



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

UK Section

Annual Report 2019-2020
104th Year

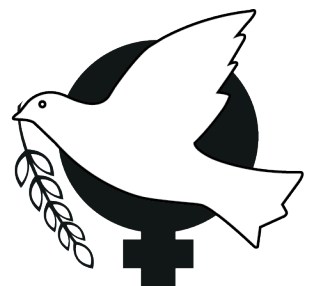


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Secretary's Report

By Paula Shaw, Secretary WILPF UK

We have had wonderful and sad news during 2019 and this report reflects that. Members of the WILPF UK Executive have worked hard on all our campaigns – thank you. We have continued to campaign as internationalists, despite Brexit, and were part of the excellent film “Versailles 1919: Return of the Dangerous Women”. We are also pleased that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) team from WILPF International are still sharing our room at Tindlemanor.

We were very fortunate that WILPF UK was one of the beneficiaries of the Legacy from Lorna Kellas, a long-standing WILPF member. We will be setting up a special fund, in her memory, to enable more WILPF women to benefit from training and to travel to relevant conferences.

We continue to work in partnership with other organisations to campaign for the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): we are part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and continue to lobby for the UK to sign and ratify the Treaty, which will enter into force in 2020/2021. All WILPF members can be involved in checking they are not involved with banks, companies or pension funds which invest in weapons of any sort. Remember 2020 is the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are affiliated to XR Peace (Extinction Rebellion Peace) and take part in non-violent climate emergency actions. Look out for further details from Jenny Engledow in our newsletters.

Our Autumn Seminar on Ecofeminism and Pacifism was a huge success and gives us ways forward to ensure we do what we can on climate change. You can view the amazing speakers on YouTube through www.wilpf.org link.



*WILPF DIE-IN - GRACE, BEA & PAULA
PRETENDING TO DIE OUTSIDE WESTMINSTER
ABBEY WHEN PRINCE WILLIAM ATTENDED A
THANKSGIVING FOR PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON
NUCLEAR SUBMARINES, APRIL 2019*

The Voices of African Women campaign goes from strength to strength with many more activities planned – more details are given from Keyet Makonnen later in this report.

2020 is the year we celebrate 20 years of UN SC Resolution 1325 – where women were given an established presence in peace negotiations. We hope to link with the London School of Economics (LSE) for the Seminar in November 2020 – details will be given in future newsletters.

Some wonderful WILPF women have died this last year and many of us attended celebrations of their lives. Most of these women had lived long and eventful lives but one, Dahabo Ahmed, died tragically and far too early. They are all missed, and obituaries are at the end of this report.

We have had some brilliant and enthusiastic younger WILPF women help with campaigns and communications – thank you. They often only stay a while before moving into opportunities around the world but without them we would not achieve so much.

We still have so much to do, and with your help, we will get there!



WILPF NUCLEAR PROTEST - JENNY AND ANNE WITH THE MUSHROOM CLOUD AT THE STOP THE ARMS FAIR SEP 2019



SHEILA AND PAULA AT THE STALL AT CND CONFERENCE IN 2019

Membership Report

By Cecilia Passaniti - Membership Secretary WILPF UK

In November 2019, there has been a revision and standardisation of membership record-keeping. The following actions were taken:

1. Compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
 - a. Creation of a Membership email account (membership.wilpfuk@gmail.com) separate from the main WILPF UK account
 - b. Creation of a Google Drive separate from the main WILPF UK drive
 - c. Encryption of the members’ personal contact details and payment methods
2. Members
 - a. Personal contact with members whose memberships had elapsed at the end of 2018 and had not yet renewed their memberships in 2019 to thank them for their continued support and remind them of the upcoming renewal period
 - b. Personal contact with members with outdated emails and postal addresses
 - c. Recruitment of new members and volunteers through events, especially the “Women Go Green” Autumn Seminar in November.
3. Streamlining of Payment Methods

WILPF UK accepts payments of membership fees in one of four methods: bank transfers, cheques, PayPal, and standing orders. Details of these payments are now accessible only to the Membership Secretary (for record-keeping), the Treasurer and the Section Secretary.

WILPF in Numbers	
Updated to December 2019	Updated to February 2020
Brighton Branch: 34 members Cornwall Branch: 13 members Norwich Branch: 15 members Orpington Branch: 16 members Scotland Branch: 27 members Non-Affiliated: 185 members	Brighton Branch: 21 members Cornwall: 6 members Norwich Branch: 8 members Orpington Branch: 14 members Scotland Branch: 15 members Non-Affiliated: 118
Total: 290 members	Total: 182 members

Communications Report

By Savannah Dysard- Communications Lead

The Communications Team is responsible for developing and sharing WILPF UK's mission with the world. This is done through various social media channels and the monthly WILPF UK newsletter. Additionally, the team has taken over many administrative tasks to keep communication streamlines with other organizations open, effective, and efficient. In the past year we have accomplished the following initiatives:

- Streamlined the Facebook pages and profiles into one, single page. The WILPF UK Facebook page now has 1,269 likes and 1,350 followers. Each post reaches an average of 277 people and each day around 14 people search and visit the page.
- Nearly a year of monthly newsletters have gone out to WILPF UK members and there will soon be an added newsletter for non-WILPF members.
- The WILPF UK Instagram was recently created and will continue to evolve in the coming months. The page has 99 followers!
- The WILPF UK Twitter page has 1,667 followers and is being updated as frequently as possible.
- Savannah will begin the WILPF UK website redesign. She hopes this will be complete in the next two months.

International Report

By Taniel Yusef with contribution with Maki Kimura

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019 Focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (Peace) WILPF UK sent a representative (T.Yusef) to HLPF New York as the UK Government was to deliver its 4 yearly Voluntary National Review (VNR) . The VNR was largely evasive, watered down and soft speak. After an attempt to influence the Civil Society responses by placing some robust questions around women's rights and specifically seeking assurances around the recent UK Supreme Court order to suspend arms sales licences to Saudi Arabia, the final statements were rather disappointing and general; with some loose language around human rights, women and arms. At the UK WILPF Executive we did wonder whether the UK SDG community was something we should include ourselves in more in order to raise awareness and impact these matters more effectively going forward. Taniel made a statement on NGO TV

attempting to voice what was lacking in the room. The Canadian Mission hosted **Friends of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**, inviting a panel to speak on the issue as related to **SDG16**. With other WILPF delegates, Taniel presented on the UK arms trade, not just Saudi Arabia, but trade in general and the effects on women physically and economically as causes of gender based violence. She highlighted the lack of policy coherence and legal obligation violations of austerity measures, the need for a feminist audit of all economic, trade and finance policy measures as a security issue and the implications on resources, migration, the environment and spill over effects as ethical, legal and efficiency issues.

Commission on the Status of Women 63 (CSW) UN NY, March 2019
Taniel attended as a member and liaised with other WILPF Internationals. Unsurprisingly, the side events, as well as the events coordinated by some of the post conflict countries had a much more nuanced and proactive analysis of core issues, and approach to coordinating meaningful efforts. There were good conversations being had around development and the lack of specific outreach which was neither local to the community and environment nor implemented by local women, eg. Women talking to women about menstruation and sanitation, or building extensive plumbing facilities in areas with no water. Hyper development with little local knowledge or enrichment has been an ongoing criticism of development funds by feminist development economists for decades. There is little movement here.

2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) WILPF sent three delegates to **COP25** in Madrid; Giovanna Pagani, WILPF Italy; Taniel Yusef, WILPF UK, and Pilar Gegundez WILPF Spain. In general discussions the European Union, aware of disproportionate responsibility, pledged groundbreaking legislation to ensure justice while meeting climate targets. However, discussion over the Gender Action Plan was heated. African states wanted 'finance' included but were met with heavy resistance from some states. There were also debates between slow transition / 'leave no-one behind,' and quick switch. On behalf of WILPF, Taniel Yusef participated in a panel session jointly hosted with Transparency International and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; "A Feminist Attempt at Connecting Climate Crisis, Corporate Capture and the Urgency of Good Governance". Many showed interest in the legacy of corporate and military extraction and the effects on the environment and women. Students, academics and other advocates were interested in aligning research, exhibiting a positive trend in the timeliness of feminist political economy analyses.

Business Human Rights Treaty There is a proposal at WILPF International around further political economy work which is positive and has potentially transformative implications. Currently the focus is on the implications and potential lessons after the Covid-19 pandemic: What it means for and illuminates about the care economy, social infrastructure, wasteful and harmful military spending and lack of a sustainable, just infrastructure and distributive welfare which is demographically responsive and environmentally sustainable for the health of people and planet (in finance, labour, housing and nature) that feminist economists and disarmament advocates have warned of for decades. Taniel has attended the **Business Human Rights Forum** which is working to establish a Treaty with aspects of Industry and Finance to regulate against/ mitigate harm along supply chains. At WILPF International there is analysis of the work being done at the forum. We hope that economic/financial analysis, as we have been working on within the European sections (and EWL) will be facilitated at international WILPF level. Economics is a conflict issue. Conflict is business as usual.

WILPF sections from Europe joined by partners from Austria, Bosnia, Georgia, Ukraine and Lebanon met in Brussels, 12-14 April during the annual WILPF European meeting. Maki Kimura and Taniel Yusef attended as International Liaison Officers. Despite looming Brexit, WILPF UK was welcome to continue to work with European sections. During the meeting, a declaration/statement *Towards a Peaceful Europe in a Peaceful World* was jointly drafted and circulated widely afterwards as a campaign material for the upcoming European Election urging the candidates for the members of European Parliament to be committed to build a Peaceful Europe. WILPF Europe holds regular online meetings to share information on activities in each section. WILPF members and partners met on 11th May in Zurich to celebrate the 100th anniversary of WILPF's Second Congress in Zurich and to re-enact the Congress as part of the *Women Vote Peace* project funded by the European Commission and managed by WILPF Germany. During this re-enactment WILPF Switzerland, together with partner organisations, Swiss Peace Council and Women for Peace organised the International Women's Peace Conference, which was attended by around 150 people. A dozen WILPF members and non-members travelled from the UK (all the way by a bus to Zurich!) to attend these events. Charlotte Bill and her team from Clapham Film Unit, filmed the re-enactment of the Congress, and produced *Versailles 1919: The Return of These Dangerous Women*, a sequel to *These Dangerous Women* produced in 2015 in partnership with WILPF UK. The *Women Vote Peace* project successfully closed with the last meetings held in

Budapest and Vienna in November, with series of screening of *Versailles 1919: The Return of These Dangerous Women* in the UK and other European cities. This project has contributed enormously to stimulating WILPF activities in Europe (and beyond) as new sections have now been set up in Austria and Hungary, and also relationships with partners in Poland and Russia have been strengthened.

In our 2019 Autumn Seminar held on 24th November, Margrethe Tingstad, WILPF Norway member and current WILPF Vice-President was one of the invited speakers. With some international speakers being WILPF members, we could further strengthen our connections with members in different sections.

Disarmament Campaign

By Maki Kimura

This year marks 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Members will be aware of the alarming increase in global tensions, from the US assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, plus sanctions against Iran, to economic and political tensions amongst the global powers amidst a global struggle between people demanding socio-economic change, and wresting political power from leaders, as well as environmental stability and sustainable systems. In January this year, the Doomsday Clock was moved to 100 seconds to midnight. It has never been framed in seconds before. However, people are starting to see the true links between systemic economic corporate capture and militarised control as gender based violence, class oppression and plunder of natural systems. WILPF UK is now a part of XR Peace highlighting the links between conflict, capital and ecology.

No Trident Renewal (NTR) have been doing excellent collation and reporting work. While the 2020 Review Conference has been (so far) cancelled due to the virus, these meetings and monitoring are crucial. Questions are frequently put forward with NTR partners as well as interrogating information with Freedom of Information requests. Meanwhile, regarding Trident renewal, the media have reported that a UK decision has already been made to work with US on the W93 warhead for Trident. NTR monitor the road convoys of nuclear weapons often with Nukewatch.

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has 81 signatures and 35 ratifications. It is predicted to reach its target of Entry into Force, upon 50 ratifications by end of 2020 or 2021. Members are encouraged to follow divestment campaigns such as Don't Bank on the Bomb, Move the Money and the Global Campaign on Military Spending as well as the Cities Appeal.

Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee, United Nations NY 2019. There were lobby meetings to discuss disarmament prospects, including the use of Highly Enriched Uranium for peaceful vs. military grade use (which provides for a possible legal loop-hole due to naval propulsion use) and the preparation for the TPNW coming into force, as well as hostile changes using the INF (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty and the multi stakeholder effects of the TPNW in conjunction with the NPT. Taniel delivered the WILPF statement to the room which was prepared in collaboration with other associated NGOs. The statement pointed out some progress but largely noted the lack of equity in the room and the disproportionate harm of nuclear weapons.

WILPF UK are on the steering group of the **UK Campaign to stop Killer Robots** and support the **global campaign**. Along with Article 36 and UNA UK, WILPF UK were on the hiring committee for the new UK coordinator Verity Coyle who has been an excellent asset in streamlining the collation, and reports to the conveners weekly. We are now at the stage of establishing the steering group, formalising the year's strategic campaign, mapping parliamentary alliances and reaching out to the tech and finance sector so as to influence the UK position along commercial as well security interest lines. We have applied for a large grant which could support larger advocacy and a WILPF aligned expert research paper around rethinking security, tech and harm; for parliamentary launched. We will hear about the grant in July, for a November launch. Meetings with other NGO partners have been swift, prolific and extremely positive. The UK core team recently met with the MoD. Taniel has attended the **Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) Meeting on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**, in the WILPF Delegation, at UN Geneva, March and August 2019 meeting with several missions' delegations including repeated conversations with the MoD/FCO, which are current and on going.

The Berlin pre-CCW session was cancelled. However, an unprecedented online two day forum was scheduled in April. Both state military experts and civil society presented. Even though there was an unsurprising lack of support for a ban from the usual states, stating sufficiency of current law / the weapons systems being conceptual, there was thematic agreement on aspects of 'human control' or 'human in the loop.' These are elements we can work with among the UK lobby.

Women, Peace, and Security – 1325

By Maki Kimura

Thanks to our new members, our new women, a peace and security campaign leaflet has finally been redesigned and is in the process of being finalized. We should be able to start using our new leaflet from this summer. WILPF UK continues to be part of the Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) network, which is the UK civil society network on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Through GAPS, we have been involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the UK policies on WPS. Our most recent contribution has been to develop the Call to Action: Now and the Future - COVID-19 and Gender Equality, Global Peace and Security paper launched by GAPS on 9th April in response to COVID-19.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council 1325 Resolution on WPS. To mark these anniversaries, various (side) events were planned to take place during the 64th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW). We supported our member Cecilia Passaniti to apply for funding from WILPF International to attend CSW64 as the WILPF UK delegate. She was successful in securing the funding, but unfortunately, CSW64 was cancelled due to COVID-19. We are hoping that the session will be rescheduled later this year.

Given the 20th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 on WPS, it has been decided, in one of the WILPF UK Executive Committee meetings, that Women, Peace and Security will be the theme of this year's autumn seminar. We have been in communication with the Centre for Women, Peace and Security, LSE for their support, such as venue and speakers, but the actual work of planning the seminar is just starting. If you have any ideas or want to be involved in organising the seminar, please get in touch.

WILPF UK joined the Peace Education Network (PEN), last year, which is a national UK network of organisations committed to education for peace. We have been asked to develop a lesson on gender, peace and war as part of Teach Peace, educational resources for secondary school students. The PEN is collaboratively producing these resources after their successful presentation of Teach Peace: Second Edition for primary school students. You can download resources for primary school students from their website <https://peace-education.org.uk/teach-peace>.

Voices of African Women (VoAW)

By Keyet Makonnen

We must acknowledge the loss of our dear and cherished member, Dahabo Ahmed. At the time of her passing she was in the midst of founding a WILPF section in Somalia. We miss her dearly and we welcome her presence among the ancestors.

The Voices of African Women (VoAW) campaign has been program-matically fruitful during this year of structural change. We have celebrated and rejoiced in the 10th anniversary of the VoAW campaign, as well as the end of the United Nations African Women's decade. We began 2019 with a celebration at SOAS University of London. Many members of the campaign spoke about their work both in their born countries and within their communities here in the United Kingdom. Among the members who participated were: opening speaker Sheila Triggs, Mama Khadiga Hussain, Khadija Fadoul, Marie Claire Faray, Mary Lyse Numuhoza, Mariam Suliman, Niat Chefena Hailemariam/standing for Khadija Ali, and Keyet Makonnen.

Throughout the year, we have seen success in our programs. We have held a number of well attended meetings and had a bump in our active membership for several months. We have begun building deep and meaningful relationships with our partners and WILPF sections on the African continent. We have encouraged the visibility and participation of those members, with the use of technology, in UK based events. Our partners in the country of Sierra Leone WILPF section have sent two videos about their work to contribute to both the VoAW celebration in February and the WILPF autumn seminar. We have worked to develop and maintain a working relationship with the Centre for African Studies at SOAS University of London. This relationship has proven to be fruitful in the form of free or reduced price room hire as well as marketing support through their networks. We have also begun to deepen our relationship with other organisations that have been connected to WILPF for many years: including the Women's Resource Centre and the UN Laser branch.

Due to some administrative challenges, the membership increase and attendance bump we received in monthly meetings following the success of the February event, has since dwindled. We have committed to work towards improving our administrative capacity and to having more large scale events to continue public interest in our issue-based campaigns. The administrative challenges are tied to the campaign's relationship with WILPF's general administrative practices which have been difficult to uphold with our all-

volunteer core committee and dwindling active membership. In addition to membership challenges, the VoAW more specifically, has meant that the VoAW has not kept up with the use of technological advances that may solve some of our administrative challenges and improve our capacity to do future work. Some of our dedicated members have sought to learn more computer skills to better use software that will improve both our administrative capacity, as well as the professionalization for our campaigning more broadly.

The VoAW campaign is facing some large challenges amidst growing administrative challenges, ever-more political concerns globally, and locally amidst our decreasing active membership. We are grateful to WILPF UK for committing to the African and African-descended members via this campaign and its future work. We look forward to further developing relationships with partner organisations and interpersonally modeling peace processes that governments throughout the world should also follow.

Annual Accounts WILPF

By Anne Eggleton, Treasurer WILPF UK

These accounts have not yet been approved by an Examiner (i.e. Auditor) as a result of delay due to the pandemic.

1. Changing the AGM mailings to email where appropriate has resulted in a large saving in postage.
2. Tindlemanor only invoiced us for 3 quarters' rent in 2018, which has meant that 5 quarters' rent show in 2019 expenditure.
3. £40,000 has been transferred from the main current account to the Triodos reserve account pending decisions on longer term investment.

Grants and donations:

- We are very grateful for the legacy from the estate of Lorna Kellas. This will make a big difference to our campaigning capacity.
- We also gratefully acknowledge the many regular and generous donations from individual members which make our organisation more sustainable.
- We also appreciate the grants or donations received from the following organisations:
- Musicians for Peace and Disarmament; £1000 from a concert at which WILPF member Nicole Treanor was the speaker.

- Sheffield Central Quaker Meeting
- WILPF International and UNA LaSER Trust grants and Voices of African Women campaign fundraising specifically for the Autumn Seminar

UK SECTION WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019			
£	COOPERATIVE BANK MAIN ACCOUNT		£
2018	INCOME		2019
4,790.00	Membership subscriptions		4,711.00
3,588.93	Individual and other donations		3,743.15
	Legacy from Lorna Kellas		62,963.71
2,360.00	Funds for congress		
613.00	Sales T-shirts		854.35
864.85	Sales Other items		454.20
2,103.00	Grants		943.48
28.50	Meetings		75.00
	Refund from seminar speaker of the personal part of travel costs paid on her behalf		142.00
1.13	Miscellaneous		
34.40	PayPal items		
14,383.81	TOTALS		73,886.89
	EXPENDITURE		
600.44	Donations & Affiliations		600.00
199.34	UK Travel		128.50
4,057.07	International travel		243.50
851.00	UK Meetings and seminars - see note 1		456.00
1,099.88	Postage, stationery and printing		261.60
3,001.98	Campaigns		3,397.41
20.00	Stalls at events		
546.15	Website, internet and phone		402.95
5,843.58	Section fees paid to WILPF International		4,323.02
1,202.89	Purchase of items for sale		1,150.59
6.00	Bank charge for cheque with funds		
80.00	Wreaths for memorials		
20.94	Paypal and SumUp commission		128.79
17,529.27	TOTALS		11,092.36
(3,145.46)	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE / (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)		62,794.53
	OTHER TRANSACTIONS		
	Shortfall in agreed repayment by WILPF Germany of loan to Clapham Film Unit due to currency exchange.		(336.16)
	Payment from WILPF Germany of international expenses of UK WILPF members, received 30 December 2019. Reimbursements to members made in 2020.		235.23
	Deduction of amount included as Paypal asset in 2018 accounts. This was transferred to the main current account in 2019 and included under subscriptions		(137.42)
12.10	Deposit Account Interest: Triodos - see note 3		17.82
	TOTAL		62,574.00

COOPERATIVE BANK OFFICE ACCOUNT			
		INCOME	
5,065.30		Use of the office	4,243.30
		Donations	120.00
2,150.00		Donations as standing orders	1,682.00
7,215.30		TOTALS	6,045.30
		EXPENDITURE	
43.72		Building - including new office furniture, cleaning	605.50
2,771.00		Tindelmanor licence fee / service charge (including business rates) - see note 2	4,207.25
		Computer, repairs, supplies, software	120.00
494.33		Insurance	494.22
91.00		Volunteer expenses	47.00
		Office supplies	229.13
40.00		Transfers of subscription payments to main account	
3,440.05		TOTALS	5,703.10
		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE / (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)	
3,775.25			342.20
		ASSETS	
		CURRENT ACCOUNTS	
3,174.08		Cooperative Bank MAIN Account	25,867.68
4,895.40		Cooperative Bank OFFICE Account	5,237.60
137.42		Paypal Account (not in UK WILPF name)	0.00
		RESERVE ACCOUNT	
4,448.66		Triodos Account	44,466.48
12,655.56		TOTALS	75,571.76
		REPRESENTED BY:	
12,013.67		Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2019	12,655.56
(3,133.36)		Main account excess of income / (excess of expenditure)	62,574.00
3,775.25		Office account excess of income / (excess of expenditure)	342.20
12,655.56			75,571.76

News From WILPF Trust

By Deirdre Leask

The WILPF Trust had a challenging year in 2019, like so many small charities and trusts, in a world with increasing need to bring people together peacefully and constructively. However, we managed to maintain our status with the Charity Commission, fulfilling the minimum requirements to continue as a Trust and we face 2020 with new hope and with three experienced and dynamic new trustees. While we

are still looking for a treasurer, key to any fundraising or giving, we hope to support WILPF work in the coming year and to contribute actively to the promotion of human (and particularly women's) rights and peacebuilding.

Environment – XR COP25

By Jenny Engledow and Janet Fenton

The last twelve months were very busy for people involved in the Extinction Rebellion movement. It has long been recognised that the military damage the planet. This happens in various ways from the black smoke belching from the back of their tanks to the dropping of bombs and the testing of nuclear weapons - the ultimate madness. The harm the military does to humans is so obviously appalling, causing thousands of people to flee the rubble of their homes seeking safety. This can involve great loss of life, and survivors ending stuck for many months in inadequate and cramped refugee camps with hope gone. War and militarism do not only cause loss of life, health and hope for humans, but also do irreparable damage to animals and to the planet itself, defoliating forests and irradiating the soil and poisoning the water.

Now Peace Groups including CND, Movement for the Abolition of War, Quakers and many others have come together with climate activists to form a non violent direct action group XRPeace, which is working to highlight this military aspect of climate change with the huge troop movements, planes, ships, lorries and tanks all contributing to the mess. WILPF women with other peace people took part in the demonstrations in London, lying on the steps of the MOD and being arrested for it, leafleting people around to focus their attention on why they were there.

WILPF is part of this XR Peace group and as you know we organised some training so we could take on the different roles in the future actions, locally or at the national actions planned for the early summer but on hold at the moment. The training will take place just as soon as we are able to gather together in groups once again and then we will be ready for action. Some of us want to know how to be effective observers, and co-ordinators within the movement and others dealing with the press, some preparing themselves for being arrested, others helping with the welfare of the group but all adhering to the principals of non-violent direct action.

Joining the new climate movement seemed like a no-brainer for a WILPF and nuclear disarmament woman. War causes climate change and climate change causes war! I was keen to join XRPeace for the rebellion in London last

October. As a member of Trident Ploughshares, I have experienced arrest when participating in Non-violent Direct Action (NVDA) and I was prepared to face that possibility again. WILPF has always understood that patriarchal structures and attitudes contribute to irresponsible environmental behaviour and policies. This has been built into our efforts for nuclear disarmament. We know that severe weather crises cause food and fresh water scarcity. WILPF recognises that increasing rates of human migration also puts pressure on governments, factors that increase conflict and the likelihood of nuclear accident or war.

I joined the October rebellion in London on the second day, and with a small affinity group managed to block the entrance to the MOD in Whitehall; we were moved and removed by the police but not charged, reducing the use of that entrance for several hours in a torrential downpour. Another WILPF woman was the XRPeace Police Liaison person for the week. This was Dr Rebecca Johnson, a Greenham woman and close friend and colleague. On Wednesday, I was part of more action on the MOD front steps. (Please look at the XRPeace.org website for the whole inspiring story.) I was able to jump in for a couple of days to this Mexican wave because of the fantastic support from legal observers, media people, organisers and supporters of various aspects of the action and I was in a small group of people I absolutely trusted – my affinity group. Additionally, I have had experience of this amazing and life affirming process before, and I had undergone training in NVDA.

The training which WILPF is arranging provides an opportunity to learn more, to make choices about being part of such a group, in the role that suits you and your circumstances. We need as many peaceful women on board as we can find to make the change that is needed happen.

Brighton, Hove, & District Branch Report

By Jenny Engledow

International Women's Day in Brighton for 2019 and the 2020 events were very busy so we had a good time talking to many women on each occasion. A bright, noisy and good celebration with speakers for 2020 on climate change and its consequences.

In May we worked with Amnesty International on Conscientious Objectors Day and many people signed letters to get a young man in Myanmar released from jail, and the really good news is that it worked and a few months later he was out of prison.

Throughout the year we took part with Brighton Against the Arms Trade (BAAT) in the EDO MBM weapons factory campaign. We showed two good films- 'War School' re militarisation of children from a very young age, and 'The Shadow World' about corruption in the arms industry, both with a Q and A session afterwards with the film makers. Street theatre group 'Ice and Fire' performed an anti weapons sales play in the town, and a demonstration at the factory gates drew around 100 people and some good speakers, including a local MP. Workshops have been well attended focusing on the sale of bombs to Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and one more will be on Israel, all took lot of planning for the events that were mostly well attended.

We organised training with BAAT to take part in the DSEI, (Defence and Security Equipment International, or arms fair really), and went to the demonstrations where there were a few other WILPF women. We had a bit of a sing and wandered in the road and got in the way of the police but nothing too serious.

In August our local mayor spoke at our Hiroshima commemoration, she is a Green party member so was very much in line with our thinking and her talk was good and to the point. We attracted many people to the evening event and may consider something extra this year as it will be the 75 anniversary.

At our summer fundraiser we had a speaker from the Gatwick Detainees Support Group who help refugees in detention in whatever ways they can. The refugees have no idea how long they will remain there, or if they will be deported, such a cruel way to treat people who have committed no crime. For our New Year fundraiser Charlotte Bill, director of the film 'The return of the dangerous women', came as we showed the film, and she did a Q and A answering quite a range of questions.

November's Remembrance Day event had about 50 people to share the silence with us, and our vigil on the International Day for Elimination of Violence



Against Women was a chance to talk to people about this huge subject and we had a good reception despite the rain.

Some of our group are involved with Extinction Rebellion and have taken part in several local actions, including stewarding at the school strikes and joined in the London demonstrations briefly. We expect to be working with the Quakers and others in XR Peace, locally as well as nationally, recognising the military has one of the largest 'footprints' as well as being potentially the most dangerous.



*HELEN LEDGER & JENNY ENGEDOW TYING A
PEACE POPPY WREATH*



*GAIL JUDD & GROUP OF WOMEN SIGNING
A PETITION AT THE REMEMBRANCE DAY
EVENT IN BRIGHTON 8.11.2019*

Cornwall Branch Report

By Lucia Jones

During 2019 Cornwall Branch, due to a smaller group of participants has been quieter than previous years.

One member of the group took part in the project called 24 Hours of Peace, "24OP", led and organised by Neil Barlett, OBE, actor, author and director. The project was about a free 24 hour performance at the Royal Exchange Manchester. Neil interviewed 100 people who have been working towards peace or conflict resolution. The interviews were used to create the script which was performed by actors and community members. The

performance was presented on the 10th of November at the Royal Exchange in Manchester and it was a success.

We also took part in the International Peace Day 21st September were one of the members talk to the public about WILPF, what we do, the project about photos of women's hands and the Peace Process in Colombia (South America). The main thing we have been doing this year is a project about taking photos of women's hands doing a job, in order to raise awareness of the different roles women play in society. This project is divided in two parts. The first one was called "Our hands build the society". With the help of Cornwall College, we managed to take 24 photographs of women from Camborne, Hayle and Illogan. We then, organised an exhibition in a little gallery in Camborne on the 14th of June. The feedback was very positive.

The second part of the project is called "Hundred hands for Hundred Years", which aim to celebrate 100 years of women's vote. It would be 102 year in 2020. We have been working on getting students from different colleges and other people who might be interested in taking part in the project. We will finish this project in the new year.

Norwich and Norfolk Branch Report

By Marie-Lyse Numuhoza

Briefly in Norwich we currently have 6 active members (recently welcomed a lecturer at the East Anglia university). Other members only receive the newsletter. We had our first yearly meeting in Jan 2020 and the only plan was to share the UK WILPF campaign activities with student at the University which was to be organised by the our new member. We were also going to continue to hold a WILPF stall at the peace fair in September.

Orpington Branch Report

By Pat Pleasance

The climate emergency has been very much in our thoughts and actions this year. Our annual Garden Party welcomed Jenny Engledow from the Brighton Branch. She told us about the Extinction Rebellion's actions in London, and made various suggestions on what we could do ourselves in our lifestyles as our contribution to helping our planet to survive, and the list was circulated to our members. In addition to the Garden Party we had eight other branch meetings.

Environmental issues were well covered at the excellent WILPF Autumn Seminar at SOAS, which five of our members attended. As a follow up, a letter was drafted on environmental issues, which branch members sent to candidates in the General Election. At the local hustings, which concentrated on the environment, Green, Labour, and Liberal candidates spoke well, but the Conservative candidate, who did not bother to turn up, is now our MP!

Sheila Triggs introduced a discussion on "Talking to my daughter", an interesting and readable new book about capitalism by Yanis Varoufakis. Amongst many other points he emphasised that "debt" is the fuel of the economy, and he made a strong argument for borrowing to invest in our social infrastructure.

We also focused on Iran and Yemen, and Pat Pleasance traced the background to the situation initiated by President Trump unilaterally abandoning the 2015 Treaty where Iran had agreed to limit its nuclear activities. We covered the good news that CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade) had successfully shown that the government's arms sales to Saudi Arabia were illegal. We wrote to the government asking that the Court decision should not be appealed.

Sheila Triggs spoke at Bermondsey Community Centre, where a room was dedicated in memory of Ada Salter, one of our WILPF pioneers, and the story of her life was shared with members at a subsequent meeting. At another meeting we viewed the new WILPF film about the 1919 Zurich WILPF Congress.

We had a stall at the Open Day of the St. Mary Cray Allotment Association, and publicised WILPF. Two women later came to one of our meetings.

Orpington branch is also involved in WILPF at a national level, two of our members being part of the Finance Group.

Scotland Branch Report

By Janet Fenton

During the last year much of the emphasis of our activities has been on the interrelationships between feminism, peace and the climate. This started with our meeting at the Edinburgh World Justice Festival (EWJF) in October and continued through the upsurge in Extinction Rebellion and COP26 planned for Glasgow in November of this year. We were also in attendance at the Glasgow launch of the Return of the Dangerous Women, screened as part of a participative event at Glasgow Women's Library and Scottish "WILPFers" enjoyed playing host to UK women who were involved in the 2019 re-enactment in Zurich of WILPF Congress 1919 which is part of Charlotte's film. We also

participated in various other events at the Edinburgh World Justice Festival, vigils in Glasgow organised by the Scottish Peace Network, and Edinburgh events organised by Edinburgh Peace Groups.

In November we sold white poppies, and in the run up to Christmas, some of our student members organised a successful Student Social.

Following our Peace Through Inclusion leafleting and campaign, Emma Harper MSP put down a motion supporting action on 1325, which was debated in the Scottish Parliament on 8th January. It gained cross party support from all of the political parties, and WILPF was mentioned appreciatively in the debate. Chistine McKelvie MSP, The Cabinet Secretary for Equalities noted that:

Scotland is dedicated to being a good global citizen, working with organisations, initiatives and projects in countries around the globe to ensure that everyone benefits from a safer world. One such example is the women in conflict fellowship, inspired by Security Council resolution 1325, which was put in place to train women from areas of conflict around the world so that they can play an integral role in peace processes. The benefits of our fellowship are already being seen. Three women who were trained through it are now actively engaged in the Yemeni peace process, as members of the UN special envoy's women's advisory board.

After the debate, Christine advised us that our WILPF briefing paper and lobbying had directly contributed to this action.

Strathclyde university lecturer Catherine Eschle, a WILPF member is now regularly including a session on WILPF nuclear disarmament work through a feminist lens as part of her gender studies course. This spring, it had to be delivered by webinar but still managed to be sandwiched between the university strike and the Covid 19 shut down. Scottish WILPF have been making connections with XRPeace, Beyond Borders, UN House Scotland, Scottish CND groups and other potential partners with a view to actions and responses to COP 26. We have written to Mary Robinson, who may be in attendance.

We held several exploratory sessions of feminism and the environment, Maggie Chapman, former co-leader of the Scottish Greens led the one at the EWJF and another was led by Dr Claire Duncanson Senior Lecturer Edinburgh University and author of Gender and Peacebuilding (2016) and were very sorry to have to postpone our upcoming seminar due to the Covid 19 advice on large gatherings.

Thank you to Helen for arranging for the archiving of our historic materials with the National Library of Scotland where they will be available for future generations of campaigners.

Obituaries

In Peaceful Memory of Cynthia Cockburn, 1934 – 2019

Cynthia Cockburn - WILPF member, co-founder of Women in Black London, feminist peace activist and writer

Cynthia Cockburn died as she lived, a campaigner to the end. Her friends and family gathered in January at Westminster Friends Meeting House to celebrate her life and share memories of this wonderful feminist peace activist. On the walls were Cynthia's vibrant banners, as Raised Voices sang some of the songs she had written over her years of singing with this radical choir: 'Life on Earth', 'Refugee', 'Arms Trader' 'Who do they think they are?' and more.



Cynthia was a long-time WILPF member and inspirational campaigner. She was also a deep thinker and practical networker, with the rare ability to combine academic analysis with activist objectives. Women from many parts of her life

recalled Cynthia's kindness, creativity, strength and stubbornness in ways that made us laugh and cry. When she committed to a campaign, cause or book, she did extensive research and interviews, developed strategies, connected ideas, listened to many different perspectives and then put it all together with analytical brilliance. As she was remembered, her own compelling photos showed on a loop -- Hackney Greenham women protesting in the 1980s, Aldermaston, No to NATO, and many different Women in Black vigils and international gatherings.

Passionately committed to women, peace and nonviolent activism, Cynthia wrote a new manifesto for WILPF's 100th anniversary in 2015 (link on website). Renowned internationally as a ground-breaking feminist academic, she ranged from 1970s publications on local governance, technology and gender divisions, to books such as 'The Space Between Us - Negotiating Gender and National Identities' (1998), 'The Line: Women, Partition and the Gender Order in Cyprus' (2004), 'From where we stand: War, Women's Activism and Feminist Analysis' (2007), and 'Anti-militarism: political and gender dynamics of peace movements' (2012). Her final book, 'Looking to London: Stories of War, Escape and Asylum', was inspired by the NHS staff from war-torn communities in Asia and Africa that she spoke with during her hospitalisation for cancer in 2015. When cancer returned in 2019, Cynthia travelled with friends to Zurich, where Dignitas helped her to exercise her right to choose and retain her autonomy, as she wanted, to the end.

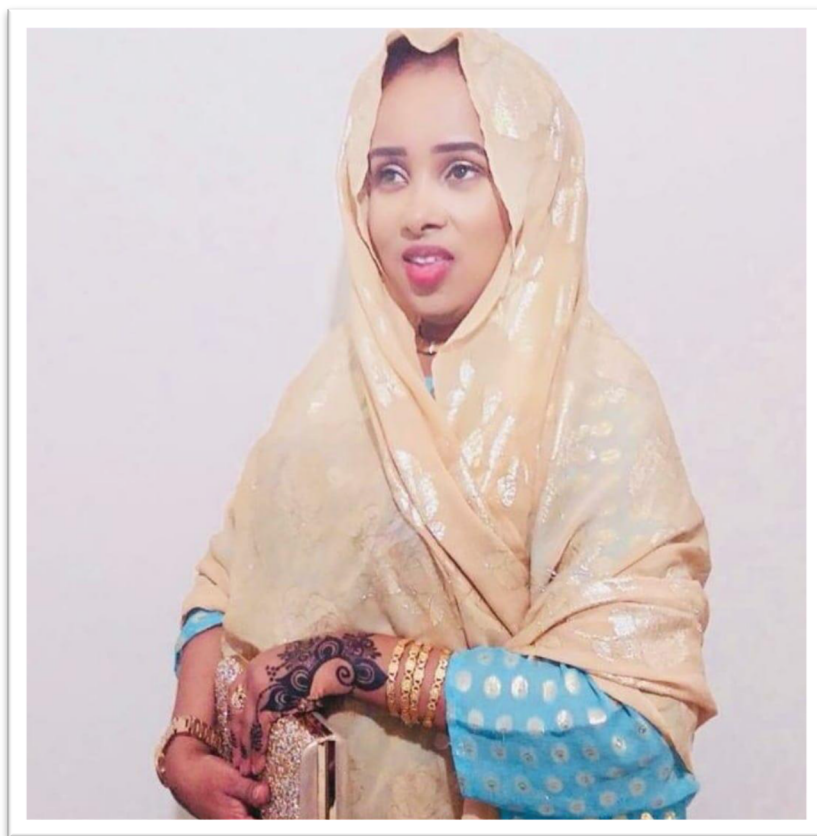
We closed our celebration of her life at Edith Cavell's plinth, where Cynthia stood with Women in Black for almost thirty years. Together we lit candles and sang 'One song, one dance', remembering her in all our many ways.

- *Rebecca Johnson, Liz Khan and Sheila Triggs*

For more of Cynthia's work access the 2015 WILPF Election Manifesto.

In Peaceful Memory of Dahabo Ahmed

Dahabo was a passionate and powerful member of WILPF UK for many years. She founded Mudnaan.org in 2006 which empowered women in the diaspora and in Somalia and in 2012 she founded the “Voice of Somali Women” movement which advocated for peace in Somalia and gave a voice to women and enabled participation in women’s political movement. She worked tirelessly to improve human rights in Somalia.



Dahabo was an active member of the Voices of African Women campaign and joined in lobbying and taking part in many demonstrations. She was an inspiring speaker and gave her time generously. In 2014 Dahabo contributed to the autumn seminar about sexual violence in conflict.

Dahabo was immortalised by Cynthia Cockburn in her excellent book “Looking to London” where the chapter on Tower Hamlets was based on her interviews with Dahabo.

From 2018 Dahabo worked with the Somali Government to have more women active in politics. She persisted in spite of any obstacles that she frequently encountered.

Dahabo was helping to deliver food to flood victims in Somalia in October 2019 when there was a boating tragedy and Dahabo was lost. WILPF members who knew Dahabo were devastated by the loss of this warm, generous, inspiring and wonderful woman.

- *Paula Shaw and Alex Murrell*

In Peaceful Memory of Muriel Purkiss, 1931 – 2019

Muriel only joined WILPF in 2016 but made an impact in those few years. She attended the London Branch, AGMs and Seminars and carried out lobbying of her MP specially to support the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. Muriel was a member of CND for her whole life.

Muriel had great resilience and determination and she studied medicine at a time when relatively few women went to university and even fewer studied medicine. In 1956 she married a pastor of the Baptist Church and, together, they worked in the community of Inner London. They had 3 daughters and Muriel managed to complete post graduate studies in Community medicine in the 1970s and then to work at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital.

In 1991 Muriel retired but continued advocating for better public health. At the age of 70 Muriel became a Labour Councillor in Hackney and always attended council meetings, ward meetings and weekly surgeries.

Muriel was a wise and kind woman and she was passionate about social justice. She always knew what needed to be done next and was brilliant at writing letters and emails which were to the point. It was a pleasure to have known Muriel. She lived a life of integrity, courage and compassion and was a genuinely inspirational woman.

- *Paula Shaw*

