

# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

**UK Section** 

Annual report 2022–2023 107th year

Feminist activism... powerful voices for peace



# Inside this annual report...

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# Introduction to WILPF

WILPF – the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – is a feminist peace movement founded in 1915 to stop wars and prevent future wars by dismantling the causes of war and armed conflict.

We work through solidarity in global networks of women and feminist activists, with old, new and creative methods to build a world of permanent peace founded on feminist foundations of freedom, justice, non-violence, human rights and equality for all, where people, the planet, and all its other inhabitants coexist and flourish in harmony.

WILPF's founding resolution, as vital now as in 1915, stated that "Women of different nations, classes, creeds and parties unite in expressing sympathy with the suffering of all, whatever their nationality, who are labouring under the burden of war. There can be no irreconcilable differences between them, and their common ideals afford a basis upon which a magnanimous and honourable peace might be established."

# WILPF UK Annual General Meeting Saturday 13 May 2023 on Zoom

The AGM starts at 13.30

# Agenda

Welcome and introductions

Apologies

Minutes of the AGM held on 7 May 2022

Presentation of the 107th annual report and questions on the report

Financial statement and questions

Report on WILPF UK Company

Nominations for 2023–24 Directors and Executive and vote

Introduction to the 2023–24 Directors and Executive

Resolutions

Discussions on campaigns for 2023–24

Any other business

Feminist activism... powerful voices for peace

# From the Secretary Using our feminist lens to lobby against injustice by Paula Shaw, Joint Secretary WILPF UK

This last year has seen war, human rights abuses and climate injustice. It is an uncertain time for any campaigning due to draconian new legislations BUT we have continued to lobby against the numerous injustices in any way we can.

There has been excellent **partnership working** on killer robots and women, peace and security – a special thanks to Taniel and Cecilia.

WILPF UK continues to be a partner in planning the International **Conscientious Objectors' Day** (15 May) and we link with many organisations – CND/Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, GAPS/Gender Action for Peace and Security, ICAN/International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Rethinking Security, to name but a few.

We have continued to lobby against numerous injustices in any way we can

This year we acknowledged that **human rights** issues are embedded in all our campaigns and we no longer identify this as a campaign in isolation.



WILPF members out and about: Paula outside St John of Jerusalem Church in Hackney. The church website announced on its postings for the day: "In partnership with WILPF, the bells of our church will be rung today – Sunday 22 January 2023 – between 2pm and 3pm to celebrate the second anniversary of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"

**Events** in the past year have included

a Connect Day, COP27, displaying our Climate Justice Exhibition and some excellent Branch activities in Brighton, Orpington and Scotland. We were sad to hear that the Norfolk and Norwich Branch has closed and we thank the dedicated members for all their good work.

WILPF's **International Congress** finally took place in July online which enabled many UK members to take part. We will ensure our UK campaigns fit with the agreed international strategy.

We work closely with some of our international members as we share an office in London.

We made the decision in March 2022 to become a **Private Limited Company** and we appointed Directors and a Company Secretary – a big thank you to Pat Pleasance for taking this on. You can read more on page 26.

WILPF members have joined various events on Zoom, especially with the **Climate Justice Working Group**.

If all members just signed up one new member we could do so much more!

Members of the **Executive Committee** have met many times, mainly on Zoom, and deserve our gratitude for their time and expertise. Standing down this year are Isabel Acheson (Membership), Lauren Avis and Savannah Dysard (Communications). Maki Kimura and Taniel Yusef hope to stay on the Executive but not in the same posts. Inite of the end of th

WILPF members out and about: Helen at RAF Lakenheath, a base in Suffolk run by the United States Air Force, where US B61 nuclear warheads are due to arrive. The return of US nuclear weapons to the UK is destabilising, further undermining our safety and prospects for global peace

Members are encouraged to join the

Executive for any meetings but elected members need to commit to attending at least 75% of meetings, responding to consultations on decisions and taking on specific responsibilities. You can read more on page 31.

The **Finance Team** also meets regularly and reports to the Executive. They often carry out preparatory work to enable the Executive to make informed decisions. We thank current and past Treasurers for their work.

Please be careful with future campaigning – check the latest guidance from Netpol/Network for Police Monitoring (https://netpol.org/).

**Please let your friends and family know about WILPF.** As in many organisations, our membership is declining but the campaigning issues are still there! We still need to ensure we try to reduce/get rid of militarisation, ensure climate justice (ban fossil fuels), get the UK to sign up to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and so much more (with our feminist lens at all times). See page 31 for ideas on how to get involved. If all members just signed up one new member we could do so much more!

In peace.

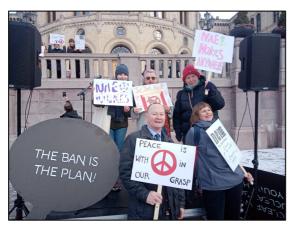
# International perspective... disarmament

**Feminist approach to disarmament, foreign policy and conflict resolution** by Janet Fenton, Scottish Liaison, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and Co-Convenor, WILPF Scottish Branch

WILPF's role is always in the work of peace-making and conflict resolution; to eradicate the acceptability of war as a means of addressing ideological or territorial differences; to reject the use of organised force and weapons of war; and to listen to and learn from women's voices.

## The first Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Conference took place 10 years ago

In March 2023, European parliamentarians met in Oslo to advance the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). They called on all governments to promote the universalisation of the Treaty, support its implementation and join promptly. Parliamentarians from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, Slovenia and Sweden participated.



Simultaneously, Norwegian ICAN hosted the Act On It Forum for a global mix of civil society campaigners to explore the nexus between nuclear justice and climate justice.

> Strong feminist and post-colonial understanding made for good progress towards solutions

The ban is the plan! The Scottish delegation promotes its "Nae nukes anywhere" message in Oslo, showing (pictured centre front) Bill Kidd, Member of the Scottish Parliament and Convenor of the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament, with Janet and Anne (WILPF UK), Dagmar (Trident Ploughshares) and Kat Knak-Watt (Scottish CND)

# Young people are already on board as the TPNW builds momentum

Kat Knak-Watt (Scottish CND) Youth for TPNW (a youth-led global movement calling for a world free from nuclear weapons) and Nyuklia Eureka (African Youth for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons) are youth campaigns that have grown in articulacy and impact since the First Meeting of States Parties in June 2022. The TPNW is already having a positive and lasting impact on Member States, which can be seen as nuclear divestment and measures for remediation of

contaminated communities increase and become part of national legislation outside the nuclear armed states.

### Cutting edge research

The Scientific Advisory Group for the TPNW – composed of eminent international scientists and experts on nuclear weapons appointed by States Parties – held its first meeting in March 2023. ICAN and Reaching Critical Will had an advisory role in the formation of this group through their work with Princeton University and the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The Scientific Advisory Group will report on cutting edge research on nuclear weapons, from risks to the humanitarian consequences to verification, all to support the Treaty. At the same time, ICAN has announced new research grants to cover a range of activities, including fieldwork, archival research or analysis of previously collected data and, potentially, small stipends to travel to New York to present findings at the Second Meeting of States Parties of the TPNW in November 2023.

### Changing leadership for ICAN

In February 2023, we learned that it is time for a new ICAN Executive Director, as Beatrice Fihn steps back from her amazing leadership and huge success, over her years from WILPF Intern to Executive Director of a Nobel Peace Prize-winning international campaign. Will another gifted WILPF woman fill her shoes?



Active at the Oslo Act On It Forum, young people are already on board as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons builds momentum

### Despair and anger

While the truth is that force cannot resolve conflict, the appalling situation in Ukraine makes many people despair of the power of non-violence, seeing only a binary of military intervention or inaction. At the same time, the risk of nuclear escalation is terrifying and between 800 and 1,000 young troops are killed daily while civilian deaths go uncounted. There is a desperate need for a different approach. WILPF must reach out to affected women, listen and act.

### Humanitarian and feminist alternatives

In Scotland in December, we celebrated Ireland's Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. The Scottish government consults WILPF on a feminist approach to foreign policy. In March 2023, I spoke on behalf of ICAN at the review of the UK's Universal Periodic Review (a process that involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 United Nations Member States), and offered a Scottish and feminist interpretation of ICAN's position.

WILPF must reach out to affected women, listen and act

# International perspective... advocacy and influencing Global activism for peace-building and disarmament opposing killer robots by Taniel Yusef, International Representative (job share) WILPF UK

Consolidating and expanding our global activities and impact, and campaigning nationally and internationally to develop and integrate the feminist agenda through a framework of international humanitarian law and human rights.

### Torture-free trade

WILPF UK signed the Shoreditch Declaration for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty<sup>1</sup> in November. Internationally-traded law enforcement equipment is routinely used abusively against protesters, human rights defenders and discriminated-against groups, among others, during the policing of protests and in places of detention.

Currently, campaigners are lobbying for a United Nations General Assembly Resolution to move forward on a **torture-free trade treaty**.



### Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

The UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots had a remarkable year.

We helped to organise and host the premiere of *Immoral Code* in Leicester Square, London. This **documentary** 

contemplates the impact of killer robots in an increasingly automated world – one where machines make decisions over who to kill or what to destroy. View the film here.<sup>2</sup>

### The UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots had a remarkable year

Taniel Yusef, with Verity Coyle of Amnesty International, contributed to an **evidence-giving session** in Parliament for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence, representing the need for a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems.<sup>3</sup>

The UK campaign supported the successful parliamentary champion submission for a **Lords special committee inquiry** into the government's use of artificial intelligence in weapons systems.<sup>4</sup>

Links for further reading

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/01/declaration-calls-for-curbs-on-trade-in-tools-of-torture/

 $<sup>^{2}\</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUU8YHa\_Cjg$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk/event/ai-national-security-defence-autonomous-weapons/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/646/ai-in-weapon-systems-committee/

As part of the long-overdue **Defence Artificial Intelligence Strategy**, the UK government unveiled a new policy on autonomous weapons – so-called 'killer robots'. The UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots has set out what is missing<sup>5</sup> from the government's policy paper annex *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*<sup>6</sup> in which the government recognises that systems which identify, select and attack targets without "context-appropriate human involvement" would be unacceptable.

### First committee

The UK government and 69 other States endorsed a joint statement<sup>7</sup> on lethal autonomous weapons systems, delivered at the UN General Assembly in November. This is the largest **cross-regional joint statement** made to date on autonomous weapons.

The statement recognises the increased convergence among States on key substantive issues, in particular the approach based on a legally binding prohibition of autonomous weapon systems that cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law, and regulation of other types of autonomous weapons systems.

### Costa Rica regional conference<sup>8</sup>

In February 2023, 33 States from Latin America and the Caribbean issued a historic call<sup>9</sup> from the region for "the urgent negotiation of an **international legally binding instrument** on autonomy in weapons systems." The communiqué was the result of a two-day regional meeting on the social and humanitarian impacts of autonomous weapons, hosted by the Costa Rican government in San José.

### Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

On International Women's Day 2023, Taniel made a technological-based point<sup>10</sup> regarding fairness, bias and targeting. There was good discussion in March, but the final five mandated days in May could unravel if States obstruct the content of any document.

<sup>6</sup> https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/ 1082991/20220614-Ambitious\_Safe\_and\_Responsible.pdf

Links for further reading

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk/2022/12/06/new-uk-position-on-autonomous-weapons-recognises-lines-need-to-be-drawn-but-lacks-detail-or-leadership/

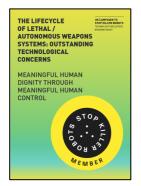
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-atun-general-assembly/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk/2023/03/01/33-states-call-for-urgent-negotiation-of-new-international-law-tolimit-autonomous-weapons/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://www.rree.go.cr/?sec=exterior&cat=conferencia&cont=1379

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7040011242077331456/

Taniel's updated **technical challenges paper**<sup>11</sup> is on the new Campaign to Stop Killer Robots website.<sup>12</sup> The paper will be used for two separate side events at the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in May. The first will be on the



subject of unpredictability and is hosted by Ireland and WILPF, with UK Ambassador Aidan Liddle, and representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. The second will be in Taniel's capacity as Visiting Researcher at Cambridge Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, sponsored by the European Union, on Topic 6: Risk, Mitigation and Confidence Building Measures.<sup>13</sup>

### Workshop on killer robots at the WILPF International Congress

WILPF's 33rd International Congress took place online between 16 and 24 July. Hosted by WILPF Australia, the event welcomed more than 400 members from all over the world reaffirming their collective commitment to pursuing a future of feminist peace under the theme *Making Connections: Environment, Social Justice and Demilitarisation for Feminist Peace*. Taniel co-led a workshop on autonomous weapon systems and contributed to the panel of a workshop on **feminist economics**. WILPF UK also contributed to a workshop led by the US Section on race and colonialism.

### **Advisory Board**

WILPF UK chose Taniel to be its delegate on the new Advisory Board, set up to provide considered advice and recommendations to the WILPF International Board concerning implementation of the International Programme, fostering **political discussion**, and strengthening and promoting contact and exchange of information between the International Board and National Sections and Groups.

### European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby brings together the women's movement in Europe to influence the general public and European institutions in support of **women's human rights** and equality between women and men. Jennifer Menninger (European Representative on WILPF's International Board) attended the European Women's Lobby General Assembly meeting and Taniel attended a Feminist Economics Working Group meeting, where she was asked to update the human security hub on outer space threats.

WILPF UK thanks Taniel for her outstanding work as a joint International Representative as she stands down after six and a half years.

Links for further reading

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk/resources/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://ukstopkillerrobots.org.uk/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/ccw/2023/laws/documents

International perspective... women, peace and security Activism for humanitarian responses and human rights initiatives by Cecilia Passaniti Mezzano, International Representative (job share) WILPF UK

WILPF engages actively at all levels of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. The exclusion of women, women's rights and gender remains a key impediment to the attainment of sustainable peace and human security.

#### GAPS Sexual Violence in Conflict working group

WILPF UK is affiliated to GAPS – Gender Action for Peace and Security (a group of non-governmental organisations). Cecilia Passaniti Mezzano was elected as co-chair of the GAPS Sexual Violence in Conflict working group. The working group is aimed at coordinating civil society contributions to the UK government's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict strategy and conference. The working group organised several meetings and discussions with the government, focusing our efforts to ensure a survivor-centred conference.

WILPF's wide-ranging women, peace and security agenda has a significant voice in contributing to, and shaping, the political process

Lobbying efforts were also spent briefing Lord Ahmad (sponsor of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative conference) and with the US State Department. The conference took place at the end of November and was followed by a Foreign Affairs Committee Evidence Session.<sup>14</sup> Reflections were made by survivors and experts on the lack of coherence of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, the impact of aid cuts, and concerns about the lack of alignment between international and domestic policy.

### Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan

Throughout the year, WILPF UK joined other GAPS members in attending workshops held by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on the new WPS National Action Plan. GAPS collaborated with the London School of Economics WPS centre to hold a workshop for civil society on the domestic aspect of the Plan. WILPF attended a learning event on including LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) approaches into the National Action Plan with academics, non-governmental organisations and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. As part of GAPS, WILPF also finalised the 2021<sup>15</sup> and 2022 (upcoming) shadow reports and presented them in Parliament. WILPF also co-wrote the response to the UK National Action Plan 2023–25.<sup>16</sup>

Links for further reading

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://committees.parliament.uk/event/16447/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://gaps-uk.org/assessing-uk-government-action-on-women-peace-and-security-in-2021/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://gaps-uk.org/uk-national-action-plan-gaps-response/

### International aid cuts and other government policy

Following the reports of cuts to aid on climate change, global health, and conflict, WILPF contributed to GAPS' open response.<sup>17</sup> WILPF also contributed to the response<sup>18</sup> to the publication of the government's International Development Strategy. WILPF co-authored a statement<sup>19</sup> criticising the UK government's plan to deport asylum seekers to offshore detention centres in Rwanda as cruel and dehumanising.

We campaign for humanitarian responses and human rights initiatives for women and girls at risk

The UK ratified the Istanbul Convention – preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence – with reservations on Articles 44 and 59. While WILPF welcomes the ratification of the Convention, reserving Article 59 leaves migrant women subject to spousal abuse and destitution with no recourse to public funds. WILPF therefore continued to call for the government to remove the reservations on Article 59 to end this hostile environment.

### WPS Private Members' Bill

Baroness Fiona Hodgson tabled a Private Members' Bill on women, peace and security.<sup>20</sup> As part of GAPS, WILPF contributed to the bill through advocacy efforts, sharing a briefing with peers and supporting Baroness Hodgson and Lord McConnell on a joint op-ed about the bill, which can be read here.<sup>21</sup>

#### **Conflict in Ukraine**

Throughout the year, WILPF UK contributed to both WILPF European Liaisons and GAPS' appeals for peace in Ukraine. In March 2022, WILPF contributed to a GAPS briefing<sup>22</sup> on the conflict to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Ministry of Defence and Parliament. WILPF UK issued a comprehensive statement on the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.<sup>23</sup>

### Conflict in Afghanistan

WILPF UK continued working during the year with our Afghan sisters to provide resources and support such as updates to the refugee schemes, funding and grants availability and more. WILPF also continued to meet with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Afghanistan team as part of the bi-weekly meetings to discuss the ongoing response in Afghanistan.

Links for further reading

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://gaps-uk.org/gaps-response-to-possible-uk-aid-cuts/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> https://gaps-uk.org/gaps-response-to-the-international-development-strategy/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://gaps-uk.org/statement-on-the-uk-governments-rwanda-plan-and-deportation-flight/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3178

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://www.politicshome.com/thehouse/article/women-must-be-part-of-peacebuilding-and-conflict-response

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> https://gaps-uk.org/gaps-briefing-on-the-conflict-in-ukraine/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://www.wilpf.org.uk/recent-posts/

# **Climate justice**

### Seeking global solutions to promote peace, and social and racial justice by Anne Eggleton, Climate Justice Campaign Co-lead

The Climate Justice Working Group welcomes all WILPF members. We are a group of eight activists with other members joining when they can. Our campaign proposals were presented at the 2022 AGM, and we have made progress with many of them.

During the year, WILPF UK sent a letter to successive prime ministers on urgent climate justice issues (read on our website).



WILPF delegates to COP27 (pictured top row, left to right): Ayo Ayoola-Amale/Ghana, Michelle Benzing/Germany, Katrin Geyer/International Secretariat, Nouha Ghosseini/Lebanon and Tamara Lorincz/Canada; (pictured bottom row, left to right): Cindy Piester/US, Edwick Madzimure/Zimbabwe, Annie Matundu Mbambi/DRC, Aubine Sandrine Mahda Kepseu/Cameroon and Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo/International President

We have continued to work with the WILPF International Environment Working Group (EWG). This year we proposed working in collaboration with WILPF African Sections to amplify their messages at **COP27**. WILPF International secured funding to send delegates from African Sections to Egypt.

Following a transparent application process developed with EWG, we drew from the Lorna Kellas Bequest Fund to include Ayo Ayoola-Amale, President of WILPF Ghana, as one of the 10 women in the **WILPF delegation**.

Ayo participated in a COP feedback session in December and in an online conversation with Paula Shaw, WILPF UK Joint Secretary. Reflections on the successes and disappointments of COP27 can be read on the WILPF

International website. The delegation was frustrated with the increasing corporate capture of COP.

WILPF delegate Edwick Madzimure from Zimbabwe expressed the feeling well, reflecting on the unequal power dynamics: "There is a need to stop climate imperialism. If the major emitters continue making the decisions, how will justice prevail in those rooms?"



WILPF members out and about: Fiona at the climate justice march in Edinburgh

Alongside WILPF International, we endorsed the international campaign for a **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**. It is backed by hundreds of scientists, the World Health Organization and major cities, and was promoted at COP27 by Tuvalu, in danger of becoming inundated by the ocean. See the leaflet on our website for more information. We are members of the campaign working group and UK members contributed to an online NGO consultation session.

### Investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is moral and economic madness

We continue to display our **Climate Justice Exhibition** and a new board describes the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative. It includes the quote below from António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General.



The Climate Justice Exhibition is available free for anyone who can find a local venue. Copies of a free booklet with the exhibition text are now stocked in independent bookshops in Brighton and Housmans in London. If you

have a local independent bookshop, print off a copy or ask us for a sample booklet to take in – shops rather like free booklets!





[Left] The Climate Justice Exhibition was displayed at the Edith Cavell memorial in London during the weekly Women in Black Against War vigil

[Below left] At the Climate Justice Exhibition in Hackney (pictured left to right): Emma Sangster, Paula Shaw, Maki Kimura, Katrin Geyer and Sheila Triggs (all WILPF members) with local Labour councillors Jess Webb and Chris Kennedy

Paula Shaw facilitated the Climate Justice Exhibition displayed in Hackney Wick. An excellent and well-timed discussion was held in November which included local councillors and coincided with Hackney Council consulting on its Climate Action Plan. Paula is now on the focus group for the Climate Action Plan.

We have put together a video – with commentary about climate justice issues, alongside images of the exhibition display boards – which was screened at the Connect Day in November.

# Brighton, Hove and District Branch

**Campaigning for inclusive and peaceful solutions to conflict** by Anne Eggleton, Branch Representative and Jenny Engledow, Branch Secretary (Brighton, Hove and District)

Brighton, Hove and District Branch continues to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, in the central library in the morning and via Zoom in the evening. You are very welcome to join us if you're in the area, or join us online.

We are sorry to have lost one of our longest-standing members during the year, Lady Frances Joan Oram (see tribute on page 30). She had a long and active life and in WILPF we are so glad to have had her in our midst.

It has been a busy year. In March 2022, we heard from Jean Calder about the life of local suffragette Mary Clarke. Jo Gough, Chief Executive Officer of RISE, a Brighton-based women's support and refuge organisation, came to speak at our AGM, and on International Conscientious Objectors' Day we held an event with a Quaker chaplain talking about his personal journey to pacifism and what it means for people to take this position.

Campaigning against racism, ecocide and militarism; working for inclusive and peaceful solutions to conflict

Some members attended a rally at the end of **Refugee Week** organised by Stop the War and we displayed the Guernica banner which attracted a lot of attention. Jenny spoke briefly about the need for women to be part of the **mediation and peace** talks in areas of conflict and also mentioned the shame of having an arms factory in the town. We continue our campaign to encourage the City Council to support the demise of this factory by ending its lease on Council-owned land, preferably before the lease expires in 2027.



Jenny stitched a patch for Brighton poet and peace activist Connie Fraser for "Seeds of Hope: A Feminist Requiem" – the commemorative patchwork project created by singer/composer Penny Stone to remember amazing women we have known, loved and been influenced by

We held our regular event on Hiroshima Day in Brighton and also joined an event on Nagasaki Day in Worthing. Local WILPF member Rebecca Johnson talked about the Vienna conference on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which she had attended and Jenny read a poem by the late Connie Fraser, a lifetime peace activist in Brighton.

#### We enjoyed hearing about Molly's life of activism

Our **summer garden party** was very enjoyable. Albert Beale, from the Peace Pledge Union, told stories about his life as a campaigner for peace, which started in Brighton. Thank you to Joyce for welcoming us in her garden.

On 12 November, in advance of COP27, several members joined a demonstration in Brighton as part of the **Climate Justice Global Day of Action**. We took the WILPF banner and gave out leaflets.

Together with the Quakers and the Green Party, we placed three white peace poppy wreaths at the war memorial, alongside the



official red poppy wreaths, for **Remembrance Day**. Almost 30 people were present for the Silence and poetry reading.



At the war memorial on Remembrance Day

WILPF took part in several events to mark the International Day for the **Elimination of Violence Against Women**, including with RISE.

At the beginning of 2023, we enjoyed listening to long-standing member Molly Beirne telling us about her life of **activism**.



We also marked the second anniversary of the ratified **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** with a procession by stalwart WILPF members carrying our large banner from Ship Street to the peace statue.

Marking the second anniversary of the ratified Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with a procession to the peace statue [photo by Shana]

## **Orpington Branch Connecting peace activists locally, nationally and internationally** by Pat Pleasance, Branch Representative (Orpington)

Orpington Branch has continued its policy of inviting those outside the immediate area to join in Zoom meetings when we have speakers discussing national or international issues. Distance is not a barrier.

One such meeting even attracted a visitor from Lebanon! Zoom meetings also enable members of the Branch to participate more easily when advancing years make attending a physical meeting difficult.

Sophia Close (now our WILPF UK national Treasurer) was invited to speak at a Zoom meeting about her **international mediation** work, and members and friends were greatly impressed with what she has been doing. She described to us the approaches to this multi-layered process and how parties are brought together for conciliation, including the effect of participation by female mediators.



Marie-Claire Faray (pictured right) talking about the dangers and challenges for women and peace in the Congo

A major event was the annual garden party,

when Sheila's garden was transformed into a colourful array of stalls selling produce, WILPF T-shirts and many other attractive goods. The panels making up the WILPF UK Climate Justice Exhibition were also on display. The weather was hot, but the gazebo gave shade, and everyone had plenty of opportunity to enjoy catching up with friends and eating a lovely tea of home-made foods.

### At a local level we worked with like-minded organisations

We were delighted that Marie-Claire Faray, visiting from the DRC (Congo), had agreed to speak to us about the challenges for women and peace in the Congo.

She told us about the background to events and the work she is doing there with grassroots women, raising awareness of their rights and helping them to develop skills. It is disturbing to hear that those who raise their heads on **human rights** may be threatened. Marie-Claire raised £100 for her work by selling aprons and dresses made by Congolese women.



WILPF members out and about: Jeanette raising awareness of WILPF at the annual Peace One Day event in Bromley

Locally, we worked with like-minded organisations. We took part in the annual **Peace One Day** event in Bromley, where we had a WILPF stall, and WILPF's message was also publicised when we shared a stall with CND in the High Street.

Members continue to be active in WILPF nationally, particularly in the climate justice campaign

Members continue to be active in WILPF nationally, particularly in the **climate justice campaign**, and this year we were also especially conscious of the international dimensions of our work.

The triennial WILPF **International Congress** was for the first time a virtual meeting. It was also the year of the **COP27** meeting in Egypt. Those who attended the Congress and the Zoom feedback meeting from our delegates at COP27 found the work of our sisters inspirational and an encouragement for our own work in the UK.

> The work of our international sisters has been inspirational and an encouragement for our own UK work

The Covid-delayed memorial service for Rosalie Huzzard took place in June. Sheila represented us and talked about Rosalie's inspiration and her leadership of Orpington Branch for many years.



Home-grown activism! Celebrating the second anniversary of the global ban on nuclear weapons

## Scottish Branch Standing up, not standing by by Mhairi McClafferty, Secretary and Janet Fenton, Co-Convenor (Scotland)

Members of WILPF Scottish Branch have worked very intensively this year, consolidating and building our local Branch activities; working and advising the Scottish government on national policy issues and organising joint events; and taking a major role at international nuclear disarmament meetings in Vienna and Oslo.

The illness and deaths of Anne and Eileen reduced Scottish Branch activity until Janet Fenton and Fiona McOwan were adopted as Co-Convenors, Mhairi McClafferty as Secretary and Kate Arnott as Treasurer in the spring of 2022. We restarted meeting and posted updates to our wider WhatsApp group.

### Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

In June, Mhairi attended the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons meeting in Vienna (Covid prevented Janet's participation) and reported to the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament on 21 September.

Members worked intensively at Branch level; with the Scottish government on national policy; and at international nuclear disarmament meetings

### Supporting the landmark declaration to protect civilians

On 6 December, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, and thanks to funding from Reaching Critical Will, we organised a Scottish Parliament event and a social exchange, exploring the *Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, sponsored by Maggie Chapman MSP, and supported by Ruth Maguire MSP and Katy Clark MSP. All three are WILPF Parliamentarians, along with Pauline McNeill MSP.

The Scottish Branch aim is to articulate and promote our support for the Political Declaration, launched in Dublin on 18 November. Speakers included Orlaith Minogue from Save the Children, Iain Overton from Action on Armed Violence and Megan Karlshoj-Pedersen from Airwars. All are active in the International Network on Explosive Weapons. Ruth Barrie of Waltzer Films recorded the events and is working on a video to promote the Political Declaration, Ireland's role in its adoption and its significance for Scotland.

#### Catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons

On 9 and 10 March 2023, Janet Fenton and Mhairi McClafferty represented the Branch at the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) *Act On It Forum* in Oslo, Norway, which marked 10 years on from the first Catastrophic







Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Conference, held in Oslo in 2013.

Janet and Mhairi were part of the Scottish delegation attending, which included Bill Kidd MSP, and representatives of Scottish CND, Trident Ploughshares, Secure Scotland and Conscience. The Forum consisted of workshops and panels with lessons from civil society, activists, survivors and others working to abolish nuclear weapons. It was an opportunity to discuss actions and strategies leading up to the Second Meeting of States Parties for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which will take place in New York in November 2023.

Feminist approach to foreign policy Members Janet Fenton and Claire Duncanson are active in a Scottish government Consultation on a Feminist Approach to Foreign Policy.



In June, ICAN and ICAN Austria brought social change innovators, educators and nuclear weapons experts from across the globe together in Vienna, for a unique civil society gathering ahead of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. These photos (from the top) show a survivor from Nagasaki; young climate justice activists; Ray Acheson, Director of Reaching Critical Will; and 'Treaty enforcer' activists from Australia

# Membership Strengthening feminist peace activism with WILPF members by Isabel Acheson, Membership Secretary

As a WILPF member, you are part of a diverse network of women campaigning for sustainable peace, disarmament, women's rights, human rights and climate justice.

WILPF UK membership	
Total membership in 2022	Membership until March 2023
Brighton Branch <b>27</b>	Brighton Branch <b>24</b>
Norwich Branch <b>5</b> *	Orpington Branch <b>6</b>
Orpington Branch <b>8</b>	Scotland Branch <b>18</b>
Scotland Branch <b>21</b>	Non-branch members <b>87</b>
Non-branch members <b>119</b>	
Total members in 2022: 180	Current members at March 2023: 135
* Please note, this was until the Norwich Bran	ch disbanded in 2022

We always welcome existing and new members of WILPF UK to contribute to our important work, together with other like-minded women. WILPF members also receive monthly e-newsletters, invitations to WILPF webinars and events, as well as **opportunities to become active** in our campaigns. Read more on page 31.

From January to December 2022, 22% of our members paid via direct bank transfer and 13% of members paid using PayPal. Only 8% of memberships were renewed by cheque. In addition, 55% of members renewed their membership via a standing order in 2022. The further 2% is made up of lifelong members. During 2022, we were pleased to welcome **22 new members**. We are very grateful to members who renew their membership via standing orders as it provides some certainty on incoming revenues for our work, including campaigns, running the office and volunteers' expenses.

### Strengthening feminist peace activism with WILPF members

In November 2022, we held our **Connect Day** in a hybrid format. This was our first in-person Connect Day since before the pandemic. We had 10 attendees join in person at our Tindlemanor office and nine joined online. Throughout the day, we discussed how members can contribute to each of our campaigns and we celebrated the work of our members. This included our Covid-19 Impact Research Series, letter-writing campaigns and fundraising with LUSH. In the afternoon, Jo Frew from Rethinking Security led a session on the work they undertake and held discussions about how security is viewed, including what a security policy would be like through a feminist lens. We are grateful to everyone who attended the Connect Day and contributed to our discussions.

# Communications

# **Showcasing and sharing our work and activism** by Savannah Dysard, Communications Lead

The Communications Team shares and promotes the work of WILPF and our members by making the most of our social media presence and other communications channels to highlight important information and events, and provide opportunities for engagement and activism.

Communications for the year went off well although we hope to gain more support from volunteers to keep up growth in coming years. The aim for this year's Communications Team was to **streamline and standardise** our communications, and create attractive templates, so we can focus on pushing exciting and timely news out via social channels and the website, rather than be caught up in the process. This included the creation of a WILPF UK 'brand board' – including groups of typefaces, a colour palette, layouts and style of illustrations – to unify our look, feel and voice across platforms.

The monthly **newsletter** and membership emails were redesigned to be more concise while also including more events from WILPF UK partner organisations.

The **website** is still a work in progress. Some headway was made in regard to the formal process that WILPF UK would like to take with this project, and the discussion is ongoing. All website files have been backed up. Numerous hours were allocated to discussing the layout of the new website, website wireframe design and thoughtful user workflow workshops. In the meantime, the current website is still being kept as up-to-date as possible with events, blogs and campaign news.

# Social engagement has been good with 518 Instagram followers and 1,773 Twitter followers

All social account access (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) was restored. A number of **social platform templates** were designed in Canva to standardise the look and feel across social accounts. Social posts have gone up as needed but regular timing and frequency is an issue without a dedicated social manager. This will be important for new member sign-ups and volunteer advocacy. That said, social engagement has been good with 518 Instagram followers and 1,773 Twitter followers.

Members' communications via email have been consistent and email engagement has been good. Issuing the newsletter was switched to the beginning of each month. The Communications Team also engaged in volunteer attraction brainstorming sessions and helped to amplify awareness for this year's Connect Day.

# WILPF UK annual accounts

by Sophia Close, Treasurer

	UK SECTION LIMITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2	022
	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE TEAK ENDED ST DECEMBER 2	022
AIN ACCOUNT A	ND INTEREST	
£		
2021	INCOME	202
3,286.50	Membership subscriptions	2,922.0
1,682.50	Individual donations paid with subscriptions	1,643.5
3,313.80	Other donations	2,552.7
2,644.63	Grants – Note 1	0.0
0.00	Meetings and seminars	0.0
160.00	Sales T-shirts	115.0
296.00	Sales other items	189.5
48.23	Deposit account interest: Triodos – Note 2	92.7
310.47	Interest from Cambridge & Counties Bond	310.0
11,742.13	TOTALS	7,825.5
	EXPENDITURE	
486.21	Donations and affiliations – Note 3	227.0
0.00	UK travel	0.0
0.00	International travel and meetings – Note 4	49.0
143.88	UK meetings and seminars	233.8
250.73	Postage, stationery and printing	278.2
	Purchase of Sum Up card reader	94.8
2,727.65	Campaigns	3,887.4
439.68	Website, internet and phone	484.9
0.00	Section fees paid to WILPF International	1,008.5
133.15	Purchase of T-shirts for sale	270.0
	Purchase of other items for sale	81.2
43.07	PayPal fees	27.3
22.33	Audit/Examiner expenses	0.0
	Legal fees	1,832.0
4,246.70	TOTALS	8,474.4
 I		
	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/	
7,495.43	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	-648.8
	33	NTINUED ON NEXT PAG

FFICE ACCOUNT		
£		
2021	INCOME	202
870.00	Donations	769.0
1,066.64	WILPF International use of our office/sharing cost – Note 5	7,480.7
1,936.64	TOTALS	8,249.7
· · ·		
	EXPENDITURE	
2,673.15	Service charge paid to Tindlemanor	6,767.5
	Purchase of two chairs	96.0
	Archive boxes, key safe, printer cartridge	66.0
495.50	Insurance	448.3
3,168.65	TOTALS	7,377.9
-1,232.01		871.7
-1,232.01	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/ (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)	071.7
	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022	
£		
2021		202
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ACCOUNTS	
14,170.38	Co-operative Bank Main Account	12,980.4
4,861.40	Co-operative Bank Office Account	6,181.5
	RESERVE ACCOUNTS	
42,591.28	Triodos Bank	42,684.0
20,000.00	Cambridge & Counties Bank	20,000.0
81,623.06	TOTALS	81,845.9
	REPRESENTED BY:	
75 250 ( 4	Conclusion and Concern 14.1	04 / 00 /
75,359.64 7,495.43	Surplus brought forward 1 January Main Account excess of income/(excess of expenditure)	81,623.0 -648.8
-1,232.01	Office Account excess of income/(excess of expenditure)	-646.0
81,623.06		81,845.9
0.,020.00		
	WILPF UK BRANCH ACCOUNT BALANCES (not held in central accounts)	
	Brighton	465.3
	Cornwall	243.1
	Norwich	245.
		210.0
		392 (
	Orpington Scotland	392.0 1,770.0

#### WILPF UK accounts 2022 - notes

- 1. In 2021 we received a Small Campaign Grant from WILPF International for a project on transgender inclusivity. £1,327.77 of the grant was carried over to 2022 and now 2023 to complete the project.
- 2. Interest generated from the Triodos balance remains in the Triodos account.
- 3. We paid £227 in affiliations to GAPS UK, Peace Pledge Union, Network for Peace, Gender & Development Network, and the Co-op Bank Union.
- 4. We paid Congress registration fees for four members of the Executive.
- 5. This includes an amount of £1,700.46 from 2021 invoices but received in 2022.

#### Accounts in this transition year

2022 is a transition year, when we are changing to our new Company status. So in this annual report we are showing the year's accounts prepared on the old basis, so that comparisons can be made with the previous year.

The first Company's accounts will cover nine months – from April to December 2022. They must be submitted to Companies House and HMRC (HM Revenue and Customs) by September 2023. The requirements are different from the way we have worked previously, and we are seeking professional assistance. These accounts will not be ready in time for this annual report, but they will be circulated to all members as soon as they are available.

### WILPF UK accounts for 2022 on the old basis

As pandemic restrictions eased this year, members were able to attend and hold events more regularly so it is pleasing to see sales continue and we were able to purchase some new T-shirts for sale. Spending on UK meetings and seminars remains low. We continue to hold the majority of meetings online or as hybrid events using our Zoom account. We are now spending more on our office at Tindlemanor reflecting our move to a larger room in 2022. However, the larger office was able to accommodate our Connect Day held in November as a hybrid meeting in person and online.

Our income includes generous donations from members received with subscriptions. We also received donations in memory of Susan Castillejo, Marguerite Finn, Bruce Kent and Joan Oram; and in celebration of Jane Grant's birthday; as well as regular donations from Sheila Triggs' jam sales. We also received total interest of £402.78 from our reserves. Unfortunately, Norwich and Cornwall have decided to close their Branches, and their funds will transfer to WILPF UK in 2023.

As one would hope, campaigns were our biggest expenditure at £3,887.47, mostly on our climate justice campaigning and supporting a WILPF member to attend COP27 in Egypt (supported by the Lorna Kellas Bequest Fund). Our Section fees to International were substantially reduced this year due to the new calculation, which leaves more money with individual Sections. As part of the process of registering as a Company Limited by Guarantee we sought legal advice costing £1,832.

### Our new Company

On 29 March 2022, we took the momentous step of becoming a private company limited by guarantee. In the UK we are now 'Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UK Section Limited' and we have an official company number – 14007981.

This was not done without a lot of thought and discussion. For many years we had been an organisation, but we were running into increasing difficulties because under English law this did not constitute a 'legal entity'. Matters came to a head when the landlords of our office in London, Tindlemanor, wanted members of the Executive Committee to take individual personal responsibility for the terms of the office lease, which was clearly unacceptable. So we explored alternative structures for WILPF UK, talked with other organisations that had experienced similar problems, and took legal advice. A Special General Meeting of WILPF UK members was called, and approval was given to the proposals.

What does this change mean for us? Throughout all the discussions we were aiming to make the fewest changes possible to the way we worked which were compatible with the Company structure. Any limited company is run by its Directors, but in this case they have delegated the day-to-day management to the Executive Committee. So to a large extent we carry on working as previously.

As before, Executive Committee members are elected at our AGM. The Company Directors and Company Secretary are also elected at the same time, and they must be members of the Executive Committee. Directors will stand down in rotation.

Members may wonder what 'limited by guarantee' means. Member act as guarantors of the company's liabilities up to a stated value. In our case, a member's liability is limited to £1.

A company needs to register a 'Memorandum and Articles of Association' with Companies House, and this has been done as part of the formation of the Company. It is a very lengthy publicly available document, but if any member would like to have a copy, please ask the Company Secretary (contact details below). There is also a second internal document which guides our procedures. This is the former 'Constitution', which we have had to re-name 'Organisational Rules'. It was necessary to make minor amendments to the old constitution, but it is essentially the same. Any member may have a copy of this by asking the Company Secretary.

The current Directors are Sophia Close, Jenny Engledow, Janet Fenton, Maki Kimura, Paula Shaw, Sheila Triggs and Taniel Yusef.

The Company Secretary is Pat Pleasance (P.R.Pleasance@btinternet.com).

## WILPF Charitable Trust Promoting the human rights of women and girls by Deirdre Leask, Secretary, WILPF Charitable Trust

The WILPF Charitable Trust was founded to promote human rights and, in particular, women's human rights.

The Trust maintains independence from WILPF, but is committed to supporting WILPF in any way that is compatible with the Trust's charity status.

In 2023, the Trust has started the process of making donations to two charities that focus on women's human rights.

The first of these is **Days For Girls UK** which enables girls and young women around the world to access sanitary provision and attend school, college and work when they are having a period. Days for Girls also provides sewing tools for women's groups in poorer countries to make menstrual products as part of social enterprise schemes.

The second is **The Marylebone Project** which provides sanctuary for vulnerable women and a range of services to enable women to "get back on their feet again."

The Trust organised two Women's Walks in London in March 2023. WILPF members and their friends joined us to help the Trust raise some funds and **celebrate women's history** in London, while keeping fit and chatting!

The WILPF Trust would like to work more closely with WILPF UK, **developing links and shared projects**, and establishing a transparent and mutually beneficial relationship. The Trust did not support WILPF UK financially in 2022. We need to put this right in 2023 and hope WILPF UK will approach us!

Trustees have drawn up a draft agreement to strengthen understanding between the Trust and WILPF UK. WILPF UK has provided a helpful response to this and we hope to finalise a document in the coming months.

> Please remember to use Give As You Live for the benefit of the Trust (and WILPF UK) if you are an internet shopper

To make the most of charity privileges, the Trust has been looking at different **online fundraising platforms**. Our Treasurer Maria presented a range of these platforms and raised our awareness of how they work and who they work for.

**Gift Aid** and the **Give As You Live** (donations through internet shopping) scheme still provide the Trust with a small but steady financial bedrock. We thank our generous donors, mainly WILPF members, and those who make good use of internet shopping to raise money for the Trust.

Please remember to use Give As You Live for the benefit of the Trust (and WILPF UK) if you are an internet shopper! Here is how: https://www.giveasyoulive.com

If any WILPF members choose to fundraise on behalf of the Trust, please make sure you let the trustees know what the money is intended for, so that it can be earmarked clearly.

The Trust can be contacted with any comments or questions at trust@ukwilpf.org.uk

We are always looking for new trustees: please contact us if you can help

We are always looking for **new trustees**. Please contact us if you can help.

# In memoriam

## In peaceful memory of Marguerite Finn • 1943–2022



In 2005, Marguerite Finn attended one of the first Connect Days that WILPF UK organised, and soon after joining WILPF she threw herself into activism. Using her background and contacts in the Norwich United Nations Association (UNA), Marguerite soon established a WILPF Branch in the city.

The Norwich WILPF Branch was active from the start, and had recruited 20 members by 2006. For many years Marguerite organised the WILPF stall at the annual Peace Camp at the

Norwich Forum, a very welcoming central, indoor public space and event. Marguerite organised WILPF meetings at the Norwich Friends Meeting House, which often welcomed leading WILPF speakers including Marie-Claire Faray and Marie Louise Pambu.

Norwich WILPF had a good relationship with the University of East Anglia in Norwich, and postgraduate students from the School of Development Studies spoke at a WILPF event for International Women's Day. Funds were raised, including by holding a bric-a-brac stall in Norwich open market and another at the garden party hosted by the Bishop of Norwich.

With her partner, Peter, Marguerite regularly attended the Burston Strike School annual rally which commemorates the school set up in that village by the sacked teachers Annie and Tom Higdon back in the 1920s. She was a good writer and regularly contributed a variety of pieces for the *Eastern Daily Press*, emphasising peace and development issues. She also contributed to WILPF publications.

For many years Marguerite edited the national UNA newsletter, as well as taking a leading role in the Norwich United Nations Association. She organised the monthly UNA Lunch Box, attracting speakers, including from WILPF, to address the well-attended events at Friends Meeting House in Central Norwich.

For 25 years Marguerite was a well-appreciated employee of HMSO in Norwich. In semi-retirement she edited the in-house magazine of EAGIT, a Norwich-based engineering and industrial training centre.

Sadly, Marguerite was plagued by a variety of health problems which curtailed her activities in later years. We remember Marguerite Finn with love as an energetic and talented WILPF advocate and peace campaigner.

by Sheila Triggs

### In peaceful memory of Lady Frances Joan Oram • 1928–2022



Joan was a very strong believer in ridding the world of nuclear weapons and promoting peace, human rights and, in particular, women's rights.

She had been on the early Aldermaston marches and been active in CND since its beginning, holding official positions in the organisation.

Joan helped out at many WILPF Brighton, Hove and District Branch events, both indoors and on the seafront, in the town and at the war memorial. She enjoyed talking to the public about our activities, about peace and militarism and much more.

For years we held our meetings in her home and her contributions to discussions and planning were wise and purposeful, thanks to her long experience and wide-ranging knowledge.

WILPF was welcomed to her garden for our parties, just as she welcomed various other groups such as the Labour Party and the Fabians. Her interests also included the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Defend the NHS and other groups and causes.

The belief in ridding the world of nukes never left her and in her last years Joan's son brought her to our events. She particularly insisted and enjoyed coming to the seafront when we walked along to the peace statue carrying our huge Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons banner and even though her memory was foggy she was still motivated to hold the corner of the banner.

The various activities Joan was involved in clearly followed a long pattern of seeking peace and ending the stupidity of the nuclear weapons arms race.

It is with sadness that we lose women of such strong beliefs in our causes. She had a long and busy life in which WILPF was a big part and we were so lucky to have had her in our midst.

by Jenny Engledow

# Getting involved!

### Take part in one of our campaigns

We welcome volunteers who want to join with others to work on one of our campaigns. If you are interested, let us know. You can contact the Secretary at ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com

#### Join the WILPF UK Executive Committee

If you have been a member of WILPF for more than six months, and feel you would like to be more involved, you could become a member of the Executive Committee. This is where all the major decisions are made between AGMs.

Members of the Executive are expected to contribute in some way, and they are expected to attend Executive meetings, which are held about five times a year, for two to three hours, usually on Saturdays. Matters which will not wait until the next meeting are dealt with by email discussion, and Executive members are expected to respond.

Meetings are currently held on Zoom, and any member who is interested can join any meeting, whether or not they are a member of the Executive Committee. Try it and see if it is for you! Contact the Secretary (as above) for the Zoom details.

If you would like to know more about the Executive Committee, please get in touch with the Secretary.

While campaigning is our purpose, there are many tasks that need to be done to keep us going. So whatever your background, it may be that you could help.

We look forward to welcoming you!





# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

**UK Section** 

Annual report 2022–2023 107th year

Feminist activism... powerful voices for peace

## Getting in touch

UK WILPF 52–54 Featherstone Street London EC1Y 8RT

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Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UK Section Limited Company Number 14007981

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