

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

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Organization's mandate/goals:

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was founded in April 1915, in the Hague, the Netherlands. The aims and principles of WILPF are to bring together women of different political beliefs and philosophies who are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and the legitimization of war; to work toward world peace; total and universal disarmament; the abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflict; the strengthening of the United Nations system; the continuous development and implementation of international law; political and social equality and economic equity; co-operation among all people; and an environmentally sustainable development. Believing that under systems of exploitation these aims cannot be attained and a real and lasting peace and true freedom cannot exist, WILPF makes it its duty to further by non-violent means the social transformation that enables the inauguration of systems under which social, political and economic equity for all can be attained, without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other grounds whatsoever. WILPF sees as its ultimate goal the establishment of an international economic order founded on the principles of meeting the needs of all people and not on those of profit and privilege.

WILPF has consultative status at the UN and has been active at both the Disarmament Commission and the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission. It hosted a series of workshops in the lead up to the UN 2001 Conference and is active in the IANSA Women's Network.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange -- *Coalition building*

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom participates actively in NGO committees around the UN. WILPF takes a keen interest and participates in joint NGO efforts for the ratification of the CTBT, having campaigned vigorously against nuclear testing, and in the NPT review process. WILPF efforts to bring about disarmament and an end to the war system, together with governments, multilateral bodies and NGOs. In the latter case, WILPF works closely with disarmament and peace organizations and above all women's organizations and individuals to make the achievement of disarmament and peace their responsibility.

Working with Vulnerable Groups -- *Advocacy*

WILPF works to make women aware of their potentials and unique skills, and also of their responsibilities they must assume, to identify the root causes of conflict, prevent war and build peace. WILPF strongly supports the development and realization of the UN Charter and various international conventions and treaties. Following the work of the UN and of many of its agencies and programmes, WILPF finances two to three young women interns to learn about the UN and the work of international NGOs.