Iraq

The Women International League for Peace and Freedom reaffirms the resolution passed by the 25th WILPFís International Congress held in Bolivia in 1992 on Iraq.

In addition, we call upon the participants of the 28th WILPF’s International Congress held in the US on 24-31 July 1998, to urge the UN and the UN Security Council to immediately stop the sanctions against Iraq.

We call upon all sections, particularly the US section, to contact their representatives in their Parliaments and at Congress to vote against sanctions on Iraq.

We also call on all WILPF Congress participants to give out information in Universities and the media on the situation of Iraq.

Kosovo

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom at its International Congress in Baltimore, USA, 24-31 July 1998

Expresses its support for a peaceful political solution to the Kosovo conflict by official negotiations between all parties involved under the auspices of international observers, including peace NGOs.

We ask for an immediate and constructive resolution for this crisis in order to implement peace by respecting the rights of all ethnic groups on an equal basis.

We call for an immediate halt to all violence, especially violence against the civilian population, and in particular, violence against women and children.

We call for the continuation and increase of humanitarian assistance.

We call for the permission to establish local and national NGOs in particular women’s NGOs.

Finally, we call on the media to give the public an open, truthful and realistic picture of the ongoing situation in the region.
**Lesbian Human Rights**

In recognition of the social conditions and legislative injustices that deny full human rights to lesbians and

In recognition that lesbians have been forced to flee their countries of origin due to lesbian oppression and, therefore, are deserving of refugee status and all rights accorded by the United Nation’s conventions and other government instruments relating to refugees and

In accordance with WILPF aims and principles:

The League will act to intervene in order to eliminate discrimination and prejudice against lesbian.

In addition, WILPF will support initiatives at local, national and international levels which ensure full human rights for lesbians.

In taking action, WILPF additionally resolves to seek information and network with lesbians and lesbian organisations so that actions taken are culturally appropriate.

**Colombia**

Whereas Colombia has for many years suffered a high level of violence, which in recent years has taken the form of paramilitary violence with input from military officers who have received training in the School of Americas;

Whereas in recent years more Colombians have received training at the School of the Americas than from any other Latin American country;

Whereas the high level of political violence springs from fundamental structural flaws in the Colombian economy and society where a very small percentage of Colombian citizens own an overwhelming monopoly of the country’s abundant wealth;

Whereas the U.S. government under the guise of the War on Drugs has provided millions of dollars worth of military equipment to the Colombian Army and Police;

Whereas there is evidence that a substantial part of U.S. assistance has gone not to stop drug-trafficking but for a counter-insurgency campaign by the Colombian military, working with known drug-traffickers.

Whereas WILPF is an international women’s NGO working for human rights has been under verbal attacks by the military.
Therefore be it resolved:

1) That the U.S. government immediately end military assistance to Colombia.

2) That all future U.S. aid to Colombia be conditioned upon guarantees of protection of human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3) That all WILPF Sections put pressure on their governments to urge the Colombian government to demand adequate protection of human rights workers and to stop the dirty war to the Colombian people.

4) Reject the Colombian military’s characterization of WILPF Colombia and urge sections to contact our sisters in Colombia to show solidarity.

Support of Cuba’s Sovereignty and Self-Determination

Whereas Cuba’s people-centered social and economic development is a model of resistance to globalization;

Whereas the US-Helms Burton Law further tightens the economic and information blockade against Cuba with the harshest impacts falling on women and children;

Whereas the US embargo denies Cuba’s right to choose their own economic, political and social systems;

Whereas the US Helms-Burton and Torricelli laws also violate the sovereignty of all nations that wish to trade with Cuba;

Whereas WILPF has consistently stood fast in solidarity with the women and people of Cuba, continues to working to end the US embargo in all sections;

Whereas WILPF created and ratified a Women’s Peace and Justice Treaty of the Americas at our 1992 International Congress in Bolivia which calls for an end of the economic blockade of Cuba;

Be it, therefore, resolved that WILPF urge activities in solidarity with the Cuban people in observance of International Women’s Day on 8 March 1999;

Be it further resolved that the women of WILPF deepen our solidarity with the women and people of Cuba through delegations to and from Cuba, exchanges, sister city projects and sister branches and participation in the international women’s solidarity conferences.

Justice and Against the Impunity in Argentina and Chile

WILPF in its 28th International Congress in Baltimore on 24-31 July supports the trials taking place before the Central Courts under Judge D. Baltasar Garzon y D.
Manuel Garcia Castellon for the crimes of terrorism and genocide which occurred during the military dictatorship in Chile and Argentina.

WILPF reaffirms its respect for human rights and calls for justice for the victims of crimes of terrorism and that those responsible for the crimes be punished.

**Indigenous People’s Rights**

Whereas, the indigenous peoples of the world who have lived for thousands of years before the invasions of their lands brought genocide, expropriation of their lands, and suppression of their languages, customs, culture and religion;

Whereas, the indigenous peoples were forced to live in bleak areas where they endured many hardships, such as poverty, unemployment, and abject living conditions;

Whereas, in many cases governments made many treaties with the indigenous nations, only to break them when it suited their purposes, trampling on the sovereignty of these Nations;

Whereas, the earth, air, water and food supply, which for thousands of years were treated by the indigenous peoples with consideration, have become ravaged, polluted and poisoned as a result of the profit motives of business with the collusion of government, resulting in disease and death of animal and vegetable species, including the human species; and

Whereas, the governments have shown no respect for the burial grounds and other sacred sites of indigenous peoples, making plans to bury extremely toxic radioactive waste in holy places;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at their International Congress in Baltimore, USA on 24-31 July 1998, go on record, as part of their opposition to racism, to condemn these actions cited above by a campaign to educate their membership to resist these racist manifestations in everyday life, and replace it with a show of dignity, and

Be it resolved that this education include the true history of the conquest and colonization of indigenous peoples and their recent degradation, and

Be it resolved that this education include information about the Kari-Oca Declaration and the Indigenous Peoples’ Earth Charter, and

Be it resolved that this message be spread worldwide to all the media, to schools and other educational institutions, including those of churches and governments in the world, to begin to redress injustices and instill respect for all, and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be taken to the appropriate committees of
the United Nations for consideration.

**Algeria**

WILPF demands that all government repression against the citizens of Algeria be stopped and that the murders carried out by the armed AGI be terminated immediately.

In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, freedom of the press, of expression, and of organization should be observed and an independent judicial system should be established, free and democratic legislative elections must be held, and the equality of men and women must be recognized before the law. Likewise, the family code must be repealed as a violation of rights.

We further demand that the IMF debt of US$26 million be rescinded without conditions; that France lift restrictions imposed on the free movement of Algerian citizen; that military and financial support from whatever source to armed groups be stopped; that the alleged US$36 billion obtained through corruption by Algerian businessmen and multinational corporations be returned to the Algerian people.

We urge European countries to look favorably on the entry of Algerians.

We ask all sections of WILPF to:

1. educate members on the above matters, including American interest in the region, especially concerning oil;

2. support tours by Algerian women to speak about the conditions of women in Algeria in all sections and branches of WILPF; and

3. create actions and lobby to end the massacres.

**Burma**

Whereas, the nation of Burma (also known as Myanmar) has institutionalized torture and rape as political instruments, has embarked upon a campaign of forcible relocation, forced labor and slavery, the persecution of ethnic minorities and other human rights violations, all designed to deny the majority of the population the right to life, liberty, and equality and has denied to the people of Burma the right to participate in the political process, the right to benefit from the fair and equitable system of justice and the right to exercise fairly their economic rights; and

Whereas, the military regime that controls Burma is attempting to enhance its standing in the international community and to increase the flow of foreign money and investment in Burma through the use of economic incentive that are based in
part upon the forcible relocation, forced labor and slavery of its people and;

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the first state in the union to pass a selective purchasing law prohibiting the state to conduct business with companies that contribute to this atrocity; and

Whereas, opposition (in the form of law suits) has mounted on two fronts to repeal all selective purchasing laws: one from companies doing business (which has the support of corporate America with the creation of two coalitions-USA Engage and the National Foreign Trade Council) in Burma and the other from the European Commission.

Resolved

That all WILPF sections promote and preserve selective purchasing laws that prevent municipalities at any governmental level from purchasing goods, services or commodities from any corporation that does business in the nation of Burma;

Resolved

To encourage especially the European WILPF sections to lobby the European Commission not to proceed with bringing the suit before the World Trade Organization and to promote the idea of selective purchasing laws within countries outside the US.

Trafficking in Women and Children

Trafficking in women and children and sexual exploitation is violence against women and children and an infringement of the human rights of women and children. WILPF calls for vigorous action against purchasers and traffickers, without penalizing the women themselves.

UNESCO

The 27th Triennial Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting July 24-31, 1998 in Baltimore, USA

Acknowledges that in the aftermath of World War II, intellectual and diplomatic leaders from around the world founded the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and gave the Organisation the mandate of building the defences of peace in the minds of men and women. It is not enough, they argued, to base peace on economic and political agreements but it must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity;

Calls upon the United States of America to rejoin UNESCO and take up its place in
the community of nations contributing to a Culture of Peace.

Calls upon the US Section of WILPF to campaign and lobby their government to rejoin UNESCO

**Payment of UN Dues**

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Realising that the UN depends on assessed contributions from Member States under the terms of its 1945 Charter and that the Organization has never been given authority to borrow from commercial institutions. Instead it relies on countries to honour their treaty obligations to pay their membership dues in full and on time,

Aware that each country’s contribution is calculated, according to a formula approved by all Member States, on the basis of its share of the world economy and ability to pay;

Deeply concerned that as of 15 March 1998, Member States owe the United Nations a total of $2.97 billion for current and past assessments. The United States owes the UN $1.6 billion for past and current assessments, over half of the total due. This includes $671 million for the regular budget and $958 million for peacekeeping;

Calls upon all states, in particular the United States of America to pay its UN dues immediately and without condition.