



## WILPF RESOLUTIONS

32nd Congress  
Accra, Ghana  
2018

During the WILPF International Congress 2018, held in Accra, Ghana, the following omnibus resolutions were adopted:

### **On Militarism**

**Call for Actions in Solidarity for all WILPF Sections, Groups, and members to organise and campaign, where appropriate and relevant in their regions, against acts of violence and aggression by working to formally dismantle the industries that contribute to war and conflict, and negative environmental factors arising out of misplaced governmental priorities and contributing violations of human rights and degradation of the human condition.**

**RESOLUTION ON MILITARISM AND DISARMAMENT** as these issues affect the environment, governmental and corporate priorities, human rights obligations and the resultant migratory movements of populations fleeing and populations accepting those displaced, noting disproportionately gendered violence.

### **PREAMBLE:**

Our long and noble history has consistently drawn attention to the links between systems of injustice, inequality, racism, militarism, and patriarchy as fuelling global and individual insecurity. We have been the linking voice reminding that violence kills, displaces and negatively impacts all of humanity; that militarism is deforming our societies, violating rights, irreversibly damaging our environment, and devastating public health; and that the economy of war and economic warfare puts profits over people and over the planet.

Now, more than ever, when the global arms trade is valued at over 375 billion USD per year and global military spending as a whole reached 1.68 trillion USD in 2017, our founding cry is palpably relevant.

We must oppose the continued existence, possession, testing, development, modernisation, and potential of, or threat of, using nuclear weapons due to their catastrophic, intergenerational humanitarian and environmental consequences. Having witnessed the recent uses of chemical weapons, as well as ongoing use of

incendiary weapons, depleted uranium, and other toxic materials that lead to human suffering and environmental contamination, we must stand up against such acts. We must double our efforts for disarmament when conventional weapons, especially small arms and light weapons, are being used to perpetrate acts of sexual or gender-based violence as a tactic of war to deliberately target civilians.

We must renew the energy and zeal of our fore-mothers while the terrifying and continued development of technologies of violence and increasing weaponisation of technology, including armed drones, autonomous weapons, and cyber technologies, looms large on our horizon.

It is vital that we condemn and counteract the role that heavily militarised governments play in supporting human rights abusers around the world, leading to human security disasters.

We know that foreign military bases are the principal instruments of imperial global domination and primary causes of devastating environmental and health impacts through wars of aggression and occupation. We know that acts of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, are common in and around foreign military bases and we know that the United States maintains the highest number of military bases outside of its territory (approximately 95% of all foreign military bases). Thus, we must campaign for an end of military bases and support the work of the international coalition against military bases.

War, along with military production, consumption, and exercises, are intensive greenhouse gas-emitting accelerators of climate change, which is an inherent factor in global harm, displacement of peoples, and conflict; therefore, it is a direct violence in itself.

We are all too familiar with military requisites for raw materials, leading to exploitative extraction and transportation through an expansive global supply chain and contributing to climate change as well as protections for multinational corporations.

The connections between militarism, environmental degradation, and resource conflicts are rife, escalating, and rapacious. We must renew our condemnations of these aggressive policies while elevating and unifying our calls for renewable energy strategies and implementation in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is time to act in the spirit of our heritage, our intentions, and our most passionate beliefs.

**On this basis, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 20–22 August 2018 in Accra, Ghana, invites WILPF Sections, Groups, and members to:**

*Highlight* the connections between militarised masculinities and the use and proliferation of weapons;

*Call on* all governments to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and work to ensure their own government joins, implements, and promotes the Treaty;

*Call on* governments and civil society entities to divest their funds from nuclear weapons, to encourage universalisation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to demand an end to nuclear weapon modernisation, and to pursue other effective measures for nuclear disarmament;

*Urge* governments to redirect funds spent on weapons and war to meet human and environmental needs, including those set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*Urge* all governments to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty as a means to prevent armed conflict, prevent the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and significantly reduce the culture and economy of militarism;

*Demand* governments cease or refrain from arms transfers to conflict zones, situations where human rights or International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations are occurring or are likely to occur, including acts of gender-based violence, and where explosive weapons are being used in populated areas;

*Urge* governments, UN agencies and civil society entities to work towards environmental remediation of areas affected by conflict and the use or testing of weapons, and to work to provide assistance to victims and survivors of conflict and the use or testing of weapons;

*Demand* all governments and non-state armed groups end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and encourage governments to develop an international commitment against bombing towns and cities;

*Urge* all governments to negotiate an international, legally binding, instrument to prohibit the development of autonomous weapons;

*Urge* governments to develop international standards on armed drones that ensures respect for human rights and international law, increases transparency, and recognises the ethical, legal, and humanitarian concerns raised by drones, including risks and the patterns of harm caused by current use;

*Demand* all states cease or refrain from extrajudicial killings as well as so-called “signature” strikes with armed drones and all other means and methods;

*Call on* governments to stop the militarisation of cyber space by not utilising digital technologies as a weapon or means of attack or to provoke conflict, and by eliminating the offensive role of these technologies in military and security strategies;

*Further call on* all actors to refrain from undertaking or facilitating any repression of human rights or freedoms through digital means;

*Campaign for* the closure and elimination of US, NATO, and other foreign military bases as an important step towards a just, peaceful and sustainable world, and support the First International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases to be held in Dublin, Ireland in November 2018;

*Call for* an end of the use of depleted uranium, incendiary weapons, chemical weapons, and other toxic materials;

*Urge* governments to develop renewable energy portfolios and shift away from reliance on fossil fuels and the related conflicts over rapidly depleting natural resources;

*Urge* states to commit to weapons of mass destruction free zones, particularly in tension areas like the Middle East, while pushing for the TPNW world-wide;

*Urge* governments, UN agencies, and civil society entities to recognise the gendered impacts of certain weapons; incorporate gender analysis into disarmament initiatives; and to work to ensure the full, effective, and equal participation of women and other non-male-identified people in disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation;

*Call on governments/governing bodies, like the EU, to cease the appropriation of infrastructure and development funds (previously protected) for military expenses;*

*Call on universities, technical training institutions and development companies to commit to not develop, contribute, sell, or permit their products or services to be used as components in systems or apparatus for destructive or violent uses, and to encourage students to do the same;*

*Call on scientists to refuse work on technologies directly linked to arms development or further weaponisation of technology, and to express their objection to military use of dual-use technologies;*

*Urge civil society to demand of their governments that no arms should be developed with their taxes nor for profit;*

*Advocate for the most impoverished and marginalised populations whose young men and women are systematically recruited into the armed forces, which dehumanise via the acts of killing, torturing, and general warfare; and*

*Speak out against the militarisation tactics used to empower gangs, cartels, and paramilitary groups and acknowledge that such societal violence does not differ from conflict.*

## **On Migration**

**Call for Actions in Solidarity for all WILPF Sections, Groups, and members to organise and campaign, where appropriate and relevant in their regions, against acts of violence and aggression by working to formally dismantle the industries that contribute to war and conflict, human displacement and migration, and negative environmental factors arising out of misplaced governmental priorities and contributing violations of human rights and degradation of the human condition.**

**RESOLUTION ON HUMAN MIGRATION** as affected by environmental degradation, militarism, human rights violations, and misplaced governmental and corporate priorities, noting disproportionately gendered violence.

### **PREAMBLE:**

Across centuries, people have migrated to flee war, hunger, unrelenting poverty, and political oppression, seeking asylum or a better quality of life. Migration is not a new phenomenon. Today, we are witnesses to massive amounts of death and suffering of migrants. The Mediterranean Sea is becoming a huge cemetery; children are separated from their families when crossing the US border, and their parents are treated as criminals; countries are building detention centres; women are raped; and, over and over, refugee rights established by international law are being violated. A new kind of war is unfolding before us, whose objective is the potential denial of the humanity of others and ourselves. As our fore-mothers did in 1915, we must identify and denounce the roots of this type of war and, above all, develop and disseminate a statement proposing alternatives to the current state of affairs. It is not easy in our global world to isolate the root causes of displacement, which have developed in a multidimensional network where many factors are intertwined. But some outstanding tendencies are in the roots:

- a) Increasing inequality (the feminisation of poverty, intersecting vulnerabilities, sexual and economic exploitation), and only capital-gains development agendas for profit of the elite in power;
- b) Military budgets (nuclear and conventional) oriented to maintain political and economic power, militarised fortress-like borders as a means to fight terrorism and criminalise migration, expenses/investments extracted from countries' budgets, free movement for commodified products but not for labour, undermining the ability to create a state for the common good of all, forcing people to migrate, but not for human security;

- c) Economic activities that destroy natural ecosystems on which all life depends, including extreme extraction of minerals, water, petroleum products, and destruction of forests, all of which aggravates climate change, thus robbing populations of their traditional means of living, while forcing them from their territories;
- d) Promotion of a dominant patriarchy, focusing on conflicts (ideological, beliefs, interests, etc.) as a win-lose struggle leading to sexual re-victimisation and re-traumatisation of women and others who have already experienced male violence;
- e) Elitism and desire for exclusivity of population sectors that have a “good life”, manipulated by unscrupulous leaders seeking power over others, who foster a culture of fear and policies which deny values built with difficulty by generations: justice, freedom, equality, human rights, and respect for nature;
- f) A total loss of humanity of political leaders in speaking and acting on the issue of migration, “blaming the victim”, and a significant rise of racism, xenophobia, othering, the building of extreme political tendencies/parties/governments, pushing fear, and stereotyping are further polarising the political climate;
- g) Unstable, corrupt, or disrupted governance in some countries negatively impacts the rights and quality of life of citizens, as well as the proliferation and illegal circulation of weapons exposing people to total insecurity.

We bring this urgent initiative because the lives of many people, and also international law, are at risk. A climate of fear of the Other is being pushed by some leaders, and people are being co-opted by them. The rapidly-changing political climate in many countries is the subject of high-level discussions. Proposals and projects, which previously seemed absurd and against the law, human rights obligations, and international conventions are all being put forth, so that Europe, a continent once the bulwark of human rights and the rule of international law, is now showing its worst face, while US policy is even worse.

Migration affects women in a particular way. Committed to the maintenance of life around them, and the lives of human beings and nature, women, out of desperation, seeking a better life for their children, are forced to emigrate. A variety of fates await them, many of which are unfavourable. At the same time, women are leaders within the movements that defend land and human rights. We should invest in a culture of

integrative dialogue, a climate of tolerance and welcome, and guaranteed human rights standards for the benefit of whole societies and their coherence.

**Learning from affected women, and joining them, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 20–22 August 2018 in Accra, Ghana, proposes this resolution:**

**WILPF calls on governments and leaders of destination countries to:**

- Guarantee safe and legal access to destination countries, supporting other countries of first arrival, and sharing the burden amongst all potential recipient nations;
- Not build “anchor” centres, or concentration camps for refugees and migrants in any nations where migrants are either in transit or arriving at any stages;
- Base all interventions in countries of origin on a gender-sensitive conflict analysis, on the multi-vulnerability of women, with special attention to real needs;
- Create perspectives for a sustainable and just future, empowering women as agents of change;
- Disarm for a culture of dialogue, instead of militarisation and securitisation;
- Abolish the policy of systematic return to first country of asylum, while recognising and taking responsibility for the established lives/rights of refugees under their jurisdictions;
- Cease the return to “countries of origin” of children of asylum seekers who have known no other country, while using petty crimes by young adults as an excuse for deportation;
- Move the money from war to peace, investing in infrastructures (schools, hospitals, roads), regenerate depleted forests, ensure provision of water in the communities, etc.

**WILPF calls on nations to:**

- Respect and strengthen international covenants and other documents protective of fundamental rights and prevent further dismantling of rights and freedoms, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that provides for the rights of people to cross borders;
- Invest in education, present and promote alternatives of integration, empowerment of migrants, engaging Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in those efforts;
- Promote and encourage transfers of technology that would allow millions of people to no longer move to seek quality training and would enable



underdeveloped countries to have the means to produce wealth for the well-being of their populations.

**WILPF calls on governments and political leaders to:**

- Present legal instruments and regional integration of laws on migration;
- Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and assure specific commitments for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and National Action Plans on Security Council resolution 1325 on the local, regional, and national levels;
- Combat trafficking, new forms of slavery, and discrimination based on religion, ethnicity or any other ground recognised under International Human Rights Law;
- Not imprison refugees, but respect international conventions against torture.

**WILPF calls on nations to:**

- Put in place regional/national/community policies to combat the proliferation and illicit circulation of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that fuel wars and thereby victimise vulnerable populations who are then forced to migrate.

**WILPF calls on civil society, all WILPF Sections and other kindred organisations in destination and transit nations to:**

- Challenge hostility and fear against refugees of the populations in potentially-recipient nations through use of positive images of migrants to dispel feelings of fear or greed and highlight the root causes of a global situation that forces people to migrate, by initiating positive campaigns involving art, literature and cultural exchanges;
- Strengthen political knowledge and electoral monitoring in the spirit of “Women Vote Peace”;
- Open new social media channels, cooperate with alternative media to promote and distribute positive stories of migration; begin positive campaigns, together with others in civil society, to support integration measures and positive media reports;
- Oppose extremist political development, exclusion and stereotyping where they occur, and encourage solidarity between women in crisis, using new ways to create positive images and new ways for interaction (not just political advocacy and mandates) that establish and maintain welcoming climates for refugees and respect human rights;
- Involve migrating and refugee women in peace talks and support the refugee communities’ taking active roles in decision-making and having the capacity

to strategise safe, dignified and voluntary return to countries and areas of origin, if appropriate and safe to do so;

- Build networks with women in all destination and transit countries against poverty, new claims of “patriotism” (with strong tendencies of exclusion and growing fascism), and new walls, while fighting against economic imperialism as a root cause of the economic crisis, using feminist economy and care policies as the basis;
- Support legal advocacy to accompany refugees in actions to stop, and demand accountability for, rights violations.

**WILPF calls on governments to:**

- Honour systems of asylum for those seeking protection at their borders;
- Resist government practices of privatising the establishment, expansion, and administration of immigrant detention centres, end all government or privately based detention of minors and families, and investigate and monitor all activities of detention centre management and staff to include methods for reporting and recording of staff behaviours;
- “Move the Money” from war to peace, investing in public and private infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, roads, water supply and other basic essential resources.