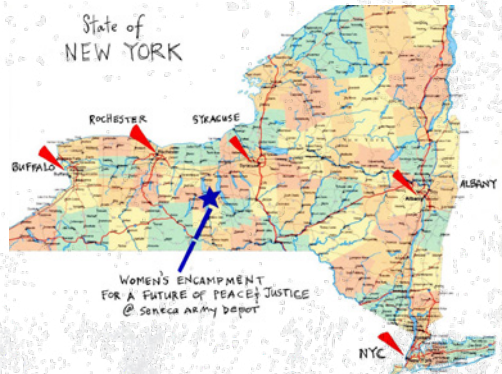


"Peace means peace with the earth. Peace work includes knowledge of and respect for the earth. If we destroy air, water and soil because of ignorance or ruthless exploitation, we have nothing to live off or in peace. Therefore the ecology movement is part of the peace movement."

Harriet Otterloo, WILPF's  
22nd Congress, Göteborg, 1983



In 1983, WILPF co-founded Seneca camp along with the Upstate Feminist Peace Alliance (NY) on the outskirts of Seneca Falls, New York.



Seneca

Encampment

Located near a US army base that was suspected of storing nuclear weapons, Seneca camp was established to protest against the imminent deployment of nuclear missiles to Western Europe.

The farm was soon dubbed the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice (WEFPJ) and was reserved entirely for women. It quickly became envisioned as a space where feminist activists could imagine and experiment with a way of living outside of patriarchal norms and expectations.



Between 1983 and when the camp closed in the 1990s, thousands of women travelled from all over the US, Canada, and beyond to unite in their shared vision of a future of feminist peace.



1983



# 1986

In December 1986, WILPF's Section in Sweden – Internationella kvinnoförbundet för fred och frihet – posted this call for members to join the Section in the WILPF International magazine.



# 1987

**WILPF HAS BOUGHT A COMPUTER!**

Our Geneva office has finally entered the modern age. We bought a Macintosh Computer and Laser Printer that will revolutionize our work. Beginning with the March issue, *pax et libertas* and the labels for all our mailings will be prepared on it. The computer will also be used to prepare reports, leaflets, and letters and to facilitate bookkeeping. Speaking of finances, the computer cost WILPF Sfr. 18,000, or about \$10,000. Now we have to pay for it. Won't you help by making a special holiday donation to WILPF's Computer Fund? From Geneva with love and best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy, productive and successful New Year, Kiretti Kolthoff, acting WILPF Treasurer, and the staff.



## WILPF's Computer Fund

Big things happened in 1987 when the International Secretariat bought its first computer for 18,000 CHF or 10,000 US dollars ... and then opened WILPF's Computer Fund!



# 1987

We continued protesting against war toys. This is a cartoon published in our *Pax et Libertas* magazine in 1987.



# 1990s

## 1990

To celebrate WILPF's 75th anniversary, in 1990, WILPF's US Section published a special 10 minute video describing the founding and mission of WILPF.

Watch the video

### 75th Anniversary

#### video



## 1995

Edith Ballantyne is a WILPF legend. She has been a prominent and active member of WILPF since 1968 and in that time she: went on several peace missions around the world, served as WILPF's Secretary General and International President, and was awarded the Gandhi Peace Award in 1995.



Edith Ballantyne





# 1999

In 1999, WILPF launched a disarmament project called "Reaching Critical Will". The project was to lead analysis and advocacy for disarmament and the reduction of global military spending. Learn more about Reaching Critical Will, which became a full programme of WILPF in 2013:

Reaching

Critical Will

[reachingcriticalwill.org](http://reachingcriticalwill.org)

# 2016

"Money for women and environment, not for soldiers and torturers!" chanted the participants of a #MovetheMoney rally at the 2016 COP22 in Marrakech. The rally was co-organised by Heidi Meinzolt of WILPF Germany. Check out this video from the 2016 rally:

Watch the video

# 2000s



Move the Money

Watch  
the  
video



# 2020

Theory of Change



**#WILPFHeritageMonth**

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