This Peace and Freedom Update includes campaigning ideas and things for members to do.

There are several enclosures including details of our Autumn Seminar on 1 December and a very comprehensive International report from our International Board member, Lorraine Mirham.

Autumn Seminar:
Women Peace and Security
Past Present and Future
Saturday 1 December
10.30 am to 4.30 pm.
Amnesty Human Rights Centre
New Inn Yard
London EC24 3EA
Katrina Gass and Helen Kay, WILPF historians, have organised this event, looking at our past achievements since our founding in 1915 and focussing on our current and future campaigning.

See registration form (enclosed).

Book early to secure your place and circulate details as widely as possible. This promises to be a really exciting event as we get ready to celebrate WILPF’s 100th. Birthday in 2015.

Janet Fenton
National President
As many of you know Janet has been unwell since the end of June. We have had no indication to date as to when Janet will be well enough to resume activity. Until Janet is well again, hoping that this is sooner rather than later, Jennifer Korty and Anne Scott, the two Vice Presidents, will be undertaking some of the President’s tasks, but do not wish to be known as Acting President. Many members have sent Janet cards, letters and emails for which she is very appreciative and has asked for her thanks to be passed on.

Anne Scott and Jennifer Korty

At the AGM and Seminar March 2012
CAMPAIGNING


Since the end of June the Scottish Branch has been working mainly on their “Educating about UNSCR 1325” Campaign. To date we have had little evidence that our Members of the Scottish Parliament understood their responsibilities under UNSCR 1325.

We started with a group writing a leaflet ‘Peace through Inclusion: Scotland’ which was printed in a high quality professionally designed and laid out format. We sent a copy to all Scottish MSPs and MPs. We have had no responses from MSPs but we have been reliably informed that they concentrate on constituency matters over the summer and national matters once Parliament is again in session. We have had two positive responses from MPs and one passing on of the letter to the MP whose constituency the office is in and three from women MPs.

It was also sent out to all UKWILPF Executive members and to Scottish Branch members who are unable to attend meetings, and distributed to participating partner organisations at the July meeting of the Edinburgh Peace Initiative (EPI).

In addition all participants at the first Engender ‘Inspiring Scottish Women’ Seminar were given copies. 250 have been requested by the Scottish TUC for the delegates’ packs for their November conference and 160 have been given for the EPI conference. Groups and individuals who we hope to work with us in the future were invited to a Social evening in August, in the Board room at 4 Hunter Square, where renting a desk from UNA is helping us develop a good working relationship with them.

A development plan for our campaign was drawn up and we held a meeting in September on the SCR 1325 plan and future work, with those working on the campaign meeting regularly together. Since then events have overtaken us and we were requested by ‘Scotland’s for Peace’ to write a letter to all female SNP MSPs linking SCR 1325 and defence obligations if Scotland achieves independence. As a result of this work Helen Kay was invited to speak about 1325 to a UNA Women’s lunch and we hope to continue this type of work.

The campaign was generously funded by a grant from the Norwegian Government via International WILPF. We are very grateful for this as we have learnt in the past that high quality leaflets are needed for campaigning at parliamentary level. We have now used most of the leaflets and spent all the money so the next step will be fundraising to pay for more leaflets.

Anne Scott
What WILPF can do against Human Trafficking

London WILPF has spent a year examining different aspects of Human Trafficking in the UK; this has led to a number of achievements by the active members.

- Alex Murrell raised awareness with the Chinese Community Centre in Soho who deal with Chinese trafficking.
- She has also flagged up a number of recommendations to the GLA from the recent police reports, mainly the Acumen report.
- Martha Jean Baker works with the European Women's Lobby which is meeting on trafficking and also in raising awareness with Romanian women, who are considering setting up a Romanian WILPF Section.
- Priscilla Nyathi works with the police in Southend and has spoken to a UNA meeting and the GLA about particular cases. She has raised concerns about the lack of training for Border Agency staff at smaller airports such as Southend.
- Diane Brace has contacted the Human Trafficking Foundation and the Anti Trafficking Monitoring Group.
- Both Jane Grant and Diane have liaised with the police who are responsible for the protection of vulnerable people.
- Both Alex and Diane attended ‘Stop the Traffick’ events and handed out leaflets in London sites as well as discussed the stories that were on the Giftbox exhibitions.
- Jane ensured we had a dialogue with Len Duvall GLA member for Greenwich. Jane has also helped by reading and highlighting the content of a report.
- Catherine Pluygers set up a joint UNA/ LONDONWILPF meeting on Human Trafficking at the Women’s Resource Centre which raised the question of the trafficking of African women.

There are three parts to lobbying to end trafficking - prevention, protection and punishment. The branch is considering which one to campaign on with the most effective outcome.

It hopes too that WILPF will produce postcards to send to MPs, and MEPs, calling for a commissioner in every EU country to be responsible for trafficking matters and ensure that all the relevant people are working in collaboration.

We are finding out if the Olympics did cause an increase in trafficking or even a decrease in the numbers coming into the UK.

Alexandra Murrell

Honouring Conscientious Objectors

London WILPF attended and laid flowers at the Hiroshima and Conscientious Objectors’ Days in August.

Jane Grant has been representing London WILPF on a group of peace organisations set up by the Peace Pledge Union. The main purpose of this group is to produce a briefing/publication or downloadable resource which will ensure that Conscientious Objectors and peace organisations are represented in the centenary commemoration of World War I. (they most certainly were not in the recently announced preliminary centennial plans). This resource will be available for the press and media and will highlight the work of the organisations both during World War I and since. There are also plans for:
• a worker to promote this witness in schools against armed conflict.
• the compilation of a speakers' list
• a much enhanced CO Commemoration Day ceremony (held annually in Tavistock Square) on May 15 2014 and
• a silent vigil on August 4 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm on the steps of St Martins-in-the-Fields.

It has been good to be part of such an impressive group of organisations which includes the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Peace News, the Peace Pledge Union and WILPF. Between us we are custodians of a rich history of which not enough is known. London WILPF has kept closely in touch with WILPF historian Helen Kay, feeding in some of the papers she has written and ensuring WILPF’s foremothers feature as prominently as possible. The branch hopes that national WILPF will want to give the project its full backing.

Jane Grant

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WILPF Campaigning Against Drones

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or “Drones”, are in the news, with articles in the press and appearances at this year’s Farnborough Air Show.

UK WILPF is concerned that Drones, directed by RAF pilots from a US air force base in Nevada, are being used in Afghanistan. Around 300 laser-guided Hellfire missiles and bombs have already been directed at suspected insurgents, but civilians, including women and children, have been killed. Drones raise issues of international law, and of ethics and morality.

Reaper Drones, operating in Afghanistan, will soon be controlled from a base in the UK; RAF Waddington near Lincoln. On June 2nd this year a group of WILPF members, led by Janet Fenton, WILPF President, travelled to Lincoln to see the RAF base at Waddington and give WILPF anti-Drone leaflets to people in Lincoln. Helen John, a veteran WILPF peace campaigner, has set up a peace camp at the Waddington air base.

Sheffield WILPF has had a stall at a local fair focusing on Drones with leaflets and a letter for the public to sign. They will be repeating the action at another fair in November.

Brighton branch had a WILPF speaker and held a lively discussion about Drones at their Garden Party. They have drafted the enclosed letter for you to send to your MP.

Several Orpington branch members went to Waddington on 2nd June. They had a talk about Drones at their Garden Party in July, and for Drones Action Week, 6th – 13th October, held a street stall and gave out leaflets and collected signatures on a petition.

WILPF demonstrates at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire
The Drone Campaign Network (www.dronecampaignnetwork.org.uk) has organised this week of action on Drones. You can get leaflets, posters, petitions and background papers from them and take action at any time:

- Organise a street stall to raise awareness and collect signatures against the growing use of Drones
- Sign and promote the national petition you can download from the website
- Hold a public meeting on the issue (WILPF can help with speakers)
- Send the enclosed letter to your local MP about the issue and encourage others to do the same.

Sheila Triggs

The Whistleblower

This harrowing film has been shown in several places in the UK and elsewhere by now and its powerful messages have prompted some people to join WILPF, they felt so strongly about it. Branches have been showing it to mixed audiences that included non-members.

In Orpington 300 leaflets were handed out in the High Street the week before they showed the film, one leaflet promoting the film, the other to highlight the exploitation of foreign workers in the making of sports clothing and sponsorship from military suppliers, both of which were relevant to the London Olympics. They had pictures from the film up in a space behind them and the venue had posters displayed to advertise the showing.

The audience number was good with somewhere around 50 people, who included some men and people from like-minded groups. Afterwards the discussion was introduced by Sheila Triggs who had researched on the UN Peacekeepers website, which informed her that peacekeepers come under their home country’s jurisdiction and included statements on peacekeeping and whistleblowing. The showing of the film led to having a speaker at one of their branch meetings who herself had been a whistleblower. She had visited some 200 care homes undercover and had since written a book ‘Beyond the Façade’.

In the Brighton, Hove and District branch the film was shown to a rather small but interested group of members, (other groups had been invited but sadly did not attend). There was a discussion afterwards and as can be imagined women felt depressed, angry and saddened. Two new members joined WILPF at the B,H and District branch’s AGM, having seen the film elsewhere, which prompted them to seek WILPF out when they moved to the area recently. It is likely that the branch will try to show the film again but with increased publicity, extending the invitation to include Trade Unions, the Women's Centre as well as other like-minded groups. The local independent cinema was prepared to show
it at a price that was unfortunately unaffordable.

Leicester’s showing of the film was in a religious hall, as the people involved there are supporting vulnerable women and the WILPF group wanted to make the links with trafficking. The Soroptomists and people working against domestic violence were invited to join the audience and the feeling was of shock at the lack of accountability of the UN troops. This led to a discussion about the research that was done in the 90’s about domestic violence in garrison towns, making the links with militarism and domestic violence. They hope to show the film again and hold a conference on trafficking to include public service workers concerned with violence against women across the Midlands.

Sheffield branch have shown the film along with Amnesty International to an audience of about 30, mostly young people. Those running a project to help prostitutes in the city were particularly interested and hope to show the film to their workers. The branch recruited new members and they intend to have a follow-up meeting regarding trafficking in November.

London branch are expecting to show the film in October some time so will report on their experience in due course.

Jenny Engledow

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

This campaign marks the third year of action on the advocacy on the intersections of gender-based violence and militarism.

The theme is *Peace in the World, let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women*. The priority areas are:

- **Violence perpetrated by State Actors**
- **Domestic Violence and the role of Small Arms**
- **Sexual Violence during and post conflict.**

In preparation for the 16 days campaign - 25 November to 10 December, several Branches in the UK have screened *The Whistleblower* film and London WILPF have focussed on trafficking (see p.3). WILPF International will be supporting Sections with materials and setting up a 26 Days blog.


Voices of African Women

The VoAW campaign is working closely with *Make Every Women Count* (MEWC) on an event to mark the second anniversary of the African Women’s Decade and the twelfth anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325; ‘Women Peace and Security’. MEWC runs a vibrant website: [www.makeeverywomancount.org](http://www.makeeverywomancount.org)
which highlights the progress of African women working for women’s rights and gender equality. All are welcome to SOAS, London University, on 31st October 7-9 pm when WILPF members Rai Sow, (MEWC), Marie Lyse Numuhoza, Marie Claire Faray (VoAW) and Mama Khadija Hussein (Sudanese Mothers for Peace), will make illustrated presentations of the important achievements of African women in the Diaspora and on the continent. Chitra Nagaraja from the Gender Action for Peace and Security will talk about SCR1325. There will be time for discussion and a reception at the end of the event.

SOAS Student Society
This has made a promising start this academic year. There are currently five women - two undergraduates and three postgraduates representing WILPF at the university. At the start of the term Rebecca Grindele and Illiana Stoianova did a fantastic job holding a stall at the fresher’s fayre, obtaining 72 signatures. I was really pleased to hear how rewarding the experience was as they both maintained how enthusiastic students were. Young women either new to or familiar with the society’s past achievements happily engaged with Rebecca and Illiana on how to get involved.

I then arranged a first meeting to run through campaign material, highlighting five points upon which they could chose to focus and Rebecca provided a brief history of WILPF.

The new members plan to screen the Whistleblower during the 16 Days of Action in November. One of the members who is now a president of the society is from Bosnia and was particularly keen to raise awareness on trafficking before her introduction to WILPF. Now with our support she can spread the message throughout the student network.

The members are also committed to promoting the Drone campaigning. Having not been aware of the base at Waddington, they were disturbed and especially keen to involve students on the Violence, Conflict and Development masters course at SOAS.

One member who is now secretary of the society took a special liking to the Voices of African Women campaign. Fanni Rintakumpu, Lizzie Robertson, Sophie Chew, Beth Jellicoe and Stacey Carmichael have agreed to share the titles of president and secretary. The meeting was such a success that I am truly eager to continue to support them from the outside as a former student and will remain the society’s link to WILPF. Promotion for Reclaim the Night has already begun. They would like to march collectively with other women’s societies at SOAS, as well as WILPF women from outside the university. They are very excited about this term’s plans which look set to be full of action.

Holly Ahom

FUNDRAISING
Money… money ….money
They say, “Money makes the world go round”. It is certainly essential to WILPF’s campaigning work and enables us to be an effective international body. So we must “put our money where our mouth is” and here are a number of ways you can do this.

1. Appeal for International Travel Fund
In February 2013 one of our new Sections, Spain, is hosting an important international meeting of WILPF women representing their countries and contributing to discussions and decisions about WILPF and our peace campaigning. The
international travel fund enables women to travel from Sections that do not have sufficient resources to send their representatives. We are inviting you to send donations for the travel fund to the WILPF Trust, using the enclosed gift aid form.

2. Quilt Raffle
UK WILPF Vice President and Scottish branch activist Anne Scott has produced his stunning quilt.

The colours are purple, green and white and it could be yours for a £2 raffle ticket. 3 for £5 (use form attached).

3. Sustain the WILPF office
We hope that those members who feel able will take out a regular standing order for the Office Account to help us to plan ahead and maximise the work that the office can do to support and extend our campaign work. A standing order form is enclosed.

4. Buy from WILPF
Housman’s peace diaries, white poppies for peace, WILPF pens, T-shirts and bags with the Picasso peace drawing are all available from the office. We can also send you campaigning leaflets. Give us a ring.

5. Bring gifts to sell at the Autumn Seminar.

Enclosed with this Update you will find:

- A Standing Order form for the WILPF office account.
- A Gift Aid Declaration for donations to WILPF’s Charitable Trust.

WILPF Charitable Trust News
You can raise money for the WILPF Charitable Trust every time you shop online. You can do this through “Give as you Live”. The stores you shop with online donate, and it costs you nothing.

With Give as you Live, thousands of brands including Amazon, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to us. All at no cost to you and at no cost to the Trust. The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online. In addition to the £2.10 raised per month, Give as you Live will donate an additional £5 once you spend £10 or more through Give as you Live. Simply visit http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/womensinternationalleague and discover Give as you Live today.

Please consider signing up today and pass this message on to your family and friends!

You can sign up to shop for the WILPF Charitable Trust here:
http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/womensinternationalleague
You can find out more about how it works here:
http://www.giveasyoulive.com/howitworks

Treasurer for Trustees needed
The Trust is looking to fill the position of Treasurer as well as additional Trustee positions. Trustees must support the objectives of the WILPF Trust but do not have to be WILPF members and do not have to be women. We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone interested in the role of Treasurer. Please note that the Trust currently has external support to assist with the preparation of its accounts and to support the Treasurer. If you are interested or would like to find out more about the Trust please contact Deirdre, Trust Secretary, at deirdre.adrian@virgin.net