



WILPF RESOLUTIONS

31st Congress
The Hague, the Netherlands
2015

During the WILPF International Congress 2015, held in The Hague, the Netherlands, the following resolutions were adopted:

The Human Right to Health and Safe Food

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Recalls that health and nutrition are basic rights recognised by the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Alarmed that the modern food production system that relies on inputs such as chemical fertilisers and pesticides causes damage to the soil, crops and to the whole ecosystem;

Understands that since 1993, Monsanto has been aware that even middle and low doses of glyphosate, found in Roundup, can cause malformations, disease and birth defects;

Notes that trace amounts of glyphosate can occur on raw, cooked and processed food and contribute to accumulating body burden of harmful chemicals over a lifetime;

Highlights that critical information on the dire effects of agricultural chemicals has been withheld from the public;

Highlights that women are responsible for the majority of food production and are therefore exposed to exploitation by international corporations;

Argues that by allowing corporate profits based on deception, withholding of information and the failure of nations to regulate the use of harmful products, nations are denying basic human rights;

Asserts that when basic human rights are denied and corporations are allowed to cause devastating effects to the world and its people, political, economic and social instability results, and this undermines the very basis for peace and freedom in the world;

Believes that whereas the current moratorium in the EU on herbicides containing neonicotinoids, produced by Bayer AG Germany, NIPPON Soda Ltd Japan and DuPont US among others, demonstrates that such measures are feasible and that citizen action can inspire such decisions;

Calls for the ban of all glyphosate-based herbicides;

Insists that those corporations and governments that have dispersed these poisons be liable for clean up and compensation for impacts on human health;

Pledge to collaborate with other organisations that address these concerns.

Girl Soldiers

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Recognises that an estimated 300,000 children (boys and girls) under the age of 18 are involved in more than 30 conflicts worldwide, nearly half of which are girls;

Notes that although international agreements prohibit the use of children as soldiers, recruiting them for armed forces continues;

Is mindful that armed conflicts and the trafficking and proliferation of small arms and light weapons facilitate the use of children in combat;

Deplores that girls are used as combatants, messengers, porters and cooks and are forced into sex;

Notes that trafficking of children is violence and a violation of human rights that constitutes an infringement to the Convention on the Rights of Children;

Notes that in some countries child soldiers can be refused asylum on the grounds of involvement in war crimes. However there are international precedents in which residency permits and support can be provided to child soldiers as victims of human trafficking, a practice that WILPF endorses;

Argues that, while some demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR) programmes pay special attention to child soldiers, in general the interests of child soldiers often remain unattended;

Recognises that girls voluntarily or involuntarily joining irregular armed forces face very specific problems, dissimilar from what the standard perceptions of a "soldier" experiences and that challenges facing girl soldiers remain generally without recognition.

Advocates for former girl soldiers to obtain asylum or residency, and that states share best practices regarding the treatment of girl soldiers that are refugees and seek asylum or residency;

Press the United Nations and relevant national authorities to provide training and support for girl ex-soldiers.

Protecting Democracy and the Public Interest from Secret Trade Agreements

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Expresses concern that the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) encompass most of the world's economy and affect 1.5 billion people, yet are being negotiated in secret between governments and corporate lobbyists;

Believes these agreements enable the transfer of wealth from public to private sectors, putting investors' rights over the rights of people, communities and nations;

Rejects the Investor-to-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which puts corporations on an equal footing with national governments, whereby foreign multinational corporations can bypass domestic courts to sue a national government in a secret international court, claiming national laws adversely affect their profits;

Condemns the "Regulatory Coherence" provision, whereby each TPP country and the EU Commission under the TTIP must adjust their regulations to match provisions of the agreement, meaning many nations will be forced to lower their standards;

Believes these agreements will exacerbate global warming and extreme weather events by increasing long-distance transport of goods, through moving jobs and manufacturing to countries with low labour standards and environmental laws;

Believes these agreements will adversely impact families and workers by lowering safe food, agricultural and chemical use standards, decrease affordable generic medicine and healthcare, privatise and increase the cost of essential public services, challenge government protections for workers, consumers, and the environment, and reject financial regulation;

Calls for the immediate public release of the complete texts of the TPPA and TTIP;

Calls for the rejection of the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions; and

Demands fair trade based on human rights, democratic principles and social, economic, gender and climate justice.

Yemen

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Condemns the bombing and blockading of Yemen by a coalition of ten countries, the latest destabilising attack in the Middle East and North Africa region, following death and destruction in Gaza, Syria, Libya, Bahrain, Mali, Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan;

Condemns the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in Yemen, which cause severe harm to individuals and communities and further suffering by damaging vital infrastructure;

Believes that while waged under the pretext of fighting "terrorism" or the so-called "responsibility to protect" these wars are motivated by access to resources and strategic power;

Sees that such wars leave behind destabilized and failed states and devastated societies;

Calls for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire and urgent development assistance to strengthen the sovereignty and self-government of Yemen;

Calls on states to cease arms transfers to those countries involved in the bombing of Yemen and all parties involved in the conflict.

Russia and Ukraine

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Expresses concern about ongoing tension between Russia, Ukraine, and the Eastern European region, which is exacerbated and provoked by NATO military exercises and proposed expansion;

Expresses alarm at aggressive and violent language that demonises leaders and sabotages dialogue and the building of diplomatic relations;

Condemns the use of explosive weapons in populated areas by all parties in the Ukraine conflict, which has killed hundreds of civilians and prevented the provision of food, water, medicine, and shelter to civilians;

Calls on states to cease arms transfers to all parties involved in the conflict in Ukraine;

Demands the full implementation of the Minsk II ceasefire, disarmament, and dialogue agreement of February 2015 negotiated between the Ukraine, Russia, France, and Germany and overseen by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Peace

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Expresses alarm that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are the highest in history, the atmosphere and oceans have warmed, snow and ice cover have diminished, sea levels have risen;

Expresses further alarm by the lack of action in the second half of this critical decade to avert catastrophic climate change that will have severe, pervasive, and irreversible impacts on agriculture, food security, fresh water, human health, and the ecosystems on which all life depends;

Recognises that clean water is a precious resource and a fundamental human right, which needs to be protected and freely available to all;

Recognises that climate change has a disproportionate effect on the poor, women, Indigenous peoples, coastal and small island communities, such as those in the Pacific, including Takuu, Kiribati and Tuvalu;

Also recognise that military production, consumption, exercises and war are intensive greenhouse gas emitting accelerators of climate change and extreme weather events;

Calls for governments to urgently commit to ambitious targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions towards zero carbon economies;

Calls for all organisations to divest from fossil fuel investments;

Calls for climate refugee status to be recognised in International Law;

Demands the participation of women experts and representatives of impacted communities in climate mitigation and adaptation policy negotiations at the December 2015 Conference of Parties in Paris that will set a new global framework for combatting climate change;

Calls for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Recalling all previous resolutions supporting the urgent negotiation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East;

Notes that of the twelve countries in the Middle East, only Israel has nuclear weapons;

Notes that 67% of the planet is now covered by zones free of weapons of mass destruction;

Believes the conclusion of negotiations with Iran on nuclear issues provides an opportune time for an international conference on a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East;

Regrets that the Helsinki Conference on a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East agreed by the 2010 NPT Review Conference has been postponed several times;

Calls for the continuation of efforts to establish a conference to advance a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East.

Constitution of Nepal

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Notes that Nepal has been in a state of transition since 2006 and that the drafting of a democratic constitution has been prolonged while ethnic conflict and violence against women have both increased;

Calls on the political parties of Nepal to complete the drafting of a new democratic and inclusive constitution and promulgate it in 2015; and

Calls on the government of Nepal to end the impunity for perpetrators of unprecedented violence against women, dowry-killings, domestic violence and murder.

Seeking Asylum Is a Human Right

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22-24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Alarmed by the tragic deaths of thousands of asylum seekers every year (most recently 800 people drowning off the coast of Tripoli) in the Mediterranean sea, the most deadly border worldwide;

Appalled by the decisions of the special summit of European leaders held during our Congress, refusing to install a permanent European sea rescue mission and also refusing again to build legal pathways for refugees to come to Europe;

Concerned by European policies attempting to deter migrants from entering Europe, and the policies of other governments persecuting those seeking the human right to asylum;

Calls for

- safe pathways for refugees to seek asylum when entering a new country;
- increased funding for humanitarian assistance for refugees;
- cessation to the demonization of migrants;
- integration policies that include migrants as full-fledged members of society;
- and
- an end to impunity for crimes against migrants and refugees.

Sudan

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22–24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Extremely concerned about the present situation of instability, human rights violations and armed conflict in Sudan, particularly in Darfur, Blue Nile and Kordofan;

Concerned by the election in Sudan on 13 April 2015 recognised as invalid by the EU and other entities;

Concerned by reports of meetings between opposition political parties and warring factions that may challenge the new government by violent force;

Concerned that the government of Sudan has boycotted the African Union and internationally facilitated dialogue opportunities;

Concerned that the situation in Sudan may have an impact on upcoming elections in other African countries, such as Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and DRC;

Calls for a continued national dialogue that could lead to a transitional all party government in Sudan with the aim of avoiding more bloodshed, poverty and displacement, and creating a stable society for future generations;

Calls for a continued inclusive national peace dialogue leading to conflict resolution, peace building, reconstruction and a transitional all party government in Sudan.

Recognising Nuclear Tests in Polynesia as Crimes Against Humanity

The 31st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 22–24 April 2015 in The Hague, the Netherlands:

Recalls previous resolutions concerning the disastrous consequences from nuclear testing for site workers, people and the environment, including those arising from the 193 atmospheric and underground tests in Mururoa and Fangataufa between 1966 and 1996;

Notes that ever since the shutdown of the nuclear testing sites there has been a lack of transparency from the French Army and no real guarantees were given at the sanitary or environmental level to the Polynesian people;

Emphasises that nuclear tests are not only a burden inherited from the past, but also a "time bomb," as recent studies show terrifying potential for seismic activity to disturb poorly secured storage of radioactive materials and release radiation into the Pacific ocean;

Calls for the implementation of an international research board to study all present and future consequences of nuclear tests in French Polynesia, be they social, sanitary, environmental; and

Demands that the secrecy of the Moruroa archives be lifted.