United Nations

Next UN Secretary-General
The 26th International WILPF Congress urges that when the position of UN Secretary-General next becomes vacant, the General Assembly elect a woman.

**Action:** *The statement to be sent by International WILPF to the member states of the UN.*

UN Security Council Reform
The 26th International WILPF Congress is deeply concerned about the Security Council’s future structure and scope now under discussion. This is the opportunity to democratize the Security Council. We urge you to increase the number of members by adding at least 10 more non-permanent members all to be elected by the General Assembly.

Adding new permanent members as is proposed by some would be a retrogression and an insult to the overwhelming majority of smaller states who have significantly contributed to the UN peace efforts over the years.

It is our ardent wish that in the not too distant future all members of the Security Council will be elected, and that there will no longer be a privileged group of permanent members with the right to veto decisions taken by a majority of Member States. It is our conviction that it would be a great disservice to the people of the United Nations, and against the interests of the organization itself, to add to the present number of privileged Permanent Members or establish another category of privileged members of the Security Council.

As women we know what discrimination and domination mean. We oppose them with all our strength, and work for the democratization of society which must include the full participation of women in planning, decision-making, and in all peace and security processes. We will do our utmost to prevent the institutionalizing of further privileges at any level and in all areas of activity.

**Actions:**
*(a) To send the statement of all UN Member States; and (b) to launch or join in a women’s support campaign for the democratization of the Security Council.*
(Note: A petition with a text based on this resolution has been prepared jointly by ISMUN and WILPF. WILPF sections are asked to collect signatures of women who wish to support the WILPF position).

Special Rapporteur on Colombia

The 26th International WILPF Congress of WILPF calls on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate and report on the human rights situation in Colombia, and asks the Commission to take appropriate action in light of the findings of the Special Rapporteur.

Action: International WILPF to send the statement to the Members of the UN Commission on Human Rights, to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director of the UN Center for Human Rights.

International Day of Nonviolence

The 26th International WILPF Congress calls on the United Nations to declare 6 April the International Day of Nonviolence.

Background: From 6 August 1995 to 6 August 1996, the Indian cooperation for Peace (Shanti Sayog) has launched a campaign for nonviolence inspired by Gandhi’s philosophy. In his efforts for peace, Gandhi would not listen to violence, riots or terrorism. His philosophy was based on the equality of all human beings, both friends or enemies, and conflicts should be solved in a way that is advantageous to all sides in order to meet be able to meet without feelings of shame. A good conflict resolution makes all parties winners. By the Salt March of 6 April 1930, Gandhi proved to the English authorities that they could not forever prevent people from using the resources of their own country. In spite of attacks, the Indians marched in thousands to the sea to take salt and defeated the English salt monopoly.

Shanti Sayog’s international campaign for nonviolence 1995-1996 wants to reduce the sums of money spent for weapons. They demand to have one day of national military expenses allocated to NGOs working for nonviolence, to legalize nonviolent civilian-based defence everywhere and give to tax payers the legal option to divert their defence tax from military defence to nonviolent defence.

Actions:
(a) International WILPF to send the statement to the UN Secretary-General; and
(b) National WILPF sections to write to their governments urging them to support the proposal and introduce it at the next session of the UN General Assembly.
Disarmament

Nuclear Weapons Testing

The 26th International WILPF Congress calls for an immediate halt to the French plans to explode nuclear devices in the South Pacific’s Mururoa atoll. These actions will cause irreparable damage to the environment, to the health of the region’s citizens as well as to global disarmament efforts. There must be NO MORE nuclear testing anywhere by any country.

**Action:** Write or fax to French President Jacques Chirac; and (b) petition to go to each section.

Nuclear production

The 26th International WILPF Congress reaffirms WILPF’s demands that
a. research, development, production and use of nuclear weapons and energy be stopped;
b. uranium mining be halted; and

**Action:** WILPF sections to campaign with others for appropriate government decisions.

Human Rights

Protection of the Rights of Migrants

The 26th International WILPF Congress is deeply concerned that increasing poverty and deprivation in many developing countries drives citizens into massive economic migration, and that migrant workers suffer a host of problems such as violence, racism, trafficking and poor working conditions.

**Actions:**
(a) All WILPF sections to urge their government to ratify the UN Convention for the Protection of Rights of Migrants and their Families and to ratify, if not already done so, all other international instruments that seek to uphold the rights of migrants;
(b) International WILPF develop a program that addresses the issues of migration, including research, education and campaigns;
(c) WILPF sections to support positive actions that seek to address the root causes of migration of peoples;
(d) WILPF to ask the UN to monitor and provide appropriate actions against countries that do not observe the rights of migrants.
Racism

The 26th International WILPF Congress defines racism as 'an international system of power that places one group superior and another inferior, based on colour' and mandates the International Executive Committee to establish a Working Group to:

a) formulate policy to combat racism both within and outside WILPF;
b) formulate an anti-racist and equal-opportunities WILPF policy which includes a clear definition of racism;
c) recruit actively a multi-racial membership; and (d) network with multi-racial and anti-racist organizations.

WILPF shall include its anti-racist and equal opportunities policy on all of its policy statement and confront all other forms of discrimination, internally and externally. WILPF shall pay special attention to the issue of racism in its relations with international and all other institutions and organizations.

Human Rights for Silvia Baraldini

The 26th International WILPF Congress urges the US Government to repatriate Silvia Baraldini, Italian citizen and political prisoner in the US, from prison in the US to a prison in Italy, in accordance with the Strasbourg Rights Convention, which provides for the repatriation of prisoners to their country of origin. The US and several European countries have accepted the Convention early on, and Italy ratified it in 1989.

Actions:
(a) To mobilize public awareness of the situation of Silvia Baraldini by undertaking a worldwide campaign for her repatriation to Italy; and
(b) for WILPF section to write to US President Bill Clinton to take steps for the repatriation of Silvia Baraldini to Italy.

Protection of Human Rights of Women and Children

The 26th International WILPF Congress, concerned about the continuing human rights violations against, and exploitation of children and women, urges the United Nations and other international organizations to:

a) work to end the practice of child slavery
b) stop the trafficking in women and children;
c) Educate and train all UN peace-keeping personnel to respect the culture and human rights of the peoples whom they are seconded to protect, in particular to ensure that all UN personnel practice a code of conduct which respect the integrity of women and children.
Human Rights Campaigns

The 26th International WILPF Congress calls for:

a) Boycotting those business corporations whose labour policies and practices contravene international labour standards as set out in ILO Conventions and other international instruments;
b) Joining the campaigns of human rights advocates working for the application of legislation which support the women victims of rape and incest to obtain justice;
c) Supporting the campaign for obtaining justice for the women who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Second World War;
d) Working in solidarity with human rights groups to expose the practice of rape in war as a war crime;
e) Working in solidarity with oppressed peoples in the Asia-Pacific region including the people of Tibet, Aceh, West Papua, East Timor Bougainville, the Karen in Burma, the Indigenous people of Australia and all the indigenous peoples of the region for social and economic justice;
f) Supporting peace-building initiatives in Cambodia as an important barrier to the spread of war in the region.

Save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal

The 26th International WILPF Congress urges the Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to stay the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal scheduled for 17 August 1995, and to permit Mr. Jamal his inalienable right to a fair trial according to the constitution of the US and under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.


Action: WILPF to appeal to the Governor of Pennsylvania. (Fax: +(1-717) 783 3369.

Economic Relations

Foreign Investment

The 26th International WILPF Congress demands:

a. that the European Commission drop moves to initiate the setting up of a multilateral set of rules governing the policies of governments on foreign direct investments and also proposing to widen the authority of the World Trade Organizations (WTO) over the regulation of terms of foreign investments worldwide;
b. that this proposal not be adopted by the World Trade Organization. (The present Trade Related Investment Measures [TRIMS] clause of the GATT Agreement does not cover all foreign investments. It only includes trade-related foreign investments. This EC proposal calls for a blanket coverage of all forms of foreign investment, whether these are trade-related or not).
c. that every county be allowed to continue to have sovereign rights to determine which foreign investors should come in, what sectors they can invest in, and under which conditions investments can be made.
d. that multilateral regulations within the WTO and the Regional Trade Agreements (such as NAFTA, APEC, etc.) should affirm and retain the positive discrimination principles, which means giving weaker countries the needed support to enable them to compete on an equal basis with powerful countries and their corporations.

**Background:** The proposal, contained in a paper entitled 'A Level Playing Field for Direct Investment Worldwide' is

(a) that foreign corporations be given generally free access to any country in the world and be given the legal rights to invest and operate competitively in all sectors of the economy;
(b) that they be accorded national treatment, meaning equal treatment with local corporations but also the most favoured nation status (host countries granting foreign investors specific favourable conditions not available to national investors).
(c) that all restrictions on their operations be removed.

If these proposals are adopted, it would have very significant implications for developing countries, such as:

(a) the restriction or removal of the right to adopt their own independent policies on the conditions under which foreign investments can be made;
(b) the curtailing of freedom to choose their own particular mixture of policies and conditions on foreign investments (e.g., 60% local equity and 40% foreign equity, restriction on foreign investments for strategic industries such as transportation, communication, health, joint ventures);
(c) surrender of their sovereign right to determine investment programs and policies for the benefit of their citizens.

These rules would further disenfranchise the indigenous peoples, women, farmers, local communities, of their rights to have access, control and own lands and resources. They would entrench and perpetuate the domination and power of industrialized nations, and transnational corporations over the weak third world countries and thereby facilitate a return to colonialism.
Intellectual Property Rights

The 26th International WILPF Congress is deeply concerned the Article 26.5.3b of the TRIPS clause in the Final Agreement of the Uruguay Round of the GATT allows for the obligatory patenting of micro-origins.

While this Article appears to be an agreement on the exclusion of living organisms from patentability by stating that "plants and animals other than micro-organisms and essentially biological processes for production of plants or animals other than non-biological and micro-biological processes", recent judgments and interpretations say otherwise.

This phrase is interpreted to mean that genes, cell-lines, etc., are considered micro-organisms and genetic engineering is not considered a biological process, which therefore allows for the patenting of genes, cell-lines, and genetically engineered organisms, plants and animals. It also allows parts of plants and animals and altered plans and animals to be patented.

The patenting of life forms is already allowed in the USA and the GATT agreement requires member countries of WTO to change and harmonize their patent laws to make it consistent with the TRIPS clause of GATT.

Allowing the TRIPS clause only recognizes as innovation that which is done by industry and laboratories, and denies the creativity and innovation of indigenous peoples, women, farmers and nature.

The patenting of life forms leads to the privatization and commodification of biological diversity and genetic resources from plants, animals and human beings, and facilitates the appropriation of these by agribusiness corporations, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology corporations, and individuals.

Genetic engineering is also being used to produce weapons for biological warfare.

For these reasons, WILPF shall
a. actively participate in the ongoing campaigns against patenting of life forms and the demand for compulsory labeling of genetically-engineered foods and products;
b. demand that the WTO allow countries not to patent life forms through intellectual property rights laws if they so desire.
c. support the campaigns and struggles of indigenous peoples, farmers and women against the appropriation of their indigenous seeds, medicinal plants and indigenous knowledge;
d. consider the monitoring and lobbying of WTO as one of its activities, especially because of the implications of WTO for world peace.
Youth

The 26th International WILPF Congress, having received the recommendation from the Gertrud Baer Seminar to establish a volunteer youth council and fill speedily the position of Youth Coordinator, mandates the International Executive Committee to take appropriate action within financial feasibility.

Communication and Information

The 26th International WILPF Congress mandates the International Executive Committee to pool all available resources with a view to providing language interpretation at international meetings.

It further requests all sections and branches to prepare information packets on WILPF history and policy as well as its organizational structure, and ensure that each new member is provided with this information.

Africa

Algeria

A hundred and thirty years of French colonization has ruined the Algerian identity. The 30 years of one-party rule that followed independence completely muzzled civilians through the use of education, justice, culture and the media. It brought an economic crash and favoured the rise of fundamentalism. The people now seek justice.

WILPF believes that a democratic debate is necessary to stop hatred of one party towards another. It calls for discussion among all concerned in this tragic crisis, especially with the Algerian feminist associations which struggle for the rights of women. Peace and freedom will only be won back through respect and dialogue.

WILPF salutes the Algerian people’s pacific resistance and expresses its support to progressive forces which are working for a solution to the crisis.

WILPF demands:

a) that murders carried out by the armed AGI (Groupe Armé Islamique) be stopped;
b) that government repression against citizens be stopped;
c) that freedom of the press, of expression, of the organization and the independence of justice be established;
d) that free and democratic legislative elections be held;
e) that there be equality of men and women before the law, that the Family Code be repealed;
f) that the IMF debt of 26 million dollars be repudiated without condition;
g) that the restrictions France imposes on the free movement of Algerian citizens, and that other European countries look favorably upon Algerians entering their countries;

h) that military and financial support from whatever source to armed groups be stopped;

i) that the alleged 36 thousand million private dollars obtained through corruption be given back to the Algerian people.

**Action:** *WILPF sections to educate members on the above matters.*

### Asia - Pacific

#### Indigenous Peoples Rights

The 26th International WILPF Congress supports the indigenous peoples in the struggles for their rights. WILPF urges the United Nations to press governments to facilitate at all levels the:

a) implementation of land rights legislation;

b) recognition and achievement of self determination

c) provision of comprehensive health care and other social services

WILPF supports the West Papuan people in their desire to achieve self-determination by the year 2000 and will make representation to the UN and the Indonesian government accordingly.

**Action:** *WILPF sections to support and work with West Papuan solidarity groups.*

#### East Timor

WILPF continues to

a) support the East Timorese people in their struggle for self-determination;

b) recognize the violation of human rights that has occurred in their country

c) make continued representation to the UN on behalf of East Timorese people.

### Bougainville

WILPF actively supports the efforts of the women of Bougainville to bring about the resolution of conflict and reconciliation.

### Europe

#### Institute for Security Issues

The 26th International WILPF Congress fully supports the proposal put forward by Finland’s President, Ahtisaari to establish within the Organizations for European Security and Cooperation an ‘Institute for Security issues’, building on the experience gained within the Helsinki process.
We suggest that the entire human experience, especially that of women, regarding conflict resolution, human rights, early warning and ecology both in theory and practice should be utilized. WILPF offers its expertise and hope for a fruitful cooperation in the future.

**Action:** WILPF’s President to write to President Ahtisaari.

**Peace in the Countries of Former Yugoslavia**

The 26th International WILPF Congress believes that the peacemaking process in the countries of former Yugoslavia should be to restore the multicultural society and not to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

WILPF does not support an expanded mandate for the UN peacekeeping forces in the region. It must remain that of peacekeeping.

Instead of the deployment of Rapid Intervention Forces we call for large-scale international civilian assistance by sending, for example, teams of doctors, social workers, peace educators, peace witnesses and others to help build democratic societies.

We call for women to be at least equal in number to men in all phases of the peacemaking process, including negotiation and mediation.

We request total disarmament in the region to be monitored by joint UN/NGO teams. Monitoring of arms coming to the region as a whole must be reinforced.

WILPF supports the International War Crimes Tribunal on former Yugoslavia to bring to justice those on all sides of the conflict who are responsible for, and have committed, war crimes and human rights violations. Because of the vicious and massive crimes committed against women and their need to feel safe, we demand that the Tribunal be composed of a majority of women judges.

WILPF supports all democratic and human rights forces in the region. We fully support plans for, and are ready to assist in, the establishment of International Women’s Peace Centers wherever there is an interest.

**Action:** Each WILPF section to (a) press their governments to offer asylum and other assistance to deserters and war resisters from the countries of former Yugoslavia; (b) help provide better treatment and acceptance of refugees; and (c) to better coordinate assistance given to the region.
Latin America and Caribbean

Ending the embargo against Cuba

The 26th International WILPF Congress calls on all its members and sections to lobby their governments to put pressure on the US to end its embargo against Cuba and to promote trade with Cuba.

Actions:
(a) WILPF sections to urge US President Bill Clinton to take steps to end the embargo ('White House, Washington DC, USA); and
(b) report on actions to the US Section Committee on Cuba, c/o Mary Zepernick, 314 Wood Road, South Yarmouth, MA 02664, USA).

Security

The 26th International WILPF Congress denounces violations of social political, economic and cultural rights and the conditions of exploitation and subordination in which the majority of women in Latin America live. The specific areas are labour, education, health and housing. These violations are the main obstacles to reaching social security for the people and peace in the region.

Rio de Janeiro Protocol

The 26th International WILPF Congress supports the process of demilitarization taking place by the ratification of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942, meeting thus the hopes of Peru and Ecuador of the Andean region.

Guatemalan Elections

The 26th International WILPF Congress calls on the Organization of American States to monitor the Guatemalan elections scheduled to take place in November 1995. The obscured background of presidential candidate Ríos-Montt has allowed for human rights violations of thousands of indigenous people in other countries of Central America and has severely undermined the process of democratic elections in this region.

The Middle East

Israel/Palestine

The 26th International WILPF Congress strongly opposes the continued occupation by Israel of the Arab Palestinian Territories, causing increased tensions and serious human rights violation in the area. Innocent Palestinian and Israeli civilians have been and continue to be killed as a tragic result of the dangerous situation. We oppose all acts of gratuitous violence. We demand that these heinous crimes be
stopped; They are unacceptable, and they are an impediment to the peace process. We urge the parties concerned to extend self-rule immediately to all the Occupied Territories leading to the speedy establishment of the independent state of Palestine alongside Israel.

**Lebanon**

The 26th International WILPF Congress reaffirms the resolution adopted by WILPF's International Executive Committee meeting in Musashiranzan, Japan in August 1994:

"The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is deeply concerned that at a time when negotiations of peace in the Middle East are being held, Israel continues to occupy the South of Lebanon. This situation is a dangerous obstacle to the peace process.

We call on Israel to immediately withdraw from the South of Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 425, and call on the international community to ensure its implementation.

We demand that the Israeli Government pay indemnities to Lebanon to enable the immediate reconstruction of Lebanese homes that have been destroyed by Israeli soldiers and that compensation be given to the people.

We call on Israel to halt the deviation of the Litani waters into Israel.

We call for the cessation of vicious acts, such as kidnapping, the destruction of crops and land, continuous raids, and shelling of Lebanese people. Only then will civilians on both sides be able to live in peace.

We call on the international community to exert every pressure on Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon."

This 26th International WILPF Congress calls on all its sections and members to take concrete actions in the coming months to press for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 425, and for the water of the Litani river to be left to the Lebanese people.