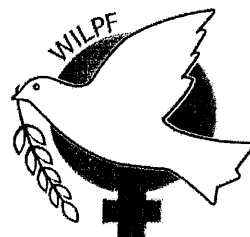


## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté

Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

*Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF*



14 March 2013

### **Joint statement by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM) on "Comfort Women"**

Consideration of UPR outcome on Japan: Item 6

Thank you Mr. President,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Women's Active Museum on War and Peace warmly welcome the comprehensive examination by the Human Rights Council of the human rights situation in Japan.

In this regard, we expect the Japanese State to demonstrate its commitments by addressing the violations of women's human rights for which it is responsible, namely Japan's military sexual slavery during World War II.

To date, the Japanese State has not acted on any of the recommendations made by international bodies, while a number of survivors have passed away without obtaining justice. Further, refusals from the government of Japan and other public figures to accept its responsibility constitute another on-going violation of human rights to the survivors.

We remind the Human Rights Council that war and conflict often lead to sexual exploitation and trafficking of women. The reasoning that only the availability of sex slaves will protect the civilian population from sexual abuse and rape institutionalizes crimes which, of their nature, are violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

We therefore deeply regret the Japanese government's refusal to accept the Council's recommendations.

Quoting the judgement of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery, 'The Crimes committed against these survivors remain one of the greatest unacknowledged and unremedied injustices of the Second World War. There is no education of future generations, and there have been no judgement days for the victims of Japan's military sexual slavery and the rampant sexual violence and brutality that characterized its aggressive war.'