Maritime Boundary Between Timor Leste and Australia

1. We congratulate Timor Leste on gaining independence and applaud Australia’s support and assistance in this achievement.

2. We acknowledge that Timor Leste is struggling to develop as a sovereign nation and to overcome extreme poverty which shows itself in unemployment leading to despair and violence, especially towards women.

3. We decry the hypocrisy of the Australian Government which gives millions of dollars in aid, but takes billions of dollars worth of oil from Timor Leste waters.

4. We demand that the Australian Government immediately abide by the International Law of the Sea and agree to the maritime boundary being halfway between the two countries.

Calling The International Community To Take Preventive Action To Prohibit The Proliferation Of Small Arms

1. Whereas the UN and other international bodies can take preventive action against world war breaking out in the 21st century, nevertheless they have all failed to secure peace and freedom through the prohibition of weapons of mass/ individual destruction.

2. Recalling the NGO statement made to the Conference on Disarmament in 2001,

3. We call on Sections to urge the UN, other international bodies and governments to play an active role in condemning and stopping the proliferation of small arms across the world and especially in Africa, and encourage them to work with NGOs working for world peace and environmental protection.

Demand For A Referendum Of The Saharawi People

1. The Aotearoa Section has been involved in hosting speaking tours in 2003 and 2004 from members of the Polisario Front of Western Sahara.

2. In 1973, under the leadership of the Polisario Front, the Saharawi launched an anti-colonial struggle against Spain. Having forced Spain out in 1975, they then faced a new invasion by Morocco and Mauritania. Many Saharawi fled the Moroccan
bombardment and took refuge in neighboring Algeria, where they have been, 170,000 of them, in refugee camps ever since. The women are particularly strong in the running of these camps.

3. A new initiative for peace was launched by the United Nations in 2003, which recommends that the referendum, which should have taken place in 1992, should take place as soon as possible. This is being totally blocked by Morocco, which has the support of France and the United States.

4. Recalling the WILPF Congress in Zeist in 1986, where WILPF supported the right of the Western Saharan people to self-determination and independence and calls on the Government of Morocco and Polisario to undertake direct negotiations to resolve the conflict of Western Sahara peacefully, in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 40/50,

We ask Sections, particularly in France and the United States,

To lobby their Governments to put pressure on Morocco to cooperate with the UN recommendation to hold a referendum to allow the Saharawi people to vote for independence and return to their own country.

**Human Rights Considerations Of The So Called “War On Terrorism”**

1. Recalling WILPF long history on resistance to racism in various forms, starting at the WILPF Congress in 1932.

2. Concerned about the current so-called “war on terrorism” and the subsequent implementation of internal security measures in a number of countries;

3. Highlighting the detrimental effects these are having on Muslim and other ethnic communities, as well as asylum seekers and refugees, producing a backlash against them;

4. Noting that the climate created has increased and fostered racism and xenophobia;

5. Noting that this impacts all people’s civil liberties and feelings of security, as well as their social and economic well being;

6. Whilst deploring all forms of terrorism,

7. We request Sections to call on governments to take measures to counter the negative climate that has been created through the implementation of anti-terrorist measures.
**Human Trafficking And Sexual Slavery Of Women And Children**

1. Trafficking in women is inseparably linked with the various conflicts around the world. Women and children are victims of atrocities and injustice, both during and after war. Armed forces including peacekeeping troops perpetuate and generate prostitution and trafficking in women and children. They buy sex, frequent brothels and there are also examples of those who are involved as ‘backers’, or ‘moneymen’ in the trafficking in women. When killing becomes legitimate, it also becomes legitimate to rape or buy and sell human bodies. In other words, military personnel have control both economically and psychologically. When the conflict is finished and the soldiers have returned home, the prostitutes are often trafficked to other countries.

2. Trafficking in women and children is violence and a violation of their human rights. There is a direct connection between trafficking in women for sexual misuse, the social acceptance of buying sexual ‘services’, and the aggressive marketing of the female body through pornography.

3. Trafficking in women for misuse in prostitution has grown by a horrifying degree during the last few years. The international mafia system behind the trafficking in women earns enormous sums of money through this criminal activity. This enormous network, which profits through trafficking in human beings, survives only because there is a willing, paying market in the receiving countries.

4. Violence against women in war areas has, according to UNDP, reached epidemic heights. The common denominator for the 90s conflicts from East Timor to Sierra Leone, Bosnia, and Rwanda has been the comprehensive sexual misuse, forced pregnancy as a tool in ethnic genocide, kidnapping, intentional infection with HIV/AIDS and trafficking in women and children.

5. Some figures for consideration:

- Between 1995 and 2000 the global trafficking in women increased by 50%.
- Every year about two million women are transported over borders to a life in prostitution and they bring in between five and seven billion dollars to middlemen.

(Source: UNDP, UNIFEM)

6. Much must be done if this totally patriarchal pattern is to change.

We call upon sections to:

a) Intensify the cultural struggle concerned with changing the attitude that one can buy admission to the bodies of other human beings.

b) Fund research concerning the extent of buying sex by soldiers and others stationed outside their home country (including NGO representatives in foreign countries) and their role in trafficking in women.
c) Encourage legislative work against prostitution and trafficking in human beings- including the criminalization of customers of prostitutes.

d) Press for offers of treatment for women and children who have been victims of sexual misuse.

e) Ask for support to organizations who help the prostitutes to get out of prostitution.

f) Advocate for residence permission and help for women who have been trafficked.

Inalienable Rights Of The Palestinian People

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at it’s 28th International Congress,


3. WILPF condemns the ongoing destruction by Israel of all infrastructure in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the massive destruction of homes in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

4. WILPF demands that Israel immediately lift the more than two year siege imposed on President Yasser Arafat, the legitimate elected leader of the Palestinian People, and condemns all US and Israeli interference in the national affairs of the Palestinian state.

Legal Consequences Of The Construction Of The Wall - The Decision Of The ICJ

1. The Womenís International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) welcomes the International Court of Justiceís Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004, on the ‘legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory and its associate regime’ requested by the United Nations General Assembly (ES-10/14). This International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling is one that sets an example to the Member States of the United Nations.

2. WILPF applauds the United Nations General Assembly for adopting by an overwhelming majority on 20 July 2004 a resolution (ES-10/15) demanding that Israel comply with the ICJ ruling to dismantle the wall constructed on Palestinian
lands and pay reparations to the Palestinians for the harm inflicted.

3. WILPF deplores the proposed US Senate Resolution 408 which denounced the ICJ Advisory Opinion based on international law, and instead supports Israel’s Apartheid Wall in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

4. WILPF calls on the United Nations Member states, and especially on the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary measures to ensure Israel’s compliance with the ICJ ruling.

**Opposition To Military Installations In Cuba**

1. In recognition of the 44-year-old blockade against Cuba and the United States government’s continued publicly funded efforts to overthrow the Cuban government and influence a post-Castro era;

2. In recognition of the recent antagonistic shifts in policy by the United States government, including:

   a) Attempts by the U.S., to isolate Cuba within the international community,
   b) The elimination of nearly all forms of legal travel to Cuba by people in the United States,
   c) The denial of U.S. visas to Cuban citizens wishing to travel to the United States,
   d) The designation of Cuba as an ‘Axis of Evil’ country and allegations of chemical and biological weapons production, despite statements to the contrary by top U.S. Defense Department officials,
   e) The suspension of semi-annual immigration talks with Cuba,
   f) The increased use of U.S. military aircraft to invade and jam Cuban airwaves with hostile broadcasting from Radio and TV Marti, a U.S. station that produces propaganda aimed at overthrowing the Cuban government,
   g) The restriction of family visits by Cuban-Americans to just one trip of 14 days every 3 years, and the redefinition of who constitutes ‘family’ for the purposes of limiting legal travel,
   h) The expulsion of many Cuban diplomats from the United States for reasons unknown and/or unfounded, and
   i) The continued occupation and use of Guantanamo, Cuba as a U.S. military installation and its current use as a military prison in which international ‘detainees’ are not afforded due process under international law

3. In recognition of WILPF’s long tradition of woman-to-woman diplomacy from the delegations that left from The Hague in 1915 to stop World War I, to Emily Greene Balch’s trips to Haiti, through the Peace Declaration signed by United States WILPF and Vietnamese Women’s Organizations in 1971;

4. Be it resolved that the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom at
its 28th International Congress in Goteborg, Sweden, 2-8 August 2004;

5. Reaffirms the resolutions passed by the 15th WILPF International Congress in 1962, the 21st Congress in 1980, the 26th Congress in 1995, and the 27th WILPF International Congress in 1998 supporting the sovereignty and defending the rights of self-determination for the Cuban people;

6. Calls on WILPF members to continue seeking dialogue and people-to-people exchanges with Cuba through travel and other means;

7. Calls on WILPF sections to lobby their governments and the United Nations to put pressure on the United States to end the blockade and normalize relations with Cuba, and further condemn the Bush administration for the recent policies developed from the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba;

8. Expresses our intent as an international peace and justice organization with sections in 37 countries around the world to continue to work in solidarity with the people of Cuba for peace, racial, economic, and social justice; the protection of human rights; and the participation of women in decision-making.

Opposition To Plan Colombia And Plan Patriota

1. WHEREAS Colombia has been involved in a bloody conflict for the last 40 years or more, caused by the highly unequal distribution of wealth, and an exclusionary elite; and

2. WHEREAS women, together with children in Colombia have borne a great part of the burden of this conflict and many have suffered greatly; and

3. WHEREAS grass-roots community organizations have raised their voices against the violence, which has been exacerbated by the militaristic approach of the Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Velez and the United States Government, in a scheme known formerly as Plan Colombia and now as Plan Patriota; and

4. WHEREAS these government policies seek to implement globalization in Colombia to the great prejudice of Colombia’s people and institutions; and

5. WHEREAS the Colombia government has undertaken to negotiate for peace with the illegal paramilitary groups and their commanders, often linked to the Colombian armed forces, who are responsible for more murders of innocent men, women and children than any other armed group in Colombia; and

6. WHEREAS the Colombia government has recklessly engaged in chemical spraying in the Amazon rainforest area, causing injury to peasants and indigenous peoples and destroying their food crops, while threatening irreversible damage to the Amazon rainforest, heritage of mankind:
7. Now, therefore the 28th International Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom resolves as follows:

1. To declare support for the non-violent resistance to the Colombian government’s militaristic policies by grass-roots community organizations;

2. To oppose Plan Colombia and Plan Patriota and their implementation by the Colombian government;

3. To oppose amnesty for paramilitary forces without sanctions for their crimes and compensation for their victims;

4. To oppose fumigation of the Amazon rainforest and of peasant and indigenous peoples’ crops throughout Colombia;

5. To support and encourage LIMPAL Colombia in its opposition to the repressive, militaristic measures of the Uribe administration and in its support for grass-roots organizations pursuing peace and economic justice.

**Australian Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

We urge the Australian Government to re-commit to the reconciliation process with Australia’s Indigenous peoples by recognizing that Australia was settled without a treaty. We urge the Australian Government to commence a process of consultation with Indigenous Australians to establish an agreement/ or treaty to deal with the unfinished business of reconciliation and thereby unite all Australians. This Treaty/ Agreement could ultimately be enacted in legislation. We note that the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation provided a draft bill for this in its Final Report to Parliament ‘Reconciliation: Australia’s Challenge: 2000.’

In our view the Australian Government’s full commitment to the reconciliation process would be measured by the following basic actions:

1. Re-establishing a national representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, which the government has just introduced legislation to abolish);

2. Introducing legislation for a Referendum to change the Australian Constitution to recognize Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Australians & removing section 25 of the Australian Constitution which has racist ramifications;

3. Ongoing financial commitment to a framework for monitoring & addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

4. Enshrining the Declaration Toward Reconciliation & Roadmap for Reconciliation
2000 in legislation; and

5. Ongoing commitment to reconciliation education & awareness activities and organizations, at the local, state and national level.

We note that agencies such as the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, it’s successor Reconciliation Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Australian Senate as well as many prominent and ordinary Australians have called the Australian Government to account for its lack of commitment to the reconciliation process since coming to power in 1996.

**Urgent Call For Signatures To The Kyoto Protocol**

1. Recognizing the human right of everyone to enjoy clean air, a pure fresh water supply, and sufficient food free of contamination,

2. Alarmed at the degradation of much of the world’s environment and the danger to the health of all populations due to air pollution,

3. Bearing in mind that the Kyoto Protocol’s Agreement on greenhouse gas emissions is a responsible step forward in controlling pollution of the planet’s atmosphere,

4. Acknowledging that the requisite number of countries have now signed this protocol,

5. WILPF calls on non-signatories countries, and among them specifically to Australia and the United States of America, to sign and ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

**Just Payment of stolen wages to Indigenous Australian Peoples**

The WILPF 28th International Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom requests that international assistance be given to ensure that indigenous Australians who have had their wages held in trust under past state government schemes have their wages returned to them with an apology. We recommend that where such claimants are deceased that their wages should be paid to their families.

**On the Situation in Iraq**

This Congress condemns the US-led invasion and US and coalition intervention in Iraq and the continuing occupation.

We call on the governments of the US and of the coalition partners to immediately withdraw all troops and coalition private-sector military and military-related
contractors from Iraq. To minimize civil armed conflict, all these entities should take their weapons with them out of Iraq. No state has the right to interfere with the leadership and peoples of another sovereign state.

We call upon the UN and the international community to prosecute those responsible for crimes against humanity and for starting this illegal war. The international community should hold them responsible for the payment of reparations and for reconstruction.

We invite the solidarity of all peoples of the world to bring this occupation to an end and help the Iraqi people rebuild their country.