

# International Peace Update



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## **"The silent emergency of simple needs..."**

*Message from the International President, Regina Birchem*

For many around the world daily pressing concerns are for food, shelter, affordable clean water, freedom from threats of violence. Not much thought is given each day to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear attack.

"Millions of children are being born into a silent emergency of simple needs" where the lack of "access to basic services is killing around 4,000 children each day." (Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director). The stockpiling of weapons does nothing to provide for simple human needs.

Our traditional WILPF view is that there is a connection between the seemingly futile negotiations to limit proliferation of nuclear weapons, not to mention the ultimate goal of eliminating them entirely, and the shocking disparity between the haves and the have-nots. A major focus of our program work in 2005 is on the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Does our disarmament work help "put bread on the table"?

Rhianna Tyson, Project Manager of WILPF's Reaching Critical Will Project writes:

"... today's world is marred with the growing militarization of both Nuclear Weapon States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States. The Western world, joined by many allies in the Southern hemisphere, finds itself in an ongoing, indefinite and undefined 'war on terror', a mentality that requires a permanent military economy, supplying as much justification for the continued reliance on nuclear weapons as the heaviest-handed nuclear weapons advocate could want. A permanent war negates the hopes for the long-overdue realization of Article 26 of the UN Charter—the promise of the Security Council to formulate plans to promote international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.

"Security continues to be defined in the context of 'nations', despite the progress of globalization, the growing number of NGO and government initiatives for local and regional security. Many activists, analysts and UN staffers, as well as some governments, have begun to advocate for shifting the disarmament and security debate away from national security and toward a framework predicated on human security. A human security approach offers 'an alternative way of seeing the world, taking people as its point of

*Security continued on page 5*

**WILPF is deeply saddened by the loss suffered by so many due to the recent Tsunami in South Asia. In order to channel our grief, and provide support for our sisters and brothers in the region, WILPF has set up a Sri Lankan relief fund through the Jane Addams Peace Association. Contributions can be made through the Geneva office or the Jane Addams website: [www.JaneAddamsPeace.org](http://www.JaneAddamsPeace.org).**

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## Women Join The Peace Process

Editor, Krishna Ahooja Patel

The twentieth century has been labeled as the century of world-wide violence, conflict and confrontation. The pyramid of violence from the apex to the base has been constructed on components of conflicts among states, among social groups and within the community and the family. As the intensity and degree of violence among countries increases, women in almost every society have become more and more insecure. The burden of unrest, unemployment and displacement falls heavier and heavier on families. Understanding the different elements of violence against women has taken a long time of research by the international community, and the rules of international criminal and humanitarian law remained silent for a long time. With women being victims of rape in civil wars and international wars as well as suffering sexual abuse and rape locally, the international women's movement and different civil-society organizations made concerted efforts to bring about legislative changes. Countries subsequently moved towards finding rules and regulations for the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

Experience shows that, as citizens, women are ready to be involved at all levels of power-sharing (in line with resolution 1325). Research from countries who have elected women as heads of state and prime ministers also indicates that the political empowerment of women is closely tied to their economic status. To involve women in peace-making and peace building requires that they are acknowledged not only as beneficiaries but also as contributors to peace. In contrasting situations – namely when women become combatants – the question is often not only equality of opportunity, but also the influence of extreme poverty. The latter is a key obstacle in the implementation of resolution 1325, as is the role of coercion in conflict settings, which may insert individuals into a cycle of violence. These observations underline that power structures and institutions of governance are not yet geared towards non-violent and peaceful ways of living. It is therefore necessary to work at different levels of society in order to bring about the transformation of a culture of war into culture of peace.

It is in this context that one can assess and evaluate the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The resolution has given women the political possibility to participate as equal partners in the process of negotiating peace in conflict-ridden communities. Significantly, it was on the basis of this resolution that women politicians were invited to attend meetings that formed new governments in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since the adoption of resolutions. 1325 in 2000, it has been the subject of a large number of workshops, seminars and conferences. Its text has been translated into several languages, and efforts are being made to increase the overall number of versions. The project "PeaceWomen" of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) – managed from the association's New York office – has collected and collated a remarkable database on the results and recommendations of such endeavors. Its monthly newsletter provides up-to-date information on case studies and how women have fared on the ground. Altogether, "PeaceWomen" identifies eighteen themes, including conflict prevention, disarmament, HIV/AIDS, economic rights, landmines, human rights, violence against women and trafficking. The "PeaceWomen" online portal ([www.PeaceWomen.org](http://www.PeaceWomen.org)) complements the web portal initiated by UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women ([www.women-warpeace.org](http://www.women-warpeace.org))

Corrections from our previous issue:

(a) Page 9, Contact for International Women's Peace Conference in Cuba is: Cindy Domingo

<[Cindy.Domingo@METROK.COV](mailto:Cindy.Domingo@METROK.COV)>

b) Page 12, the article from WILPF-Costa Rica was not translated by Mary Day Kent.





## Beijing +10 Review and Appraisal: Future Actions

*Kara Piccirilli, WILPF UN Office, PeaceWomen Project*

The Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) will be carried out by the UN Commission on the Status of Women (28 February- 11 March 2005). The objective of the Review and Appraisal is to assess the achievements, gaps and challenges in implementing the governmental commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action and the twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000. This session will not only commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action but also the thirty-year anniversary of the First World Conference on Women in Mexico in 1975.

In preparation for the Review and Appraisal of Beijing, the UN ECOSOC

regional commissions have hosted regional and sub-regional meetings throughout 2004. Each region has chosen three priority themes within the Beijing Platform for Action, and will present the outcome of the regional review on these themes to the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2005. The Beijing Platform for Action- an international agenda for the advancement of women and gender equality- consists of 12 critical areas of concern, including women and armed conflict, women and health, violence against women, and women and the environment.

An NGO Consultation on 27 February 2005 will orient civil society participants to UN Commission and NGO activities through two weeks of the Commission's review.

WILPF International has signed on as a co-sponsor to the Week of Action during the Review. The conveners of this initiative

declare,

"The Beijing +10 process marks a political moment and global opportunity to bring attention to women's lives. From March 1-8, 2005 women across the globe will organize local, national, regional, and international actions to address a broad range of concerns, demand action on commitments to women's rights and gender equality, and celebrate our gains of recent decades.

While most of the focus will be on activities taking place around the globe, there will also be a week of local activities in New York parallel to the Commission on the Status of Women in order to link the local actions to the global process. Each group will conduct activities based on its own priorities in their local area. While women will be engaged in diverse actions, the coordinated, publicly visible discus-

sion of these issues within a feminist framework will infuse creative energy into the process. It will also help us to move forward in our common endeavor to strengthen the global women's movement.

In light of this initiative, it is important for WILPF Sections to determine what actions they will take to promote at local, national and regional levels on the implementation of the Beijing Platform.

*If you are interested in getting the latest information on the Commission on the Status of Women and the Beijing Review, check the [www.PeaceWomen.org](http://www.PeaceWomen.org) website or contact the WILPF UN Office at:*

***beijing@PeaceWomen.org, tel: +1 212 682 1265, fax: +1 212 286 8211.***





## Preparing for the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty Review

Rhianna Tyson, WILPF UN Office, *Reaching Critical Will Project*

The achievements of the 2000 Review Conference have been ignored, undermined or, in some cases, even denied. Nuclear proliferation, both vertical and horizontal, continues to threaten our global security. The third Preparatory Committee of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) failed to agree on any recommendations for the Review Conference in May, 2005 ensuring a rough start to what will surely be a difficult month of negotiations.

With all of this in mind, all NGOs concerned with disarmament and nonproliferation must come to the Seventh Review Conference with

a solid, effective and coherent strategy in mind. And at all corners of this strategy, WILPF is playing a leading role.

Throughout these next crucial months, WILPF's *Reaching Critical Will* project will be launching an E-Discussion for NGOs to strategize around the seventh Review Conference. This e-forum will be moderated by RCW and will run from January 10 until April 1, 2005. All NGOs are invited to participate in this discussion .

This *E-Discussion* will be framed around specific questions such as:

- *What are our demands and expectations from the Conference?*
- *What types of proposals will be coming from our governmental allies and how do we best support them?*
- *What will be the Nuclear Five's strategy and how do we best counter it?*
- *What is our media strategy?*
- *What kind of side events (panels, workshops, seminars) do we want to convene?*
- *How can civil society best amplify their messages so that they are heard by our representatives?*

Over the next few months, NGOs and governments will be holding an array of preparatory meetings around the world. Others will be engaging in a grassroots campaign with students and other peace and justice groups to try to bring their attention to the Review Conference. All participants to the E-Discussion are encouraged to offer the various findings, questions, conclusions and salient points that were raised at these meetings and events. At the end of each week, *Reaching Critical Will* will post a summary of the main points raised and discussed.

This project will also offer educational materials for WILPF sections to hold their own outreach and education sessions with activists and local representatives. It will provide updated *Talking Points on the NPT* and a downloadable Power Point presentation adaptable for local use. It will also publish a sequel to the 2000 publication, *"Nuclear Disarmament: What*

# Abolition Now!

## 2005 is an important year!



The NPT Review Conference will take place at the UN in New York. It will be 60 years since the total devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our Network will be ten years old. And yet—the nuclear weapons states have failed to produce even a plan for nuclear disarmament. In this historic year, we are calling on all states to dare to plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons. NGOs have already submitted a plan to the UN, the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Our new Campaign, **Abolition Now!** asks individuals, citizens groups, and community and civic leaders to support the **Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki** in their Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons by enrolling your own Mayors and government leaders in the Campaign during this 60th Year of Remembrance and Action for a Nuclear Weapons Free World. It's time to make a personal commitment to support the **Mayors' call for concrete plans for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.**

60 YEARS

**The Time to Dare to Plan is NOW!**



## Welcoming Susi Snyder To Geneva

We are proud to announce that Ms. Susi Snyder will begin her work in the Geneva office as WILPF's Secretary General early in 2005. Susi previously served as Director of WILPF's New York UN Office.

Susi was born in Germany and lived most of her life in Queens, USA. Prior to her work with WILPF, Susi played a leading role in the Shundahai Network working in solidarity with indigenous people to oppose nuclear weapons and waste programs at the Nevada Test Site. In addition Susi has been involved with numerous groups and coalitions to provide information to the global peace and justice community about USA nuclear activities.

As an activist, Susi traveled back and forth across the USA on several speaking tours and worked with a broad range of organizations to plan educational events, empowering affected communities to voice their concerns. The Las Vegas *City Life* newspaper named her a "Hero of Las Vegas" in 2001. Working in southern California in conjunction with five indigenous North American tribes to prevent a proposed nuclear waste dump, Susi said that she learned to balance "Western thinking" with traditional cultural practices and beliefs to achieve a shared goal.

To summarize her experience with WILPF, Susi writes, "I have never before worked for or with an organization that so closely matched my own personal ideals and politics!"

***Welcome to Geneva, Susi!***



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*Security continued from page 1*

reference, rather than focusing exclusively on the security of territory or governments' (Human Security: Safety for People in a Changing World).

"A human security framework focuses on the threats to personal and communal safety, rather than the defence of borders (Canadian Consortium on Human Security). Efficacy of the human security framework is evident in the near-global ban on anti-personnel landmines, the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the protection of refugees, progress in small arms control, and the campaign against human trafficking. Despite these achievements, the human security approach has rarely been applied as a framework for nuclear weapons and disarmament."

Rhianna continues, that if there is to be a diminishing role of nuclear weapons in security policies, there must be an understanding of the role gendered perceptions play in how those who seek nuclear weapons view security. What are the motives for wanting nuclear weapons?

Gender analysis begins with people, their life and experiences. "Gender perspectives enable us to move away from militarized notions of security, thereby facilitating disarmament processes of weapons, both large and small."

In this issue of IPU readers will find information on WILPF's program work on disarmament and human security. We also have sent to all the sections (December 2004) tools for education and activism compiled by our staff and interns. And don't forget to check out the Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women web sites regularly for updates, tools and news. Diplomats and activists alike find these web sites enormously valuable.

*Rhianna Tyson, "Contextualizing past, present and future challenges to the NPT regime," Disarmament Forum: The 2005 NPT Review Conference, Issue Four, 2004. You will find this article in both French and English at [www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org) with fully cited references. At [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org) see also by Rhianna Tyson, "A New Security: Using gender to enable a human security framework in issues of disarmament" prepared for the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs Conference in Sapporo, Japan, 2004.*





## UN Resolution 1325: Fourth Anniversary

Anna-Lisa Björneberg, WILPF Sweden

UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security adopted in October 2000, describes women's situations during wars and conflicts and demands that women participate as equals in decision making in early stages to prevent conflicts that develop into military actions. This resolution aims at working for sustainable peace, calling for women's involvement at the highest levels; yet the cruelties against women continue, despite resolutions and fine words. Why is it so? What can we do? The long process within the UN system that led to its adoption involved NGOs world wide including WILPF New-York office. WILPF Sweden is working closely with *Woman to Woman Foundation* that focuses on gender issues.

This resolution will be celebrated worldwide. The fourth anniversary celebration took place at the UN in New-York when the United Kingdom was President of the Security Council. It is hoped that this meeting will result in an important statement to end increasing violence against women and to provide more space for women in decision-making.

Will human beings forever live under the scourge of war? All states, politicians and ordinary people say that peace is the most important goal, but yet wars are going on all over the world because there are many interested in war as profit. Since 1915 when WILPF started, it nurtured the vision of peace, freedom and human rights. In 1215 we got the Magna Charta and the rule of law began to develop. Since then countries and people have attempted to resolve conflicts through negotiations, laws, treaties and decisions within the UN and other international organizations. The global society must continue to develop the tools for democracy and peaceful handling of conflict.

As to the content of Resolution 1325, WILPF is very active; lobbying, writing and advocating for its full implementation. It is an historic event and a great step forward for women who, all over the world every day, live and work with the consequences of armed conflict and violence. Women are of vital importance in the work not as victims, but also as equals in planning, peacekeeping and rebuilding and taking care of social responsibilities. Women's tools are dialogue, understanding, working hard with others patiently and the ability to work and do long-term planning to get it right.

The success of Resolution 1325 is based on the UN system of resolutions, conferences and final documents, and the work of NGO's. During the 1990's, NGO's worked for increasing women's visibility and participation within the UN organisation. The lack of women in the UN organisation itself and the lack of general gender perspective in the work that UN carries out require this support.

Something that led to further increased interest in women's issues were the reports of women exposed to situations of armed conflict, which in this period was presented to the international community through mass media. Women from Asia experienced crimes during World War II by Japanese soldiers, which resulted in the Tokyo tribunal 2000. Women from the Balkans and Rwanda testified to systematic rapes that had been carried out as part of genocide strategies. Furthermore development in the international legal system took a great step forward in 2002 through the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Its paragraphs acknowledged rape and sexual violence against women as international war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It is intensive work for *Woman to Woman* to support their sisters to testify about rapes and sexual violence, a pre-requisite for starting the process leading to court. These are the same problems women face in domestic violence. Women all over the world tend to take the blame and responsibility themselves and even feel guilty as EVE. They dare not go to the police because they are not sure of being taken seriously or believed.





## Gender Issues in the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Haiti: An Interview

*Sarah Shteir, WILPF UN Office,  
PeaceWomen*

While there has been substantial discussion about the role and position of peacekeeping gender advisors at the policy level, there have been few opportunities to understand how these gender advisors operationalize their mandates in their day-to-day work on gender issues within the UN's peacekeeping operations. In order to raise awareness about the critical role of gender advisors in UN peacekeeping operations, the WILPF UN Office PeaceWomen Project conducted the following interview with Ms. Puechguirbal:



*Nadine Puechguirbal*

**1. PeaceWomen:** According to the UN Secretary-General, "the role of gender advisors in gender units is to promote, facilitate, support and monitor the incorporation of gender perspectives in peacekeeping operations" (Secretary-General's Study on Women, Peace and Security, 2002). Using this policy language as the basis, how did you envision your role and work as MINUSTAH's Senior Gender Advisor before arriving in Haiti?

**Nadine Puechguirbal:** I participated as a Gender Advisor in a needs assessment mission in March 2004 that was deployed to prepare the new peacekeeping mission in Haiti. During the assessment mission, I established contacts with the main women's organizations on the ground and other key partners (mainly UN and national authorities) to get

**The MINUSTAH Gender Unit currently consists of 2 staff: a Senior Gender Advisor and a national Program Officer. Recruitment for additional staff is going on, mainly for a national administrative assistant who will be stationed in Port-Au-Prince and two more national Program Officers who will be posted in the regions. A Gender Affairs Officer (P3) should be recruited in the near future.**

an idea of the situation in the fields of human rights, police, justice, violence, etc. from a gender perspective. In addition, I used to live and work in Haiti for the UN Observation Mission of Human Rights (MICIVIH) in 1995 and from 1998 to 2000, so I already had a fairly good idea of the main challenges in the country. I also think that my experience as a Gender Affairs Officer for the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in 2003 prepared me to take over this new position. What I had in mind before taking up my duties at the beginning of June 2004 was to adopt a twofold strategy: i) working closely with each component of the mission to ensure that gender mainstreaming would be taken seriously and effectively implemented and ii) getting involved with women's organizations to build up confidence and a constructive partnership. Most importantly, I wanted to work with both the men and the women of the mission and of the country and try to go beyond the traditional activities of a Gender Unit. The challenge was to bring creative and innovative ideas to the field of gender and peacekeeping that would make my



## Lecturing on a Japanese Peace Boat

Susi Snyder, WILPF UN Office

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. Peace Boat seeks to create awareness and action based on effecting positive social and political change in the world, through the organization of global educational programs, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities. These activities are carried out on a partnership basis with other civil society organizations and communities in Japan, Northeast Asia, and around the world.

Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile and autonomous space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the visited ports.

I was invited on board as a guest lecturer. I arrived at the port in Bergen, Norway and was given a magnificent stateroom on board the ship. I quickly met the team of translators (or communication coordinators "CC's") that were assigned to help me deliver my presentations, the fantastic Peace Boat staff and the Global University Students.

I prepared and delivered several major lectures while on board the ship: the history of the US Civil Resistance Movements; an introduction to UN Disarmament Mechanisms; and the US and UN Relationship after the Iraq War (available in English and Japanese). I also facilitated several smaller workshops on US Elections, on the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (and the upcoming Review Conference) and on civil society and UN relations.

Life on board the ship was quite interesting. As one of the few people who did not speak Japanese, I was initially concerned at how I would be able to communicate with passengers. I was surprised to find that many spoke English, and was thrilled with the diligence of those bi-lingual passengers who were always willing to help explain a question or translate a story for my benefit. I will be forever appreciative of all the energy that goes into making a Peace Boat voyage exciting, educational and inspiring, and look forward to future collaborations.

## Military Service In Lebanon

Anissa Najjar, President, WILPF Lebanon

Today the people of Lebanon are discussing and evaluating youth military service: its advantages and disadvantages. Presently, a year's service commitment is imposed upon youth once they graduate high school. Some are asking to diminish the number of months of service and some want to abolish it entirely.

The Lebanese constitution includes and emphasizes civil service and training in development as an integral part of "military training". We in the Lebanese Committee for Peace and Freedom (L.C.P.F) (WILPF-Lebanon) have expressed our opinion: military service is an honor and duty.

Some believe that the required "military service" helps diminish fanaticism by fostering friendships and brotherhood across sectors- necessary in building a permanent peace.

Military service is important for future self-defense due to the perpetual threat of Israeli aggression; sky raids, or bombed cars, or the assassination of public figures.

Social development and civil service for girls would be the gender share required by the constitution. Due to the the present debt crises in Lebanon, a one year service costs the government more than it can afford, hence our suggestion is to reduce the service requirement to six months, but not to abolish it. Further it is paramount to draw the attention of mothers to consider their children's national duty as a projection of their future benefits and to their understanding of other's differences. I would like to ask the opinion of our sister sections in this regard.

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*The Editors of IPU welcome letters in response to this article. They can be sent to the Geneva office for publication in a future issue.*





## WILPF in Australia

Mary Ziesak- Joint National Coordinator, WILPF Australia

Australians were plunged into the depths of depression after the Federal Elections of October 13, 2004 which re-elected, with an increased majority, a fourth three year term, the ultra conservative right wing government.

The reasons for such results became clear as campaigning heated up prior to the election- instilling into the electors minds - fear, fear about terrorism and security and fear that a new government would increase interest rates. Many Australians have very large mortgages!

So nothing will change! We still have soldiers in Iraq; we are still spending enormous amounts of the national budget on war machinery and security; (keeping up the fear!) still espousing the ideology of pre-emptive strikes; (better over there than here attitude) we still have confusion and therefore no solution for improving the situation of our Indigenous Australians. Uranium ore is being extracted from our continent sold to whoever will pay.

Two Indigenous men have died in custody recently, one sustaining fractured ribs and ruptures to liver and spleen. Riots followed as pent up anger exploded when his Palm Island community members learned of his injuries. Rallies and protests around Australia were held December 11, 2004 to protest the continuation of the high rate of Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Campaigning has commenced against a huge joint exercise announced in July to be conducted by the Australian Defence Force with the US in Queensland and the Northern Territory in 2007. Twenty thousand US troops will descend on Queensland's Shoalwater Bay area. It is said to 'participate in new warfare training and experimentation exercises.' People are saying: We do not want Smart Bombs tested in Australia. We fear innocent targets are at risk; we wish to preserve not destroy our Australian landscape and environment. Why doesn't the US test on its' own territory. We do not want to be sucked further into the US military agenda.

There are some positive things happening though. An Australian website was launched at a standing room only event in Canberra on December 1, 2004. The Website was developed by WILPF Australia to further the implementation of Resolution 1325 in the Australian context with funding assistance from the Australian government's Office of the Status of Women (OSW) & support from the Womenspeak Network.

Important contacts were made with members of parliament and a range of community organizations. In launching the website we celebrated the 4th Anniversary of the passing of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and

Security. This is the first UN Resolution that specifically highlights the impact of war and conflict on women and girls, and the importance of women's involvement in peace building.

We have been gaining new members recently and we send greetings to our sisters around the world and strength to continue our work in 2005.

1325  
Australia

A WILPF Australia Initiative



ENTER

You can visit the website at:  
[www.1325Australia.org.au](http://www.1325Australia.org.au)





*Interview continued from page 7*

work appealing to others (what I call a "gender-friendly approach").

**2. PeaceWomen:** How does the Secretary-General's policy language translate into the concrete day-to-date work of the MINUSTAH Gender Unit?

**Nadine Puechguirbal:** First of all, I had to get settled and assert my authority as Head of the Gender Unit. Since no plan had been made for the allocation of space for the Gender Unit, I had to fight to secure a desk, a computer, and a vehicle for the Unit. I also had to spend time to explain to my UN colleagues the role and function of the Gender Unit in a peacekeeping mission. The UN staff's understanding of gender issues slowly improved, especially after the first two induction courses that I gave to international civilian staff. A few allies were found in the political, civil affairs and Civilian Police (CivPol) divisions as well as among senior administrative officers and the Officer in Charge, Acting SRSG. While disseminating information on gender issues within the mission, I also began initiating and consolidating contacts with key national and international partners, UN agencies and members of Haitian civil society, including women's organizations. I initially planned for ten national Program Officers and two United Nations Volunteers in the Gender Unit, however a severe cut in the budget left the Unit with only three national Program Officers. I was therefore compelled to reduce my expectations and revise my plan for staff deployment in the regions as well as readjust my workload. I think that a Gender Unit should be more substantially staffed to be able to achieve its goals and implement its mandate. Maybe after we have succeeded in showing that gender makes a difference in peacekeeping missions, we will be given the means of action we need in the near future.

At the beginning of August 2004, I hired a male Haitian Program Officer, Ernst Luceus. Mr. Luceus' role is to help build up confi-

dence on gender issues within the male-dominated MINUSTAH Mission, and with outside partners. Mr. Luceus is now in charge of delivering all gender-related training to MINUSTAH military, CivPol and the Haitian National Police (HNP). As a matter of interest, a CivPol officer congratulated him at the end of an induction course, remarking that he was glad to hear a "real man" deliver such a course instead of a woman; according to the officer, it gave the course more credibility. Mr. Luceus is also in charge of following up on a new project the Unit is starting, in partnership with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), to develop a peer education system with men addressing issues of masculinity within the Haitian context. He will bring to this project his experience as a member of a small organization of Haitian men working to fight sexism.

Nadine Puechguirbal is the Senior Gender Advisor in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Deployed at the onset of the mission, Ms. Puechguirbal has been working in Haiti since June 2004. In addition to Ms. Puechguirbal, there are nine other gender advisors serving in UN peacekeeping operations, out of a total of 17 peacekeeping operations

*For the full interview, visit:*  
<http://www.PeaceWomen.org/resources/Peacekeeping/Npuechguirbalinterview04.pdf>

*For more resources on gender and peacekeeping issues, visit:*  
<http://www.PeaceWomen.org/resources/Peacekeeping/peacekeepingindex.html>





## London European Social Forum

Sheila Triggs, WILPF UK

### European Social Forum(ESF)

Through networking with international NGOs, UK organizations, and with European Sections, WILPF participated in several ESF meetings (October 2004) including Women and Trade Injustice, Militarism and Violence Against Women, Building Peace, Opposing War, Women's Activism, Campaigning Against Weapons in Space and Can we afford women? Women living under neo-liberal policies. The initiative for four of these meetings came from WILPF, but other bodies did the organisational work for three of them. Partners included Amnesty International, IANSA, CND, Women in Black, Penelopes, the Women's Institute, and Aldermaston and Men with Women's Peace Camps. The conclusions of this networking are the following:

### WILPF UK

Involving WILPF fully in the organisational process of a Social Forum demands time and hard work. There were weekly and fortnightly meetings for eight months. Days were spent organising the outreach meeting, contacting partners in the seminars, submitting the funding bid, finalising the 'forced marriages', and drafting and circulating publicity to members. About 15 percent of UK national membership came to the ESF, many attending our meetings and helping on our stall. One member worked full time for at least a week to prepare for the successful WILPF stall. This raised WILPF's profile, recruited members, received invitations to speak, and prepared a list of interested women who will follow up.

Since the London ESF process was so problematic, why did I not recommend that WILPF join the parallel autonomous space? I realised that part of my effort was aimed at ensuring that the Social Forum idea was not completely subverted. WILPF with the other NGOs and independents that stayed the course, went some way towards creating the diversity that should be

the ESF. This, and getting a gender analysis on the ESF platforms, was a vitally important role.

### WILPF Europe

We had great support from WILPFers from Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands, and from Francoise Mees (Geneva International Office). Although European Sections meeting was arranged to coincide with the ESF, only eight WILPFers came from Europe. Perhaps sections concluded that the benefit from the ESF flows to the host country section, which is probably true. But we must participate in Social Forums if we are to be seen as part of the current alternative social movement, and recruit younger women activists.

### Other ways of participating

Without a WILPF Section in Greece, we need to join our national and local social forums to keep up with the preparations for the Athens ESF in 2006. Members may attend Preparatory Assemblies in European cities when it is convenient, and link up with women's organizations and our sections to propose seminars and workshops. If we get a platform, European WILPFers must be ready to attend the event and support our speakers.

Find more information about WILPF UK on their website at: <http://ukwilpf.gn.apc.org/>



from the ESF website at: [http://esf.gn.apc.org/downloads/9d46c3f28d478d6f93933eaff10149d5i.Grand\\_Halle.jpg](http://esf.gn.apc.org/downloads/9d46c3f28d478d6f93933eaff10149d5i.Grand_Halle.jpg)



## The Disappeared in Iraq: Wives and Widows

Margaret Owen and Martha Jean Baker, WILPF UK

Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UNIFEM, opened the Round Table on Roles of WIDOWS in Conflict Management and Peace Building, at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 2004, convened by Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD), a London based international NGO and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Participants from many different conflict environments were compelling in their demands for urgent action including Iraq, Afghanistan, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Bosnia and Rwanda.

In Iraq, today, no family remains untouched by widowhood. It is estimated that around 45 percent of all adult women are either widows or wives of the missing. In Afghanistan, NGO estimates put the percentage at around 40 percent. In all conflict afflicted countries huge numbers of children, orphans, sick, and old are dependent on widows for their survival, yet widows are likely to be the poorest of the poor. It is thought that in some countries emerging from conflict 60 percent of children depend on widows for their sustenance.

In many countries widows are subject to oppressive laws and discriminatory and degrading practices and attitudes. Lack of rights to inheritance and ownership of land leaves widows and their children in destitution, and their coping strategies – begging, prostitution, child marriage – further exacerbate their marginalisation and low status.

However, in countries emerging from conflict the problems that widows encounter are compounded and multiplied. Regrettably, there has, to date, been no situational analysis of widows' situation, and no data exists to inform governments, donors and UN agencies of their numbers, ages, economic, social and legal status, their needs or their roles. Yet widows play crucial economic and social roles in conflict prevention and peace building.

The poverty of widowed mothers is one of the root causes of child poverty, and the reason why so many children are withdrawn from school. This poverty, across the generations, obstructs other efforts to avoid future conflict.

To achieve the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to properly implement UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, it is essential that governments and the international agencies now focus on issues arising from widowhood, on their roles, as well as their needs.

To eliminate violence against women, particularly violence perpetrated by family members and sanctioned by discriminatory and oppressive traditions and customs, widows' voices must be heard and laws reformed to ensure their human rights are guaranteed.

The most important recommendation of the round table concerns the undertaking by the UN Secretary General of a special study on the situation of widows and wives of the missing in the post-conflict environment. In addition, major recommendations include:

- Address the extreme poverty of widows and their children, in the context of the MDG\* goals and the PRSPs, and as a means of conflict prevention, recognizing that a generational cycle of poverty breeds violence and future conflict.
- Create, in every country, a national WIDOWS' RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE, with local branches, which would develop a WIDOWS' PROTOCOL to guarantee widows' human and legal rights.
- Legislate to give widows legal rights to inheritance and land ownership
- Redefine "justice" to ensure that it is broad enough to encompass widows' rights to basic needs such as adequate shelter, food, health care, and training for income-generation.
- Address the specific problems for refugee and IDP widows still homeless years after peace accords are agreed upon because their security is threatened should they return to their former homes.





## Canada Peace Conference

*Susi Snyder, WILPF UN Office*

A pan-Canadian peace conference, was held in Toronto November 5-7th 2004. This Peace conference was jointly organized by the Canadian Peace Alliance, Toronto Coalition to Stop the War, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Toronto Branch). This was a good opportunity for peace organizations in Canada to get together, share experiences, debate and develop future direction for the movement. The WILPF UN Office was represented by Susi Snyder and Sarah Shteir.

In the opening panel, Susi Snyder talked about the necessity of keeping the energy and enthusiasm of the peace movement growing. She emphasized the horrors currently facing the world and the need (especially for those just dealing with the Bush Administration re-election in the US) for the global peace movement to support and strengthen one another.

Sarah Shteir co-chaired a workshop on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Which was extremely well attended and brought forth a number of issues. Knowing that Canada is a strong supporter of 1325, ways to continue and strengthen this support was also debated. Another workshop, chaired by Susi Snyder, on ways for civil society to have their voices heard at the 2005 nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. This workshop generated several regional contact persons who will organize attendance in their areas to attend both the May 1, 2005 Nuclear Disarmament Rally in New York's Central Park as well as parts of the Review Conference.

The WILPF Annual General Meeting began with reports from the different branches of WILPF in Canada, including Vancouver, Toronto and Nainamo (members of which were not able to attend, however they sent a lovely binder showing their activities and many press clippings!) WILPF Boston member, Claire Gosselin, was also present and reported on her branch's activities. Susi and Sarah also reported on the upcoming events planned by the WILPF UN office, including for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Conference.

A new steering committee was elected for the section, and congratulations to the new team- Florence Adebayo (Toronto- Treasurer), Barbara Cullen (Vancouver- IEC Representative), Maxine Carpenter (Nanaimo- Secretary), Amy Hollings (Nanaimo- Vice – President/ Branch Liaison), and Joanne Whitney (Vancouver- President).

A series of resolutions were also passed at this meeting. These resolutions confront Missile Defense, Participation in the World Peace Forum (Vancouver 2006), the proposal to bring back the U.S. Draft, Violence Against Women, Women in Prison, an Equitable Peace in Palestine and Israel, and in support of Indigenous Women. They can be found in their entirety on the international website at: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/world/canada.htm#updates>.

Revisions to the national by-laws were also made at this meeting. For more details you can contact Barbara Cullen, IEC member: [sefton@telus.net](mailto:sefton@telus.net).

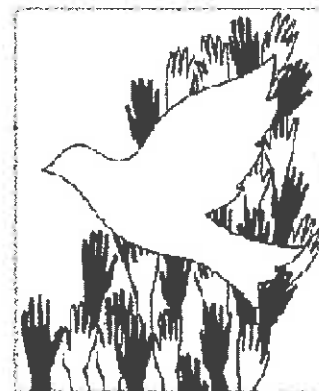




### Peace On Earth Exhibit

Marta Benavides, International Vice- President, WILPF El Salvador

I am working to set up the second exhibit at the small Popular Cultures and Arts Museum, sponsored by WILPF El Salvador and Siglo XXIII. The exhibition continues on special international days: AIDS, Physically Challenged People, Human rights, Economic-Ecological, Social and Cultural rights of peoples. At the end of the year, activities will include: environment, water, problems of trash and people bringing their own solutions. We have been able to get this space from the mayor's office of Santa Ana . The attitude is to give and learn to receive as a means for self-esteem and for peace. Anyone can come in from the street, as there is no entrance fee. The theme is Peace on Earth to all people of good will. Since there is so much violence and resentment we must work to transform this and manifest peace.



The first event was an offering for the day of the dead (November 2). We worked on life, on environment as a manifestation of peace, on the splendor of life, and the power that we have to create the societies we dream of, and a celebration of our traditions as part of our heritage from our ancestors. Many people became interested. In the indigenous town where we work, we also continue establishing butterfly gardens in the public park. We made the Mayor understand the importance of citizen participation in demonstrating community and governance through this experience.

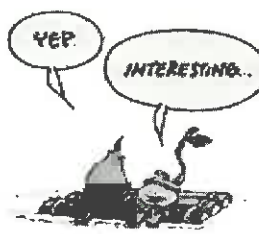
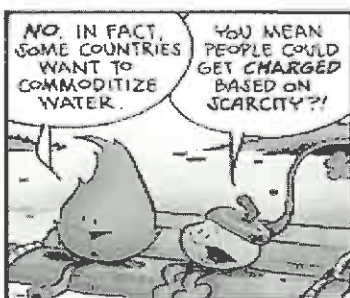
At the end of the year, we will have the rest of the park done with community, schools, church, and the mayor's office participation, as a gift to society in the season. In the New Year we will work on attitudes towards building community. This is also a part of celebration of Human Rights Day and of Wangari Maathai's Nobel Peace Prize.

We are continuing with the process of creating a society for all ages, as a follow-up to the UN Summit on Aging. We want to influence the ministry of education and health, since a shift of paradigm must occur if we are to avert the crisis coming to countries such as ours by 2050. It is expected that more than 30 percent of the population will be over 65 years old!!! We also continue to educate on the importance of the International Criminal Court and for our country to adhere to it. We are working on this at the Central American regional level. We continue with our regular work with indigenous and rural peoples, students, the ecological house and the permaculture farm.

*Siglo XXIII has been recognized by UNESCO as an important organization working in El Salvador to preserve the social and cultural heritage of the region.*



### RUSTLE THE LEAF BY PONCE & WRIGHT



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## The First Committee of the General Assembly

by Taeko Okada, 2004 Disarmament Intern, WILPF  
Geneva

The 59th session of the UN General Assembly First Committee took place from 4th October to 5th November. I was luckily able to attend the First Committee in New York City for the last two weeks of the session as a Disarmament Intern of WILPF. Since I had been monitoring the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from January to September, I could easily observe the different atmosphere between these two UN disarmament machineries. I think that in Geneva there is more distance between NGOs and the States' delegations since there is a clear separation of space between NGOs and the States' representatives. In New York, in the First Committee, we entered from the same door and sat on the side gallery of the conference room, so there seemed to be a closer and more casual atmosphere. Also, during sessions of the CD in Geneva the delegations would simply read their statements and seldom expressed their opinions. On the other hand, in the First Committee, it seemed that statement of positions and reasons for votes were much more important than just voting on each resolution. It was interesting to note human aspects of some delegates when they showed their emotions and opinions.

During the two weeks I was there, the Committee spent most of the time in adopting all draft resolutions. Fifty-five draft resolutions were adopted: 33 were adopted without a vote, 14 were adopted with less than 5 States opposing, 3 with less than 10 States opposing, and only 5 draft resolutions incurred more than 10 votes cast against them. Before and after each resolution was adopted, countries expressed general opinions and reasons for their votes. These explanations of votes were very interesting parts, because you could see what kind of opinion each country had for each draft resolution. Moreover, through their explanation of votes, we could see each State's position on the various disarmament issues.

More time was spent for discussion on some draft resolutions such as resolution L50, L.42

and L.27 and so on.

L50, "Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation" was adopted on 26th October. This draft was one of the examples which showed different approaches toward missile issues. A lot of time was spent for this draft on this day. Iran introduced three amendments to the draft on behalf of Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan. Chile, the lead sponsor of the draft resolution, strongly argued that the delicate conceptual balance contained in the draft resolution would be upset by the amendments. Although Iran explained the importance of the amendments trying to bring missile control and disarmament measures into the multilateral United Nations, all three amendments were voted down. After the action, Oman even explained their non participation in this voting due to lack of flexibility of the Chilean delegation.

L42 and L27 were the draft resolutions on the reports of the UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. Although both resolutions were adopted without a vote, the explanations of votes were given by the USA, Canada, Cuba and Egypt and the European Union. Canada's ambassador suggested that the Commission should "devote its session to an examination and discussion of how it can play a more effective role and make the kind of contribution all would like to see." Failing to do so, he warned could mean that, "many countries will lose interest in attending its meetings and its role and relevance will diminish." He even wished the CD would be able to agree on a program of work. Cuba mentioned that there was no need to change the working method. The real problem is the "lack of political will." Egypt "believes in the important role played by UNDC."

L28 "Relationship between disarmament and development"

The representative of the Non-Aligned Movement expressed concern "at increasing global military expenditures, which could otherwise be spent on development, poverty eradication and elimination of diseases, in particular in the developing countries." The Committee

## Male Roles, Masculinities And Violence. A Culture Of Peace Perspective- UNESCO Publication.

Review of the article "Reducing men's violence:  
the personal meets the political" by Michael Kimmel.

Fatou Diawara, Human Rights intern 2004, WILPF Geneva Office.

Michael Kimmel in his article gives an explanation of the meaning of masculinity, gender and the link with violence.



Fatou Diawara

He starts the article by giving the following example. When we hear about teenage violence, urban violence, gang violence, drug related violence or violence in schools, without wondering ourselves we just think we are talking about men. It is obvious for every one of us. It would have been different if women were involved, gender analysis would have been done by specialists.

For the majority of men gender remains invisible. The theory is that: being privileged keeps your privileges invisible. He explained that the violence of men is coming from their feeling of powerlessness and helplessness. Men feel entitled to power that is why they fear gender equality. He gives the examples of sexual based violence such as rape, mass rape in Bosnia.

In the case of white supremacists, they are sons of shopkeepers or small farms owners from lower middle class who had to close down for economical reasons. They feel like everything was taken away from them as they were supposed to take the farm or the shop back. They feel that the world has turn back on them, they have a lack of direction. It is the same phenomenon in Iran during the revolution movement, in Afghanistan with the Taliban or members of ETA in the Basque movement.

Masculinity is expressed at its highest level in those cases.

To sum up, this conflicted situation between men and women can be reduced in confronting the separation of symbolic and structural spheres. Women's involvement in public life is as important as men's involvement in parenting. In a word men and women should work closer, share their experiences, evolve hand in hand and not keep themselves into two marginalised worlds.

*Male roles, masculinities and violence: A culture of peace perspective*  
Edited by Ingeborg Breines, Robert Connell and Ingrid Eide  
UNESCO Publishing, Cultures of Peace Series ISBN: 92-3-103745-5



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adopted the draft resolution on 27th Oct. The United States was the only country to vote against it. The representative of the US mentioned that disarmament and development are two different matters.

The above is my personal observation of the First Committee. More analysis on all draft resolutions and the Committee itself can be found in the First Committee Monitor at: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1comindex1.html>





## Recommendations For The Implementation Of The WILPF Resolution: Continuing Human Rights Violations In Darfur

WILPF Netherlands

The WILPF-resolution aims at organizing the best possible support for the women of Darfur on their way to recovering their dignity and their well being, both personally and socially, now and after the end of the conflict and for the establishment of safe conditions needed for their recovery.

In that process women should be the first and foremost – even in the distressed situation of today – to decide what dignity and well being and which safe conditions are for them. Only then will there be space for peace and development.

These premises require that political, economic, and social structures be built; humanitarian help be developed and informs the processes and means that will be used.

All parties involved in the ending of the violence and the reconstruction of the society of Darfur: governments, international organizations (AU, UN, EU and their institutes), NGO's and other groups must tune in their goals and considerations to this.

Our recommendations are meant to offer the most important elements for this.

1. Pronounce that violations of human rights and sexual violence against women and girls are not acceptable and punishable.

Attach names to these violations, to the authors, the authorities who allow it and the circumstances that make it possible.

Go a long way to make the gravity of the situation of women and girls in Darfur by all political and humanitarian actions recognised and monitored.

2. Affirm that the international community during the last decades repeatedly and in increasingly concrete terms has pronounced that gender equality must be implemented in wars and conflicts as is formulated in resolution 1325 of the Security Council:

- guaranteeing a gender perspective in the pre-

vention of conflicts, in peace keeping activities, in peace building and in disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation of female fighters;

- the protection of the human rights of women;  
- the equal and fully fledged participation of women in every peace process.

3. Train peace negotiators, observers and helpers – men and women – in consciousness and knowledge of the human rights of women and girls, the violence they suffer and the injury of their life.

Make use of the expertise of institutions all over the world and of African women's organizations in Sudan and the region

4. Take great pains over the special needs of the women and girls of Darfur;  
- their physical and mental health;  
- their familial and social relations;  
- their social and economical situation.

5. Expect it to last long, and create continuity, for violations of freedom and sexual violence against women (and their isolation afterwards) are expressions of unequal power relations between men and women deep rooted in the culture and religion. This is not to say that authorities (be it government, gang or individual) are excused by this.

6. Give priority to the return of the refugees to their place of origin, under strict conditions of freely given agreement and security as the refugees experience it. Both criteria must be kept very strictly for women and girls that have suffered sexual violence, who are pregnant or have given birth.

7. Report experiences that can help to build a juridical system of human rights for women, in order to end impunity and develop jurisdiction.

8. Reject every thought of self-interest on all levels of political action and support.





## Playing With Fire

by Merav Datan, WILPF International Member At Large

Jerusalem in the early 1970s was more a small town with villages than a modern city. The border between east and west that existed from 1948 to 1967 was gone and new Jewish neighborhoods were being built, with largely Arab labor, on both sides. Acts of terror took on clear political messages – a refrigerator that exploded in Zion Square – but they were rare by today's standards. There was nothing like the blind rage and continuous violence of today. That rage was probably born around this time.

Beit Hakerem is a Jewish neighborhood in west Jerusalem, at the time mostly secular, middle class, and Ashkenazi, with good schools and young families, quiet winding streets lined with pine trees and rocky hills with olive trees, rosemary, oleander, honeysuckle, cactus, and thistles. On the hill next to our building were fields with almond trees, wild watermelon, and colorful thorns. In the mornings Arab shepherds would bring sheep through the fields to graze. In the afternoons children from the neighborhood would play there. We liked to build fires from dried twigs and plants, and to experiment on different materials to see what exploded like glass, and what melted like plastic. One of our fires went out of control and firefighters were called to put it out.

The lie that we told our parents and the authorities was my invention. We said that we had seen a few Arab boys running away from the fire. We did not say that Arabs started it. We did not have to. We did not say how we knew these boys were Arab. Nobody asked. Nobody chose to doubt us, three young children who had been scolded repeatedly and ineffectively for playing with fire. We probably smelled of smoke as usual, but nobody bothered to sniff. The lie about seeing Arabs in the vicinity of danger and damage and the assumptions behind that lie were so willingly received that we did not even have to explain our own presence at the fire.

At what point does myth confirmation turn into myth creation, and the myth into reality? Some might argue that the myth in this case is actually rooted in reality: Israeli Jews who see a terrorist in every Arab would say that the image exists because there are in fact Arab terrorists. But what role has Israel played in cultivating this image? The near deadly consequences of the irresponsible games of children of privilege were so easily turned into fuel for the fire that feeds fear and fanaticism that we must wonder about the relationship between image and reality and the nature of cause and effect between them.

Our lie perpetuated at least three wrongs. Even though no one was directly punished for our acts, we contributed to a perception that any Arab, specifically any male Arab whatever his age, can be dangerous. This perception then tolerates punishing an entire population, including women and children, for the politics and acts of some. Second, we escaped justice, and third, in doing so we learned that we can play with fire and get away with it by blaming Arabs.

More than one Palestinian generation has come of age in the shadow of casual Israeli dehumanization and a brutal power imbalance. During this time Israel has developed a security and counter-terrorism expertise which it shares with the United States, presumably along with a certain perception of Arabs. Watching the war on terrorism is like watching a repeat performance of some of Israel's worst mistakes writ large and in slow motion. But there is also an opportunity here to learn from the mistakes of the past.

Like me at age 10, the Bush Administration has started a fire for which it blames the Arabs. They may not word it that way, but one Arab in Iraq has become the symbolic pretext for war on the lands and in the homes of the Iraqi people. Despite the evidence, they deny that the fire in Iraq is out of control, and despite – or because of – the deaths, a majority of the American people appear constitutionally incapable of admitting that this war was a mistake.





NPT continued from page 4

Now!?", drawing on the expertise of our global colleagues to assess the progress- or lack thereof- on each of the 13 Steps to Disarmament, as agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference. As a demonstration of WILPF's high profile and credibility, former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Jayantha Dhanapala will write the introduction for this booklet, which is sure to be one of the most useful tools in our own local efforts at raising awareness on the Review Conference.

With the help of our colleagues around the world, Reaching Critical Will will also be updating it's Shadow Report: Accountability is Democracy. Transparency is Security, one of the most comprehensive databases of global nuclear holdings, both military and civilian. Lastly, we will also offer a joint publication with the Arms Control Association, which outlines the 13 most salient challenges to the NPT regime. This publication will outline critical issues such as verification, export controls, reporting, NGO participation, fissile materials, security assurances, missile defense and more.

These materials will be available on the Reaching Critical Will website (<http://www.ReachingCriticalWill.org>).

WILPF is also supporting the May 1, 2005 nuclear disarmament rally, scheduled to take place in New York's famous Central Park. WILPF is working closely with United for Peace and Justice, Abolition 2000 and the Mayors for Peace Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons in order to make this event a success. WILPF members around the world are also working to enroll their Mayors in the Mayors for Peace campaign, led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which aims to enroll mayors across the globe to come to the 2005 NPT Review Conference. The Mayors for Peace Campaign has proposed a reasonable timetable for achieving a nuclear weapon free world by 2020 with negotiations to begin in 2005 and to conclude by 2010, with global nuclear disarmament implemented no later



Rhianna Tyson, Reaching Critical Will Project

than 2020.

At the Review Conference itself, WILPF's Reaching Critical Will project will again publish the News In Review, the only daily publication that covers all of the events surrounding the Conference, allowing activists not only in New York to get a glimpse of the proceedings. WILPF will once again organize daily briefings from governmental representatives with civil society, as well as assist with the organization of NGO side events throughout the four weeks of the conference.

WILPFers understand the uniquely dangerous world in which we all live today. For the past 90 years, WILPF, unlike any other organization, has worked tirelessly to understand and affect the policies that threaten our global security; now, more than ever, WILPF's education and outreach on these policies is more vital than ever. All WILPFers should utilize the resources provided by the Reaching Critical Will project in order to maximize efforts to continue our fight for a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.



The aims and principles of WILPF are to bring together women of different political and philosophical convictions united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and the concept of war; to work toward world peace and for total and universal disarmament; the abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflicts and the substitution in each case of negotiation and conciliation, the strengthening of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, the strengthening of the institution of international law; and to strive for political and social equality, economic equity, cooperation among all people and for development within a sustainable environment.

## Join the Celebration of the 90th Birthday of WILPF in the Hague 23 April 2005

An invitation for all European sections and section members to celebrate the 90th birthday of WILPF on 23 April 2005 in the Hague.

We will organise a seminar about Security Council Resolution 1325 and about gender issues concerning the International Criminal Court.

The day will end with a dinner for all WILPF members. You can register and find more information from Anna- Joya Faulhaber. [anna-joya@zonnet.nl](mailto:anna-joya@zonnet.nl) or: [a.faulhaber@fontys.nl](mailto:a.faulhaber@fontys.nl) about the programme, lodging from the 22th –24th and costs.

Hope to see you in the Hague,  
*Heidi and Han*

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*Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily endorsed by WILPF.*

## Save the Date!

2005 WILPF

International Executive Committee  
Meeting

1-4 September, 2005

La Cenacle, Geneva

Officer's Meeting 31 August & 5 September

Register early and book your flight now for this important meeting. For more information contact the Geneva office, or email [susi.snyder@wilpf.ch](mailto:susi.snyder@wilpf.ch)

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