


# WILPF: 100 YEARS

A BRIEF LOOK AT A LONG HISTORY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR  
**PEACE & FREEDOM**





This pamphlet takes you through the 100-year journey of analysis, activism and advocacy that has kept WILPF on the forefront of the peace movement for a century. Take a moment to browse through our history and find out what 100 years of peacemaking looks like.

Our history starts in 1915, when 1,136 women from a diversity of cultures and languages came together in The Hague during the First World War to study, make known and eliminate the root causes of war. They had originally thought to gather for universal suffrage in Berlin, but found the war to hinder their plans. In this reality lay their core analysis which has been fundamental to WILPF ever since; the recognition of the innate correlation between the realisation of women's human rights and the realisation of sustainable peace for all. Armed with these ideas set out in resolutions, they sent delegates from both sides of the conflict to countries on the opposite sides and created our organisation: The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Ever since, 'WILPFers' around the world have worked tirelessly together to progress their values.

One example of that was Jane Addams, WILPF's first international president, who was personally received by US President Woodrow Wilson after the Congress. He hailed the ideas she brought from The Hague and adopted nine of them as part of his famous Fourteen Points that served as the basis of the WWI peace negotiations.

# FOREWORD

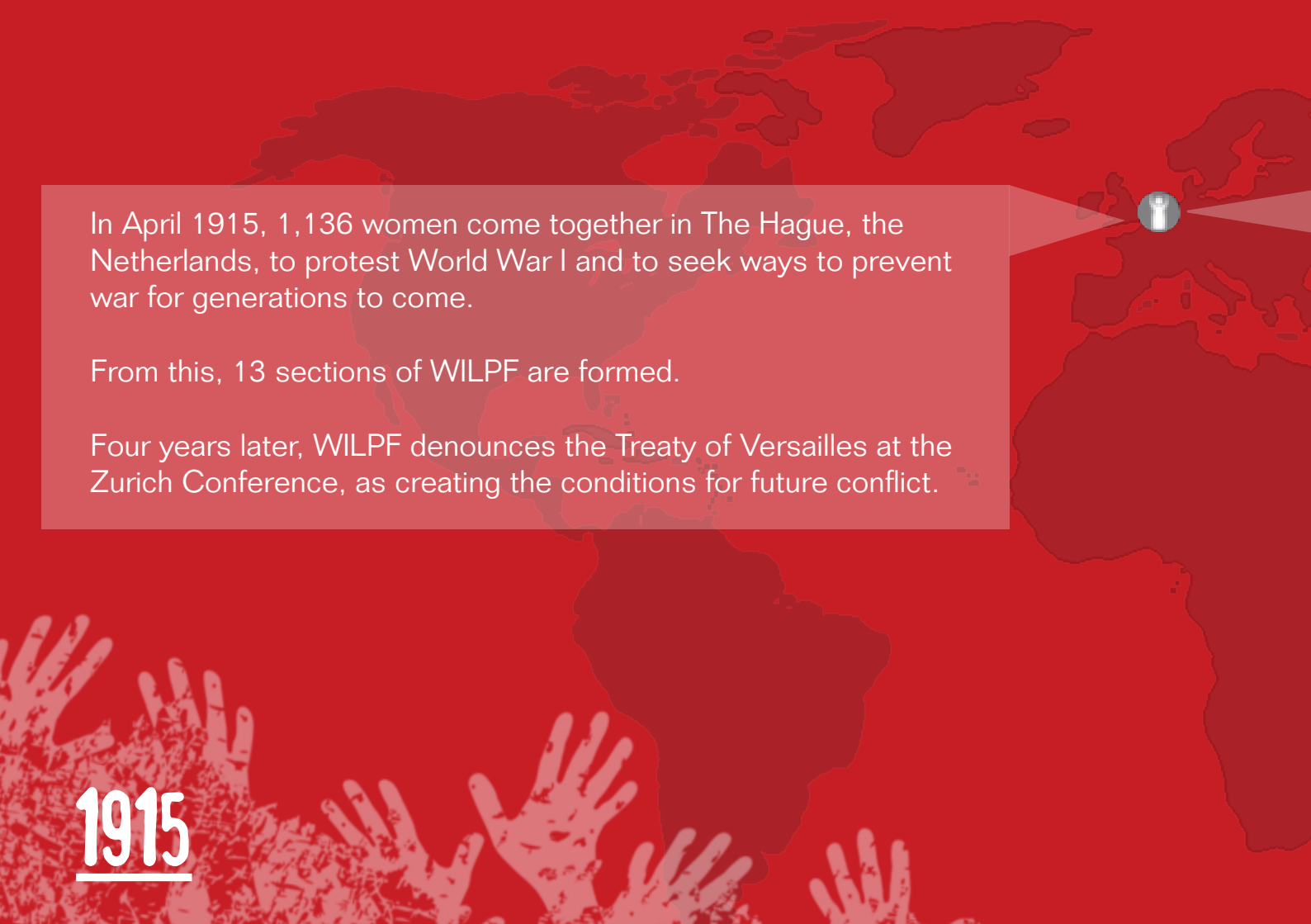
The background of the slide is a solid red color. Overlaid on this is a faint, light-colored world map. In the upper right corner, there is a graphic of several hands of different skin tones reaching up towards the top of the frame, as if holding or supporting the globe.

Unfortunately her calls for a less punitive Versailles agreement forced on Germany were not heard, laying the foundation for renewed conflict. Addams went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in peace.

Another is that of Emily Greene Balch, WILPF's first international secretary. Balch protested the US war effort despite it costing her career, while she continued her progressive work on poverty, child labor and immigration. The Nobel Committee recognized her work in 1946, when she became the second WILPF member to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

The women of WILPF have proudly followed in their footsteps ever since, organising dialogues between women from all over the world, sending delegations of women to North and South Vietnam in opposition of the Vietnam War and protesting amongst thousands in New York and Brussels for disarmament, from nuclear weapons to missiles, mines and small arms. They organised to get peace on the women's agenda in Beijing, and to get women on the peace agenda when pushing the UN Security Council resolution 1325.

In 2014, WILPF received the Peace in Progress award by the International Catalan Institute for Peace, "for its century-long involvement in the work of women for peace, its commitment to disarmament, the defence of human rights and the persistence to obtain the recognition of the role of women in the building of peace," proving the legacy of 1915 lives on today, as we celebrate Women's Power to Stop War!



In April 1915, 1,136 women come together in The Hague, the Netherlands, to protest World War I and to seek ways to prevent war for generations to come.

From this, 13 sections of WILPF are formed.

Four years later, WILPF denounces the Treaty of Versailles at the Zurich Conference, as creating the conditions for future conflict.

1915

# JOINED



The platform at the 1915 International Women's Congress.

Australia  
Canada  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
India  
Italy  
Nepal  
Norway  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
UK  
USA

In 1931, Jane Addams, WILPF's International President, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



Jane Addams at The Hague conference in 1915.



WILPF's first International President, Jane Addams.

1915-1935

# JOINED


In 1922, at a space conference for a new peace in The Hague, WILPF calls for the convening of a world congress to draw up a new agreement.

Finland  
Haiti  
Japan  
Mexico  
Tunisia



WILPF has been calling for universal disarmament for the past 100 years.

WILPF takes a worldwide petition of six million signatures to the disarmament conference in Geneva.



In 1945, WILPF attends the first UN Conference in San Francisco as one of the founding NGOs, promoting world security that is based on freedom and justice, not military power and strength.

Although WILPF was not able to put a stop to Nazi persecution in World War II, it continued to aid refugees from the regime. Throughout the war it worked tirelessly, with the help of a new outpost in New York.

1935-1950



In 1946, Emily Greene Balch, WILPF's first International Secretary, receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

JOINED

Brazil



WILPF's first International Secretary,  
Emily Greene Balch.



Group photo of WILPF Mexico in the  
1930s.

In 1965, Dr Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr is the keynote speaker for the 50th anniversary celebration of WILPF at the triennial Congress in The Hague, the Netherlands.



Martin Luther King. Source: Library of Congress.

In 1970, WILPF hosts the Inter-American Women's Conference in Bogota, Colombia.

1950-1970

1961 sees the first WILPF conference of Soviet and American women to help break down Cold War barriers.

# JOINED

Colombia  
Chile  
Israel  
Lebanon  
Nigeria

In 1963, WILPF takes part in the global peace campaign to urge the US to end the war in Vietnam.

WILPF members in 1965.



"Talks not bombs on Vietnam"  
demonstration.

In 1975, WILPF convenes the Women's Disarmament Conference in New York.



WILPF at the Women's Disarmament Conference.

In 1978, WILPF co-sponsors a two day conference on the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Washington, D.C. Over 200 women leaders come together to learn about the relationship between women's issues and the arms race.

1971-1980

The 1974 mission to Northern Ireland to monitor the conditions of the conflict signals just one of WILPF's many outreach missions in the decade.

# JOINED

## Mauritius Sri Lanka



WILPF at the International Conference for the Liberation of Southern Africa & Against Apartheid.

In 1978, WILPF plays an active role during the International Conference for the Liberation of Southern Africa and Against Apartheid in New Dheli, India.

In 1982, WILPF launches a major signature campaign to stop the arms race (STAR). In 1990, the worldwide Women vs. Violence campaign is launched. On 8 March 1983, a mass rally in Brussels demands that NATO reverse the decision to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in western Europe.



WILPF in action at STAR.

The Women's Treaty of the Americas is signed at the WILPF International Congress in Bolivia.

1981-1990

# JOINED

Bolivia

Bosnia

Costa Rica

Croatia

Palestine


Peru



Edith Ballantyne at 1983 STAR rally in Brussels.



In 1985, WILPF participates in the Third World Women's Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.



In 1996, WILPF begins a campaign to democratise the UN Security Council.

In 1992, WILPF leads a campaign for the International Court of Justice to declare rape a wartime crime in response to the violence of the wars in Haiti and Bosnia.

In 1994, WILPF sends a mission to observe the elections in South Africa. It also launches the Practice Anti-Racism campaign to redress local racist incidents.

**1991-2000**

# JOINED

Albania  
Argentina  
Burundi  
French Polynesia  
Korea  
Philippines  
Portugal  
Sierra Leone



At the 1995 Helsinki Congress.



WILPF at 1995 in Beijing, China.

In 1995, WILPF organises a peace train travelling from Helsinki, Finland, to Beijing, China, arriving at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, where WILPF hosts the peace tent along with other peace groups.

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In 2015, The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is celebrating our 100th Anniversary!

In light of this monumental event, WILPF gave name to the movement it has been advocating for the past 100 years, Women's Power to Stop War.

By joining the movement, you are part of an international community of courageous activists who are bringing back the ideas that the First International Women's Congress established back in 1915.

We believe conflicts and wars cannot be stopped without the participation of women – and that it is time women focus on and use their power to stop war.

Together, we are connecting, strengthening and celebrating the work of women peacemakers all over the world, culminating in our major events in April 2015, our Centennial Congress and the International Conference on Peacebuilding of the century, where we will forge a new peace agenda for the 21st century.

**2015**

The background of the image is a solid red color. At the top, there is a horizontal row of several hands of different skin tones, with fingers spread, as if reaching out or holding something together. Below this, a faint, dark red silhouette of a world map is visible, showing the continents. Overlaid on the map is a large, semi-transparent red rectangular banner that runs diagonally from the upper left towards the lower right. Inside this banner, the text "WOMEN'S POWER TO" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and "STOP WAR" is written in a much larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. On either side of the text, there are stylized human figures with their arms raised in a gesture of protest or celebration. The figures on the left are white, and the figures on the right are teal.

**WOMEN'S POWER TO**

**STOP WAR**

### **Join Us!**

There are many different ways to explore the history of women's peacemaking:

- Check out the Anniversary Atlas on our website, where you can add your own women's peacemaking events of the past and present.
- We want to thank the following archives for their efforts in letting us explore our own history, and we encourage you to pay them a visit:
  - University of Colorado Boulder
  - Swarthmore College
  - Atria Kennis Instituut
- Become a member of WILPF and connect to our vibrant past together with like-minded women looking to explore our history!



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