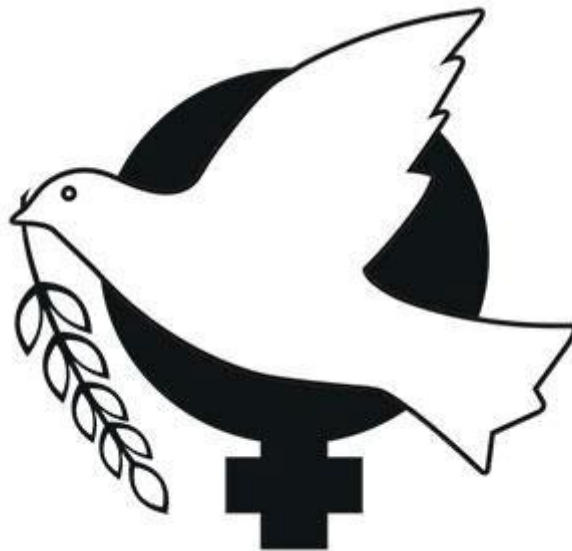


# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

## UK Section



Annual Report 2017-2018

103<sup>rd</sup> Year

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### 2017-2018 Executive

**Secretary**, Sophia Close

**Membership Secretaries**, Keyet Makonnen and Sheila Triggs (standing down)

**Membership secretary** (2018 -) Miriam Karmali

**Treasurer**, Paula Shaw

**WILPF International Board Members Job Share**, Maki Kimura and Taniel Yusef

**Communications**, Isabel Bull and Lydia Meryll (standing down)

Josephine Roele, Anne Scott, Marie Lyse Numuhoza (standing down)

The full new 2018 – 2019 Executive will be announced at the 2018 AGM

*Thank you to everyone who contributed, and to Isabel Bull who edited the texts and created the report.*

## UK WILPF Executive Report

### 2017: An exciting year for UK WILPF

2017 was again a very busy year for UK WILPF Section. January 21st saw WILPF members from all over the United Kingdom attending women-led protests against the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. There was a large WILPF contingent at the demonstration and rally in London.

At the first UK WILPF Executive meeting of 2017 Keely Khoury submitted her resignation as job share International Board member and Ros Brunt stepped down as she had taken on the role as job share with Keely. The Executive and membership thank Keely and Ros for all their hard work, especially the organisation of the 2016 Autumn Seminar. Keely and Henri Khoury were joined on May 29th, 2017 by a second son Luca.

In February, WILPF was invited to attend and speak at the LUSH Summit at Tobacco Dock in London. This event show-cased the many radical causes supported by the cosmetics firm.

In March, WILPF members led a well-attended protest at the Royal Courts of Justice at the unjust imprisonment of Alice Wheeldon on the 'evidence' of a spy in 1917. There was good media coverage for Alice's great granddaughters from Australia who are seeking a review of the case. Also, in March, Martha Jean Baker and Anne Scott attended the WILPF Europe meeting.

In April, we held our Annual General Meeting and the election of a new executive. The afternoon was a celebration of 'Creative Women Peacemakers', with the showing of Clapham Film Unit's Manchester Peace Crusade', with executive member Lydia Meryll as Margaret Ashton, the first woman councillor on Manchester City Council. Jane Grant (London Branch) introduced us to her book, 'In the Steps of Exceptional Women', the story of the Fawcett Society 1866 – 2016. There was a display of banners made by women, a selection of women's songs by 'Raised Voices' and a lesson in peace crane making by Maki Kimura.



At the end of April, Joanna Macgregor, International Board member job-share, represented the UK Section of WILPF at the International WILPF Convening in Geneva. She gave an excellent account of her experience at the May UK WILPF Executive meeting.

UK WILPF at Arms Trade Fayre 'Arms are for Linking' (photo credit: Jenny Engledow)

May saw the unexpected calling of the United Kingdom General Election. The response by the Executive was to write a General Election Manifesto to help women in their campaigning over this period.

In June, many UK WILPF women were accredited by Reaching Critical Will to attend the Global Nuclear Ban Treaty talks at the United Nations in New York. At the same time, here in the United Kingdom women attended rallies and events on June 17th to mark the start of these negotiations. UK WILPF provided placards and women to hold them for the UK CND organised protest in London.

Campaign Against the Arms Trade lead a series of actions at the Arms Trade Fayre in September. WILPF members joined in with many of the actions, including the day against Nuclear Weapons, 'Arms are for Linking', on 6th of September.

On Friday 6th October, a WILPF partner organisation ICAN, with WILPF member Beatrice Finn as its Chief executive officer, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Peace Prize was awarded for ICAN's ground breaking work in achieving the UN Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and several WILPF activists attended the ceremony in Oslo on December 10th.



WILPF Members at the Rally in Trafalgar Square, 21st January (photo credit: unknown)

October 14th Cynthia Cockburn, UK WILPF member, launched her latest book 'Looking to London' at the School of Oriental and African Studies. The same weekend saw WILPF members managing stalls at Feminism in London and UK CND conferences.

On Saturday 25th November, we held our very successful and well-attended 'Voices of Refugee Women' Seminar.

The weekend of 8th to 11th of December saw events being held to celebrate the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN. UK WILPF members attended the 'Die In' at the Ministry of Defence in London, with Executive member Sheila Triggs giving a very well received speech on behalf of UK WILPF

## **UK WILPF Executive, January 2018**

## International News

### Report from UK WILPF's International Board Representatives

Marie-Lyse Numuhoza and Maki Kimura are the new job share International Board (IB) representatives. Within UK WILPF broader activities, Marie-Lyse plays a key role in coordinating Voices of African Women, liaising with diaspora, refugee and immigrant African women in the UK and women in Africa; Maki is currently setting up a working group on UN Security Council 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), to make the presence of UK WILPF more visible in civil society's contribution to developing the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

As both of us are new to the post, we have slowly been learning how IB representatives communicate with each other and getting to know IB representatives from other Sections.

Presently, three issues are discussed at the international level 1) the International Congress 2018, 2) the International Programme 2018-2021 and 3) a proposed new governance structure of WILPF.

- 1) 32nd International Congress will be held in Accra, Ghana, 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018, with the theme 'Building a feminist peace movement'. We are yet to receive the finalised cost and the information on accommodation. The Congress programme is also in the process of discussion. All information on the Congress will be available on myWILPF. Any UK members who still do not have a myWILPF account and would like to have one, please contact UK WILPF for your request to be forwarded to the WILPF International Secretariat.
- 2) 2) The first discussion on the International Programme 2018-2021 took place on Webinar, 7th November, where we were asked to consider a) What WILPF does best together as the WILPF community, b) What does Feminist Peace mean in our local context and 3) What is the change we want to see after our work in the next 3 years. After gathering information and receiving various input throughout November and December, the International Programme draft team is currently working on the second draft of the Programme.
- 3) In October, 'Discussion Paper on Strengthening the Governance of WILPF' was circulated, which proposes restructuring WILPF's governance to make it more effective. Consultation was undertaken through a webinar session on 9th November two IB meetings, and the submission of the Section level feedback, which UK WILPF contributed to. The biggest planned change that will impact UK WILPF and other Sections is the restructuring of the IB. It was proposed that:

The IB shall be composed of at least 11 members:

- President, Vice-President, Treasurer (all elected by congress) and Secretary-General

- 6 members elected from regions and appointed by congress: 1 (+ an alternate) from Africa, Asia Pacific, South Asia, Europe, Middle East, the Americas
- 1 member appointed by the IB after Congress. (At the first IB meeting after Congress, the IB will initiate the appointment an 11th member, based on the assessment of qualities, experience, or diversity requirements of the new IB).

After the consultation, it has now been recommended:

- That the President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer and one representative (and an alternate) from each of the six regions be elected at Congress, with the Secretary-General being appointed as the 11th member.
- That an evaluation of both the implementation of the governance structure and the performance of the board as a whole be conducted, with full reporting to members prior to the 2021 Congress.

Based on these recommendations, redrafting of the proposal by the drafting group of WILPF Governance Proposal is currently taking place.

So far, our communication with other IB representatives has been through webinar sessions and emails. However, following a webinar session in January, the next WILPF Europe meeting is now scheduled in Brussel in April 2018, where we can meet IB representatives from Europe face-to-face. As all Sections in Europe have expressed their shared interests in further strengthening our cross-section communication and co-operation, with proposed changes in the governance of WILPF, this meeting is expected to be a crucial and enthusiastic one.

**Maki Kimura, joint UK representative, WILPF International Board**

### **UK WILPF goes to Rome**

2017's WILPF Europe meeting took place in Rome, 24th to 26th March. Both busy and interesting, the meeting was attended by Martha Jean Baker, representing UK Section Executive, and Anne Scott, representing Scottish Branch.



WILPF Europe meeting (photo credit: WILPF Germany)

Friday evening, we went to a Civil Society Celebration of 60 years of the European Union with speakers from a wide range of groups. Heidi Meinzolt, WILPF Europe Co-ordinator, spoke for WILPF and was well received. Saturday late morning and early afternoon we attended a demonstration to celebrate 60 years of the

European Union, with the 'Move the Money' Banner.

In the Friday session, we introduced ourselves; all European Sections except for Switzerland were present, plus women from Serbia and Poland, who do not have WILPF Sections. We heard about the work that the Italian Section does with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. Very few of us knew that WILPF was represented on this very important committee, and it is a resource that we should be utilising more widely. All Sections present spoke about the situation of Refugees in their home nations.

Saturday morning there were two discussion groups. Martha went to Refugees and Migration and Anne to NATO and Disarmament. In both groups there was a lot of commonality of thought between the Sections.

Late Saturday afternoon, Margrethe Tingstad gave us an overview of how Excomm is currently working and an insight into the WILPF Strategy Document. Initial comments on the Strategy Document reflected many of those that UK WILPF submitted to International.

Saturday early evening saw us discussing Climate Change and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe O.S.C.E. This was followed by UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the quotes of the day being 'Move the money from war to peace', and, "1325 is kidnapped by the military'.

Sunday, we revisited the Strategy Document, discussing the final statement, the role of the European Women's Lobby, getting more younger members involved in WILPF and an update on Communications.

Thanks to WILPF Italy Section for hosting, Heidi Meinzolt for her hard work and excellent facilitation, the Communications team led by Elena Cason for their rapid production of notes and work on the final statement, and all the women who travelled to the meeting - many self-funding and using up annual leave. This was a valuable experience for all of us.

**Anne Scott, UK WILPF Executive/ Scottish Branch Secretary**

## **WILPF Europe statement, March 2017**

### **Let's unite for a peaceful Europe in a Peaceful World**

Europe is at a crossroad in 2017 - cooperation and benefits are at stake. 60 years after the Rome treaty, the EU has lost credit for women believing in peace and justice, welfare and safety, participation and inclusion!

Our feminist vision has always been and is inclusive, equal, democratic, just, sustainable and peaceful. This is a commitment to pluralism, diversity and the guarantee of rights. This is the link from WILPF's past to the future.

Of course, we were not naive and thought that EU would bring about big progress for women's rights and freedoms.

### **We believe and still believe:**

- in the necessity to overcome nationalism and the trauma of war together, to strengthen cross-border cooperation and networking, and to promote mutual trust and solidarity in an open and secular society.
- that the EU is not just a space for money and market, and that Europe is more than the EU. Europe is the home of its citizens and those who have found and find refuge here because they have had to leave their countries and environments.
- that it is part of our cultural heritage that people are able to destroy walls and to ensure fundamental freedoms and democratic rules based on equal participation of women and men.
- that most Europeans have understood lessons from the colonial past, and so respect universal human rights and - as part of a global responsibility - to contribute to a healthy natural environment without harming the planet and without exploiting people.
- that in the women's analysis of the root causes of war, the economy must serve the needs of the people and not those of profit and the interests of a few. In the sense of Human Security, a strong investment in conflict prevention is the only way to avoid violence and to protect women.

### **Challenges that urge women to stand up for a peaceful and just future in 2017 include:**

The EU is at the core of an economic model, which has widened inequalities and injustice all over the world. The gap between rich and poor is growing globally and within our societies. The dominance of corporate interests, austerity measures, unjust tax systems, lack of and dismantling of social and health services - including reproductive rights – are threatening the basis of our commons, women's rights, participation and independent living.

The EU is turning into a space of exclusion where governments build new walls, organize "efficient" pushbacks for refugees, make deals with undemocratic leaders to create new "secure" countries of origin, and continue to militarize the fortress Europe. These policies are often in contradiction to international law and human rights obligations.

The EU is full of fear pushed by "populist/nationalist" politicians and right-wing medias. They confront women – not only with old forms of patriarchy - but also allow new forms of discrimination, "othering", "anti-gendering", open racism and hate. Many people are looking for authoritarian leaders who sell "easy" solutions to complex problems.

The level of consumption and production in the EU and Europe accelerates climate change and is the source of conflict, hunger and forced migration.



The EU is faced with an on-going militarisation through the implementation of the new EU “Global Strategy”, the outsourcing of the security business and border management to NATO. The increase in military budgets in the member states, the equipment with new generations of weapons, and a nuclear revival where the logic of deterrence is extremely dangerous.



WILPF meeting in Rome 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March (photo credit: WILPF Europe)

WILPF is the oldest women’s peace organisation. In the spirit of our foremothers and aware of actual dangerous developments, we are convinced that it is urgent to advocate for another Europe, peaceful and just. We met in Rome to reaffirm our role of agents of change. We affirm our courage to express complex answers to complex and globalised issues. We are working cross-border with our Sections in Europe and neighbouring regions, in multiple networks and a global responsibility. We continue to address root causes of war and violence with a gender lens and mobilize for non-violent action.

**We appeal to our governments and to the Eu institutions to:**

- **Move the money from war to peace!** Invest money where it is needed for the people: in social security, education, health and equality!
- **Stop the arms trade** both globally and with conflict regions (CEDAW in relationship to GBV), and reduce the production of arms (SALW and of mass-destruction)
- Participate actively in the **nuclear disarmament negotiations**
- Dismantle **NATO**, de-nuclearize Europe and stop the logic of deterrence
- Invest in a Global Strategy which gives **priority to prevention** and avoid further militarisation of our societies
- Implement the UN **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** with specific attention to goal 17
- Create an **asylum law** respecting not only human rights and international law but giving priority to protection, specific needs and shelters for women and girls against patriarchal structures and gender-based violence in their countries, on the move and in the countries of arrival. Refugee women must be integral part of NAPs 1325
- Respect the **Women, Peace and Security/WPS Agenda** while implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 without using it for military purposes

- Support women's projects, cooperation, feminist research and peace education as part of a **culture of peace**
- Promote **new models of consumption and production**, "degrowth" and commons
- Respect the importance of **gender equality** and the care economy in our societies as part of an early warning mechanism for a peaceful and just society
- Ratify the **Istanbul Convention** and implement adequate protection measures against sexualised violence
- Contribute actively to measures to **stop climate change** through the full implementation of the Paris Agreements with a gender-just agenda
- Promote **1000 ideas and visions** to support a Europe of its citizens: European days in schools, institutions, European civil services, more Erasmus and other exchange programs, cheap "Interrail," cross border festivals, creation of European media

**WILPF Europe, March 2017**

### **UK WILPF statement at WILPF Europe meeting**

#### **Post Referendum**

The pre- election activities of UK political parties were inadequate in putting forward clear arguments for us to remain in the EU, and what would likely happen if the country voted to leave. The only party that caused a 'big stir' with dramatic and emotional stories was the UKIP party, which forced its racist stance onto the agenda. Therefore, the press followed their campaign vigorously, wanting an exciting piece of TV. The impact of the referendum is slowly becoming apparent and the stance taken by our Conservative government has caused the Scottish Nationalist Party to seek a further Independence referendum to break away from the UK and to remain within the EU.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, who has strong ethical values that are constantly ridiculed by the press, contributing to undermine his authority, has not proved popular in recent by-elections. Consequently, although the House of Lords has had a small attempt at influencing the government in how it approaches the EU question, they have given way to the Conservative majority in parliament, and the Labour opposition has been complicated by the right-wing factions inside the party.

Theresa May has given a very willing welcome to President Trump, in order to develop closer trading links as she pulls us away from the EU, to many people's great embarrassment and disgust.

WILPF women have been active in the marches, including the big London march against Trump in January 2017, that was held worldwide, and local marches against his banning people from mainly Islamic countries.

## Refugee Politics

To our shame our government has allowed few people in to make their home here and have gone out of their way to prevent even unaccompanied children from having a place of safety. This follows the right-wing rhetoric against all forms of immigration and refugee placements that brought about the proposed break away from the EU. The financing of borders in France, to create a deterrent, has made ever more dangerous fences for refugees to climb, and enabled traffickers to increase their appalling trade.

Our government's agreement with Turkey to pay them to keep refugees there enables them to put the argument that they are funding refugees. The Dubbs clause which helped protect child refugees has been overthrown and leaves children open to the abuse and terror of the traffickers to our shame. This is an action to appease the racists once again.

The selling of weapons to many countries including Saudi Arabia is also one of the greatest disgraces of this government.

WILPF has been engaged in demonstrations, collecting food, sleeping-bags and clothing to support refugees in Calais, and held stalls to talk to the public about these issues. We have made banners, talked about refugees and our government's inaction at meetings and written to MP's, ministers and the PM.



Women's Day of Action June 17<sup>th</sup>, Support the Global Ban Edinburgh (photo credit: Anne Scott)

## Nuclear Weapons

Before the vote in parliament to replace Trident took place WILPF women wrote to MPs, ministers and the Prime Minister, signed petitions and joined with other likeminded groups to demand they reject the proposal, however, there was simply not enough opposition in parliament, as many Labour MPs wished to keep these weapons of mass destruction.

We have signed petitions demanding our government take its place in the multilateral talks at the UN, collected 100s of signatures on letters to Boris Johnson Foreign Secretary and talked at meetings about it. But, so far, they have not agreed to go back on their position. We will keep up the pressure as talks will be resumed this month and later in the summer.

## **Environmental/climate**

Instead of improving public transport this government wants to increase sales of cars which they can tax.

They are intending to expand Heathrow airport, when, at a time of global warming, they should be trying to reduce the burning of fossil fuels. Roads will become more congested in the area, and the consequent air pollution that is gathering in intensity will continue to grow.

## **Health care**

There is much action around keeping our National Health Service (NHS) publicly owned but the government continues to make changes that they hope we will not notice, their reassurance does not work. The private sector is gradually delivering more of the services which will mean their profits will be at our expense. The care of the elderly and infirm is causing great concern as local authorities used to supply carers and run homes but are no longer able to do so, as the money made available is seriously insufficient. Sadly, the private sector will only do what is profitable.



The prison system is being privatised too, and those that are financed by the state but run privately are proving, as we expected, to be a very bad idea as they have insufficient staff and resources, which has led to very serious increases in self-harm, lock-ins, drug taking and deaths.

Some of us WILPF women have been involved in actions to 'Defend the NHS', leafleting, demonstrating and working with local and national groups. Again, letters have been written to appropriate people and various actions taken.

## **Europe**

Our arrogant government think they are able to make demands for a deal that suits them, having rejected the EU. There is much bitterness in the UK, much ignorance and has been a great increase in racism since the referendum.

## **UK WILPF Executive, March 2017**

## UK WILPF News

### WILPF Charitable Trust report

The WILPF CHARITABLE TRUST was founded to promote Human Rights, and in particular Women's Human Rights. As the Charity Commission commented; "Women are more than half the population. A gender analysis benefits the whole population while ensuring that the needs of women receive the attention they require".

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

Trustees were saddened at the recent death of one of our first ever trustees, Diane Brace, an active, creative, resourceful member of UK WILPF.

The Trust has spent 2017 reviewing our role. Chantelle Cummings has led trustees through the review process, initially writing a thought-provoking Resource Document for discussion, then sharing her expertise in workshops on Trust aim and focus, vision, short and long-term plans and identity.

There is still much work to be done, but trustees are feeling energized and committed to change. The Trust made a small contribution towards the visit of an Ethiopian Human Rights lawyer to UK WILPF and other organizations. Trustees appreciated the report submitted following this visit.

**Gift Aid** and the **Give As You Live** (donations through internet shopping) scheme provide the Trust with a small but steady financial bedrock. The Trust has updated our Gift Aid document, so it is now available for distribution. Please use **Give As You Live** for the benefit of the Trust (and UK WILPF) if you are an internet shopper!

The Trust has documents about **ethical fundraising** and **legacies** and has recently reviewed our role as a **conduit** for funds belonging to other agencies. Trustees are mindful of Charity Commission regulations and the need to comply with charity policy, but we welcome enquiries about possible uses of the Trust to support smaller organizations.

Trust funds are now held in the **Unity Trust Bank**. Should any WILPF member use the Trust for fundraising, she should ensure that trustees know what the money is for, so that it can be clearly ringfenced.

The Trust can be contacted with any comments or questions, at [trust@ukwilpf.org.uk](mailto:trust@ukwilpf.org.uk). The Trust is always looking for new trustees. Please contact us if you might be interested.

**Deirdre Leask, WILPF Trust Secretary, January 2018**

## UK WILPF makes inroads in outreach work

### Membership

In 2017, the UK branches and the membership team have worked to retain and recruit members through regular communications and events. Over the past year, branches have been actively taking part in and organising events across the UK, reaching diverse audiences and especially garnering interest from young women. Thirty-seven new members joined in 2017 and we ended the year with a total of 294 members, a 3.9% decrease on last year's membership as a result of non-renewals.



WILPF activists at University of Bristol, March (photo credit: Isabel Bull)

### Outreach work

Over the past year WILPF members from the UK section have been present at a number of different events that have contributed to recruiting new members as well as disseminating WILPF's message. The London branch were invited to take part in a LUSH charity pot party at LUSH's Oxford Street branch, which raised significant funds. In March, Anne Scott and Martha Jean Baker attended the WILPF Europe meeting in Rome, and in June the Global Nuclear Ban treaty talks in New York were also attended by WILPF women. WILPF's partner organisation ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. In November, we held our 'Voices of Refugee Women' seminar, which was an incredibly successful event that brought together a number of women's organisations. We were able to promote the seminar with stalls at two national events in London in October: the CND Annual Conference and Feminism in London.

A Connect Day to involve new member and non-members will be held in London in March 2018.

### Membership Team, January 2018



Our stall at Feminism in London, October (photo credit: unknown)

## UK WILPF Accounts 2017-2018

		UK SECTION	
		WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM	
		INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017	
MAIN ACCOUNT			
£			£
2016		INCOME	2017
5394.00		Membership subscriptions	5430.00
2136.81		Donations including legacy	3825.20
3450.00		Grants	5847.68
572.07		Meetings and seminars	458.29
1366.00		Sales T-shirts	907.00
941.53		Sales other items (bags cards diaries poppies leaflets badges etc.)	1329.70
23.66		Deposit Account Interest: Triodos	7.01
13884.07		TOTALS	17804.88
		EXPENDITURE	
290.00		Donations and Affiliations	365.00
1061.60		UK Travel	418.20
677.65		International Travel	742.62
674.50		UK Meetings and Seminars	711.69
1272.88		Postage, Stationery and Printing	1237.63
2956.03		Campaigns	4837.07
80.00		Stalls at events (campaigns)	100.00
414.83		Website, internet and phone	523.13
5302.49		Geneva Payments - Section fees	5270.51
1190.40		Purchase of T-shirts	907.20
313.73		Purchase of other items for sale	759.27
100.00		Branch start up in Cornwall	
17.00		Sundry expenses	
23.35		Paypal fees	20.48
14374.46		TOTALS	15892.80
		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/ (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)	1912.08

OFFICE ACCOUNT			
£			£
2016		INCOME	2017
410.00		Individual donations	200.00
		Bequest (part)	500.00
2205.00		Standing Orders/Regular donations	2145.00
360.00		Maternity Action - contribution for use of office	705.00
		WILPF International Crisis Response Team for use of office	1600.00
		Refund on phone bill	13.67
90.00		Lush grant - contribution to office costs (2016 only)	
3065.00		TOTALS	5163.67
		EXPENDITURE	
4190.00		Licence fee (i.e. "rent")	3352.00
429.96		Computer, repairs and supplies	46.95
158.18		Phone (from 2017 in Plusnet package charged to Main Account)	
462.11		Insurance	470.50
60.00		Volunteer Expenses	300.00
		Transfers of subscription payments to Main Account	50.00
5300.25		TOTALS	4219.45
-2235.25		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/ (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)	944.22

		UK SECTION	
		WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM	
		BALANCE SHEET	
		AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017	
£			£
2016		ASSETS	2017
		CURRENT ACCOUNTS	
2662.59		Co-operative Bank Main Account	5449.64



15.00		Less uncleared cheques		
	2647.59			
	1080.23	Co-operative Bank Office Account		2024.45
		PayPal Account		103.02
		RESERVE ACCOUNT		
	5429.55	Triodos Bank		4436.56
	9157.37	TOTALS		12013.67
		REPRESENTED BY:		
	11883.01	Surplus b/fwd 1 January		9157.37
	-490.39	Main Account Excess of Income/ (excess of expenditure)		1912.08
	-2235.25	Office Account Excess of Income/ (excess of expenditure)		944.22
	9157.37			12013.67

**NOTES:**

**GRANTS:**

We gratefully acknowledge the following grants from organisations, together with many donations from individual members, and a generous legacy from Richenda Barbour

Musicians for Peace - donation for our general work	500.00
Lush Retail - donation for our general work	1030.00
Lush Retail - event at which WILPF was invited to fund raise	797.68
Garden Court Fund - for work by Marie Claire Faray in DRC	990.00
WILPF Trust for visit to UK by Blen Diriba from Ethiopia	250.00
UNA Trust for visit to UK by Blen Diriba	500.00
WILPF International for our Voices of Refugee Women Campaign and Seminar	1780.00
Total grants	5847.68

**WILPF OFFICE**

Our neighbours in the Tindlemanor Building, Maternity Action, are contributing £60.00 per month for the use of our office part time. WILPF International Crisis Response Team are also using our office space and have paid us £1600 in 2017

## Global Ban Treaty is a hit in Scotland

ICAN organised a visit by two survivors of the US atomic bomb attacks in 1945 to visit Scotland, as the critical and hard-won UN negotiations for a nuclear ban treaty entered their third day. Reiko Yamada and Midori Yamada (not related) were keen to visit Scotland to highlight the importance of Scottish people and parliament support for nuclear disarmament despite Scotland being part of the UK, one of the nuclear armed states. The tour also included visiting London, and the Scottish visit timed to coincide with the start of the United Nations Conference for a Global Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, where Scotland's position will be highlighted by WILPF member and ICAN campaigner who had put the arrangements for the visit in place, Janet Fenton, with a strong message of support from Scotland's First Minister.

These two women were direct witnesses to the horrific consequences of nuclear weapons. They met with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at the Scottish Parliament, along with representatives from Scottish CND and other disarmament campaigners as well as their WILPF hosts.

They also travelled to Faslane and Coulport to witness first-hand the nuclear bases and the residents of Faslane Peace Camp. There was a moving exchange of information and memories as the visitors took tea beside the cherry tree planted by a previous Hibakusha visitor thirty years ago.



Hibakusha at the Scottish Parliament  
(photo credit: Scottish Parliament)

## Oslo

ICAN partner organisations and supporters across Scotland took part in upwards of a dozen celebrations to coincide with the award ceremony in Oslo of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN, for their work towards the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which was adopted by the UN in July this year. The many Scottish celebrations were tracked and publicised by the Scrap Trident Coalition and promoted

and shared internationally through the Scrap Trident Facebook page. WILPF members were well represented at several of the celebrations, including, but not exclusively, the opening party at UN House in Edinburgh.



Scottish Branch WILPF Peace is the Prize' party, 11<sup>th</sup> December (photo credit: unknown)

At the main event in Oslo, Scotland was represented by four women, Janet Fenton (ICAN Scottish Liaison) Flavia Tudoraneu, Veronika Tudhope (SCND Co-organisers) and Jill Saunderson, who had attended the initial humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in Oslo four years ago, all travelling at their own expense, (like hundreds of others who took part). We had the honour of a front place on the torchlit procession with our Scottish torch, gifted by the Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Janet and Flavia both were also part of a delegation of 6 from ICAN in Scotland that attended the Conference in July, which included 4 WILPF members. Thanks to Reaching Critical Will for obtaining accreditation for attendees.

### **Janet Fenton, WILPF Scottish Branch / ICAN Scotland**

### **UK WILPF member hits the Big Apple for the Nuclear Ban Treaty**

When I arrived in New York I went straight to an ICAN campaigners' meeting to discuss the current state of negotiations having arrived at the end of the first week. I was ready to help in any way for the remaining two weeks.

We had daily campaigners' meetings, including an early Nuclear States Meeting in which we discussed forward strategies to engage our home states during negotiations and after the Treaty. An online ICAN nuke-group was proposed. Some of us suggested making a civil society statement from an absent Nuclear state. This was met with mixed responses. Thankfully, Scott Ludlham Green Senator from Australia did make a statement, that those of us from Nuclear states were present and did not support the actions of our governments.

A major point was Article 4 - Threat of Use - it was vital that this was included - whilst Finance and Transport (Nukes prone to attack- theft or accident in transit) were discussed for some time.

I lobbied externally, on and off the record, and many delegates were highly supportive. Those from Nuclear / Umbrella states would express statements seeming from the same script, generally that the ban was noble but naïve / poor timing whilst certain global tensions were at play. Some said that while the US / Russia /North Korea possessed weapons it was futile. Occasionally, there was a huge lack of knowledge regarding the status and capabilities of modern nuclear arsenals and the outcome of global famine, climate change and mass destruction. However, the general expression was also that individuals wanted to stay connected and abreast of the details of the talks, except for those who had boycotted as a hostile act.

I also credentialed states to formally take part in the negotiations, helping them with the process and/ or meeting to discuss the Treaty and its importance.

Two days before the end, the means was changed from signatures from capital to Note Verbale by the Secretariat, making it far easier for under-funded missions to administer and attend the end of the negotiations. On the last day, all the missions

the team had been in personal contact with, including by phone or email, were present. When the numbers of credentialed states had risen dramatically, my team were applauded in one of our morning meetings, which was very generous.



WILPF women at Nobel Peace Prize celebrations in Oslo, December (photo credit: Taniel Yusef)

Assuming the Treaty would pass by consensus, we caught wind of a call for a vote and alerted our contacts to get their instructs from respective capitals accordingly. A majority would be required for it to pass. In a tense and emotional moment, literally

on the edge of our seats, the votes were locked and confirmed. 124 states voted. 122 voted in favour. 1 voted against (the Netherlands) and 1 abstained (Singapore). Not only did this vote show the sheer size of support for a Treaty and the isolation of the opposition, but it also put on record each state who voted to the aid of future campaigners to hold those voters to this for ratification.

## **Taniel Yusef, June – July, UN, New York**

### **Voices of Refugee Women**

On Saturday 25th November we held our 2017 Autumn Seminar, Voices of Refugee Women. Our aim for the day was to show solidarity with refugee women and raise awareness of what life is really like for refugee women in the UK.

Over the morning session, our executive committee members Marie Lyse Numuhoza and Taniel Yusef chaired the morning session most sensitively and efficiently (a rare combination). Ten refugee women spoke about their experiences.

From the women's testimonies it was highlighted how women seeking asylum have great difficulty in understanding how to present their own case. If they want to appeal against deportation they have to gather enough information to convince a lawyer that they have at least 50% chance of success, before they can qualify for legal aid.

Furthermore, Women for Refugee Women, one of the refugee women NGOs invited on the day, underlined how policy needs to change. They urged us to attend a mass

lobby at Westminster 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, and to contact our MPs to tell them what is happening to people who have come to UK to seek sanctuary.



Our IB representatives (photo credit: Lydia Meryll)

Over lunch we were treated to a performance by 'Raised Voices', which sang songs dedicated to the plight of refugees and encouraged us all to join in. Cynthia Cockburn, a longstanding WILPF member has regained some of her unquenchable spirit!

In contrast, our afternoon session aimed to offer an opportunity for all participants to consider a range of actions that can be taken to tackle

injustice many 'refugee women' experienced. Breaking up into small groups, each group was asked to discuss one of the four questions.

- In what sense is the 'refugee crisis' a 'European Crisis'? What action can the UK government take at the European level?
- Refugees and asylum seekers' rights are Human Rights. What changes would you like to see to protect them, nationally and internationally?
- What are the state's responsibilities in the protection of refugees and asylum seekers' rights? Please give examples.
- What measures are needed in creating the environment and monitoring safe/voluntary repatriation for refugees?

Lively discussion took place and each group came up with suggestions of actions that can be taken at different levels; as individuals, via grassroots organisations, and working with national governments as well as international organisations. (We are planning to summarise these points and to circulate the summary amongst participants.)



'Raised Voices' performing at our Autumn Seminar (photo credit: Isabel Bull)

Throughout the day, there was a shared understanding that the 'refugee crisis' is a problem of the Global North and those people who seek refuge in Europe after fleeing conflict areas and violence should not be stigmatised or blamed. By the end

of the day, participants were all in agreement about the importance of solidarity and different groups working together to make changes.

## UK WILPF

### UK WILPF Dies in with ICAN UK

On December 9th, WILPF joined CND and Medact's demonstration 'No safe hands for unsafe weapons'. The action took place in front of Ministry of Defence, and with speeches from Bruce Kent and our very own Sheila Triggs.

On the same weekend that the Nobel Prize was given to ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), the demonstration was an opportunity to celebrate the international efforts pushed by ICAN that commenced the multilateral negotiations to ban nuclear weapons. While supported by 122 countries, sadly the United Kingdom government refused to participate in the treaty negotiation. Therefore, the protest also was a moment to push our government to support the ban.

After a mock Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, Sheila reminded us the importance that civil society long-term advocacy has had on this achievement. She also spoke about the importance that such a treaty has on women's lives. Women have 50% higher risk of developing cancer resulting from ionizing radiation, which is constantly overlooked as a gendered consequence of nuclear violence. The final version of the treaty recognizes the importance of women's equal participation in a disarmament process for achieving a sustainable peace. The inclusion of these points reflects WILPF's strong advocacy during the negotiations and must be a reason for us all to celebrate.



'No safe hands for unsafe weapons' demo (photo credit: unknown)



Sheila's speech at the Die In (photo credit: Michael Orgel, Medact)

Finally, the protest ended with a die-in demonstration to symbolise the impact of nuclear violence. In 2018, WILPF will continue its engagement pressuring the UK government to join the treaty.

**Isadora Tavares de Moura, UK WILPF Office**

### **WILPF women at CAAT demonstration at the notorious Arms Fair**

For one week in London's docklands area in early September people from various parts of the country gathered to protest at two gates to try to interrupt and stop the preparations for the Arms Fair. This is one of the biggest such fairs in the world with some of the most disgraceful and violent governments represented, free to buy weapons to use as they wish, including Saudi Arabia buying weapons to kill the people of the Yemen, others selling, (including the UK of course), without questioning the ethics of their own or the purchaser's actions.



Each of the seven days were themed; on the Wednesday the theme was anti-nuclear and environmental, with a huge windmill assembled on site and many banners including our washing-line of papier mache life size women from the waist up. We strung them across the road held up on poles, arms to protect - holding a tiny baby - arms to grow - holding a plant - arms to link - which had two people - arms to welcome (refugees)], and a placard saying, 'no arms to kill'.

Our signs at the CAAT demonstration  
(photo credit: Jenny Engledow)

At one point at each gate 2 people did a 'lock-on' action, where they had their arms linked through a concrete tube that was in a suitcase, making it very difficult for the authorities to separate them as they lay in the middle of the road holding the traffic up for hours, a brilliant and brave action. Whilst they blocked the road we filled the area with our banners and props and sang, and I understand the delay caused the assemblers to work overnight to complete their work.

**Jenny Engledow, Brighton, Hove and District Branch**

### **WILPF London is Lush**

Over 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September, London WILPF were invited to spend the weekend at Lush's Oxford Street branch in London. This was a unique opportunity for us to engage with the public on our campaigns and the work that we do whilst also being

able to fundraise. 100% of proceeds from Lush's Charity Pot were donated to WILPF and by the end of the weekend we had raised over £1000!



WILPF London members at our Lush stand (photo credit: unknown)

Our fantastic campaigners did a wonderful job of engaging with a diverse crowd, attracted by Lush's popular handmade ethical products. This was an opportunity for us to spread the word about issues around gender, peace and human rights to people who hadn't heard of WILPF at the start of their shopping trip, but who left inspired and curious about our work. Some even left their details keen to keep in touch with us.

Members of the public were especially interested in the Voices of African Women and were heartened to learn that London WILPF has a strong platform representing women from across the world.

We thank Lush for providing us with a space to reach out to members of the public, for this fantastic fundraising opportunity, and for their outstanding members of staff.

## Miriam Karmali, WILPF London Branch

WILPF UK National Exec for 2017 – 2018 at our 2017 AGM (photo credit: Helen Kay)



WILPF UK National Exec at our first meeting of January 2018 (photo credit: Lydia Meryll)



## **Branch Reports**

### **Brighton, Hove and District Branch Report**

**At our New Year Fundraising lunch**, we prepared a joint public meeting with two members of the recently closed Brighton United Nations Association. Our shared event in February with the UNA attracted a good-sized audience.

**The Women's March in pink** was attended by some of us joining many thousands of laughing, banner waving women. It was a great day, there were so many of us that we were thousands deep around the streets near the US embassy and filled Grosvenor Square.

**Our WILPF stall at the Unison Women's conference** went quite well but the position of all the stalls was not too clever. Lovely women came to talk with very moving stories of their experiences nursing and caring for people, lots of leaflets were given out and a few t-shirts and other items of produce were sold.

**Our Annual General Meeting** speaker was one of our local members, Helen Ledger, who has worked in India with various women's groups.

**A vigil for Armed Forces Day** saw us in the rain holding the Guernica banner with friends from several organisations and handing out leaflets. This also marked the end of Refugee Week and once again followed a tragic bombing prompting people to respond with sadness.



WILPF women at the anti-nuke environment day at the DSEI (photo credit: Jenny Engledow)

**Our garden party** heard Blen from Ethiopia come to talk about her work there and the orphanage she oversees.

**On Hiroshima Day, 6<sup>th</sup> August**, once again, we held our evening commemoration to mark this day and the mayor, who is a female Labour party

councillor, spoke about her commitment to peace and opposition to nuclear weapons. We were also lucky enough to have a choir to sing a couple of songs, and Rebecca Johnson spoke and we sang around the lighted candles.

**At the anti-nuke and environment day at the DSEI [Defence and Security Equipment International]** WILPF was represented by several members. We held up some life size papier-mache people/figures representing arms to protect, to grow [plants/food], to link and to welcome but no arms to kill.

**Our Peace Poppy Wreath commemoration** at the war memorial in the town centre was again a short but poignant reminder of why upholding the wishes of those men and women who died in the First World War to 'end all wars' remains the most important work we can do. WILPF member Marie McQueeney read three sonnets by an American poet, Edna St Vincent-Millay, followed by two minutes silence and the White Peace Poppy Wreaths were tied to the railings, and remained there until the end of November.

**Jenny Engledow, Branch Secretary**

### **Cornwall Branch Report**

*We unite and stand together for the dignity and equality of all peoples, for the safety and health of our planet for the strength of our vibrant and diverse communities and in particularly for the future generations.*

This is what the placards said on our demonstration in solidarity with the Women's Marches **21 January 2017**. More than 60 people attended and listened to a speech delivered by Brigitte and watched the performance of Penzance Peace Singers, led by WILPF Cornwall member Pip. **18<sup>th</sup> March**, we had a joint event with Amnesty Penzance, showing the film THE TRIALS OF SPRING, followed by a question and answer session About 60 people attended – giving very positive feedback.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**, we showed the fifth film of the series Women, War and Peace 'The War we are Living' – followed by an informative session hosted by member Lucia about the current situation for Women in Colombia. Our branch made a donation towards WILPF Colombia in support of the women coffee farmers in Cauca. **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we held a demo "No to the Arms trade" – in solidarity with the week of action in London.



WILPF Cornwall 21<sup>st</sup> January (photo credit: unknown)

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** - As a follow up, member Ailsa reported in our monthly Branch meeting about her day of action as a legal observer at the Demo. Our branch agreed to donate to the work of the Nuclear Information Service. We were invited to both days of the One World Peace Event in Truro on **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept and 21<sup>st</sup> September**. On the **21<sup>st</sup>** we had a stall outside in Truro.

Members and friends of our Branch supported the Peace Fest in Penlee Park Penzance, organised by CND's Peter Le Mare, on **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> September**, we were also present with our banner. The last event of 2017 on **9<sup>th</sup> December** was a joint demonstration and celebration in Penzance with WILPF and CND for ICAN winning the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

After being in post as Secretary since the birth of the Cornwall Branch, Brigitte has finally and somewhat reluctantly had to step down due to personal circumstances. All the Branch thank her wholeheartedly for all her work and commitment and know that we haven't seen the last of her by any means, as she is still very active in the Branch. Despite several requests, the post remains unfilled as no-one has come forward to take it on – please contact [ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com](mailto:ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### **Brigitte (ex-Secretary) and Keri (Minute Queen), WILPF Cornwall Branch**

### **London Branch Report**

In London we are fortunate to have many events taking place and our members attend and help as much as they can. We have also had many new volunteers helping in the WILPF office – Blor, Miriam, Hannah, Astrid and (most recently) Isadora.

**January**, on 21<sup>st</sup> we went to the Amazing March and Demonstration, and on the 29<sup>th</sup> held a Connect Day welcoming new members. **February**, on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> we went to a Wonderful event at Tobacco Dock where Lush hosted all the charities and organisations they support – including UK WILPF.



WILPF London women at the Women's Marches (photo credit: unknown)

**March**, on 1<sup>st</sup> we joined CND lobbying Parliament and on 10<sup>th</sup> we held a Vigil at Royal Courts of Justice for a pardon for Alice Wheeldon. On 11<sup>th</sup> we also attended the Million Women Rise March. **May**, on 13<sup>th</sup> we held a meeting with presentations from Women Against Rape and All African Women's Group, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Conscientious Objectors Day at Tavistock Square – Mark Rylance was a welcome addition.

**June**, on 11<sup>th</sup> we attended Well St Common Festival, and on 17<sup>th</sup> joined the CND at Red Lion Square with placards to promote the Global Ban Treaty. **July**, on 29<sup>th</sup> we held a meeting with presentations from Hilary Tyrrell and Judith Watt about Bedouin women in the Negev desert, Blen Diriba about Human Rights in Ethiopia and Marissa Conway about a Feminist Foreign Policy. **August**, on 6<sup>th</sup> we commemorated Hiroshima Day at Tavistock Square. **September**, on 21<sup>st</sup> we took part in a Peace Walk along the River Thames, and on 30<sup>th</sup> London Branch we held our AGM, electing a new joint Chair, Miriam and Josephine. **October**, on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – we

had so much going on! We held a launch of “Looking to London”, a new book by Cynthia Cockburn at SOAS and attended both CND Conference and Feminism in London (FiLIA) Conference. **November**, on 25<sup>th</sup> we hosted UK WILPF’s Autumn Seminar. **December**, on 8<sup>th</sup> we held a Memorial Service for Diane Brace, and on 9<sup>th</sup> we attended the Die In protest at the MoD.

**Paula Shaw, WILPF London Branch member**

**Norwich & Norfolk Branch Report**

We have a local WILPF planning group and meet on a regular basis. We respond to current events and often work with other like-minded groups by jointly hosting speakers, running stalls, supporting vigils or demonstrations.



We mark days, such as International Women’s Day, Hiroshima Day, the annual Peace Camp and the local Burston Rally – which commemorates the longest (school) strike in history.

We support and work with the local University of East Anglia

both by contributing to modules and by helping to establish and collaborating with the WILPF Student Society.

**Claire Collen, Branch Secretary**



WILPF women in Norwich (photo credit: Claire Collen) [both photos]

**Orpington Branch Report**

Campaigning for a global ban on nuclear weapons has been a prominent part of WILPF’s activities, and we held a stall in the High Street was devoted to this issue. **On 25<sup>th</sup> February**, despite cold and windy weather, we combined with Orpington CND to bring this to the attention of the public, giving out leaflets and inviting those passing by to sign a petition.

The ban was also the focus of the talk at our annual Garden Party. Orpington members also took part in the vigil outside the Law Courts about Alice Wheeldon, who was wrongly convicted a century ago of conspiring to murder Lloyd George.

WILPF Orpington women making cranes (photo credit: Pat Pleasance)



Our regular meetings covered a variety of topics. Members watched a short film “The War we are Living”, about Afro-Colombian women braving a violent struggle over their gold-rich lands. We then had a discussion on the issues raised. Pat Pleasance gave a talk on Lucy Deane Streatfeild, one of the women featured in the booklet “These Dangerous Women”. We heard about the WILPF Human Rights Project in Ethiopia from Blen Mamo Deriba, who is visiting this country.

At one of our discussion meetings we looked at the ideas in Naomi Klein’s new book: “No is not Enough”. The latest book by Cynthia Cockburn “Looking to London: Stories of War, Escape and Asylum” was described by Sheila Triggs. At another meeting Hilary Tyrrell from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign told us about the plight of Bedouin citizens in Israel.

A social event was held in **December**, at which Maki Kimura (one of our International Representatives) showed members how to make paper cranes. These will become part of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre’s 140,000 paper cranes project, which commemorates those who died at Hiroshima.

**Pat Pleasance, Branch Secretary**

### **Scottish Branch Report**

We held Branch Core group meetings at the Engender Office in January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September and November in the Engender Office. Thanks to Engender for the use of their space.

We had a busy start to the year. **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January**, we attended anti- Trump demonstrations in Edinburgh.

From **February 1<sup>st</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we had a ‘These Dangerous Women’ exhibition on display at the ‘Little Shop of Memories’ at Ocean Terminal Leith, which generated a lot of interest, but no new members.



Anne Scott Global Ban Leafleting Feb 13th 2017 (photo credit: Eileen Cook)

Also, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, as part of the ‘Audacious Women’ Festival we organised ‘Speaking Up for Women Internationally’, our guest speakers were WILPF Europe Co-ordinator Heidi Meinzolt, Marie Lyse Numuhoza (VoAW) and Basia Mindewicz from ‘Gals for Gals’.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>**, Anne Scott and Helen Kay were fortunate enough to get tickets for the Scottish Women’s Convention International Women’s day event held at the Scottish Parliament, which had an amazing array of women speakers.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**, we contributed literature for a peace stall at the Meadows Festival. And, **Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>** WILPF Scottish Branch along with women from Edinburgh CND, Edinburgh Stop the War and Women in Black organised a Rally in support of the Global Ban Treaty for Nuclear Weapons.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June**, some of us went to support the 'Edinburgh Stand Up to Racism' rally against the Tory / DUP pact. Also, on **21<sup>st</sup> June** Anne and Helen were invited to attend 'Raise Their Voices', a gathering of words and stories by and about women in Scotland during WW1 to have 'These Dangerous Women' booklets available.

Helen Kay has been working to help Charlotte Bill with the Heritage Lottery Funding Bid to tell the story of the WILPF women who went to Versailles in 1919 to criticise the Treaty of Versailles. Unfortunately, after resubmitting the bid twice we failed to secure the funding.

**Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>**, we were at Glasgow Women's Library to present 'Women who widnae haud their wheest in World War 1'. This was a showing of 'The Manchester Peace Crusade' Film, introduced vibrantly and enthusiastically by Emma Thomas who appeared in the film.



Khuloud Saba speaking EWJF October  
(photo credit: Helen Kay)

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**, we hosted our event 'International Peace: Women's Campaigns' as part of the Edinburgh World Justice Festival. The Theme for the EWJF was 'Creating Hope through People Power'. The event attracted a large audience of non- WILPF members

Despite having a busy year, we have been unable to attract new members. In addition, we have not been as involved in the Scottish Global Ban Treaty Working Group, as the meetings have been in Glasgow during the day at times which are difficult for members to attend. We are no longer actively involved in the Scottish Network for Peace and the Scrap Trident Coalition for the same reason.

Please save the date **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018** for the Demonstration at Faslane Nuclear Base. Further details to follow. Bus(es) will be arranged from Edinburgh and possibly Glasgow, unfortunately there will be a charge for buses.

From **February 12<sup>th</sup> 2018**, we will be meeting at the new accessible to all Engender Office 10, Old Tolbooth Wynd, Edinburgh EH8 8EQ.

**Anne Scott, Scottish Branch Secretary**

## Sheffield Branch Report

This year we decided to hold bimonthly branch meetings in the hope that this would encourage more people to attend. The first meeting of the year was our AGM in February. We also had a talk from Ibtisam Alfarah about 'Women and the Arab Spring', giving us insight into the plight of women in the Yemen. It was followed by a lively discussion.

**In March**, we screened the documentary 'I Came to Testify' about the Bosnian war and the tribunal that was the turning point in acknowledging the use of rape as a weapon of war. **In April**, Margaret Lawson and Faith Rodger (two of our members) spoke about the Quaker Tapestry. **In May**, we joined with Sheffield Creative action for Peace (SCRAP) for our meeting when Janet Fenton came to speak to us about the treaty to ban nuclear weapons



WILPF Sheffield's Garden Party  
(photo credit: Faith Roger)

**In July**, Val Huzzard spoke to us about her work for Refugees. **In September**, we watched the film 'Peace Unveiled' about three women who when they found that the ground was being laid for peace talks in Afghanistan.

**In October**, Margaret Lawson gave a talk, 'Some Remarkable Quaker Women'. And, **in November**, member Jill Whitfield and Paul Stewart came to tell us about the of work the

Sheffield Global Justice group.

We also had our annual garden party **in July**. Although Marie-Lyse Numuhoza herself couldn't come she sent a written version of her very interesting talk about the International Peace Work of WILPF and one of our members read it out. This was well received and as our main fundraising effort we raised £85.

**In November**, we had a stall at the annual 'Peace and Craft Fair' in the Sheffield Town Hall we had items, for sale, information leaflets, and letters for people to sign asking our MP to support 'ICAN'. We got nearly 50 signed.

**In October**, Rosie Horsley informed us because of her University commitments she was moving to Bradford. At present there is no one else who can do the job. Also, numbers at meetings have been very poor, we have decided we must hold the group in abeyance for the time being. We have continued with the meetings and activities already planned until the AGM **in February in 2018**. After that we will not be having regular meetings, but we hope to join SCRAP with some of their activities.

**Faith Roger, Sheffield Branch member**

## **Obituaries**

### **Helen John, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1936 - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Helen John was a long-term and very successful direct-action peace campaigner and a WILPF member. She was part of the original march from Cardiff to RAF Greenham Common in Berkshire to stop the siting of nuclear weapons (Cruise Missiles). Helen was one of four women who chained themselves to the fence at Greenham and started a peace camp that lasted for 19 years until 2000.

In 1994, Helen moved to Yorkshire to set up a women's peace camp near the "listening base" run by the US National Security Agency at Menwith Hill – or as Helen named it "Womenwith" Hill.

On different occasions Helen caught media attention by daubing graffiti on the Houses of Parliament (opposing depleted uranium weapons); the Scottish Parliament (in protest against Trident); the Bank of England (over alleged collusion with Menwith Hill); and the US embassy (opposing the use of plutonium on the Cassini spacecraft). On many occasions Helen entered the different bases and was arrested. In fact, Helen was in prison when she stood as an independent parliamentary candidate against Tony Blair in 2001 and 2005.

Helen John also served as vice-chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from 2001 until 2004, and in 2005 was nominated for the Nobel peace prize.

Her last campaigning move was to Lincoln in 2013 so that she could protest the British use of drones directed from RAF Waddington. That year WILPF organised a memorable event to support Helen outside the base at Waddington.

Helen was a great peace activist who is sorely missed.

### **Sheila Triggs**

### **Diane Brace as told by her friend**

Diane was a life-long teacher. Her career began with a class of 40 seven-year olds and she claimed that 'after that everything was easy'. She came to WILPF in her later years through her pen friend Phyllis Yingling.

She was the first member of her family to attend university where she studied politics with Karl Popper at the LSE. Her classmates included future cabinet ministers and global financiers and Derrick Brace whom she married and with whom she had two children, George and Catherine. She took a sabbatical from teaching to once again become a student where she took an advanced degree in sociology and politics at Birkbeck College under Sir Bernard Crick.

I first met Diane at a WILPF International Congress. She was there as a guest of her friend Phyllis and those of us from the UK delegation asked her, since she was from the UK, why she was not a WILPF member. She duly joined and threw herself into the activities of the Section. She became membership secretary and visited all the branches and helped set up some new ones. Membership grew under her efforts.



She also set up a series of Saturday 'Connect' sessions. She also was elected Section President – a role she served in briefly. She was also appointed by WILPF to be the convenor of the International Personnel Committee, a role that took her to the New York Office to work on some sensitive personnel issues. Diane hosted a vibrant seminar, up until a week before her death, with a group who came to her flat to discuss current affairs under the auspices of the University of the Third Age.

Although remaining a WILPF member, Diane threw herself into Labour politics where she became Islington Labour's Women's Officer. She was a friend of many of the major Labour leaders and her memorial took place on 8 December 2017 at Islington Town Hall, chaired by friend and MP Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornbury.

### **Martha Jean Baker**

### **Phoebe Cusden 1887 - 1981**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a ceremony was held outside the house in Reading where Phoebe Cusden had lived for many years, and a plaque including the WILPF dove was "unveiled". Jane Lane, a WILPF member who had known Phoebe, represented us at the event, and read a paper on behalf of WILPF.

The aims of WILPF fitted entirely with Phoebe's outlook on life. The loss of her seat on the Aldermanic bench in Reading in 1949 provided an opportunity for her to become more involved with WILPF at an international level, as well as in this country, and she devoted her energy in the next 20 years to re-vitalising WILPF. She became an International Vice-President in 1953.

A major contribution to WILPF's work was the production of our international magazine "Pax et Libertas" (Peace and Freedom). This she did single-handedly for years. It had a circulation of 2,500 in 1956. She saw this is a way of keeping WILPF together and included articles by many famous people.

Her international work included representing WILPF at various international conferences, including one at Helsinki, and taking part in a visit to China to which WILPF had been invited. She also organised a WILPF international meeting in Birmingham in 1956.

In this country she was the Chair of WILPF's "Parliamentary Committee" and demonstrated regularly against the Vietnam War outside the US Embassy before dashing to Westminster to read up Hansard. Although ageing, she still took part in the CND Aldermaston marches.

Phoebe Cusden was an indefatigable worker for WILPF, and for all the causes she believed in. The new plaque is a well-deserved memorial to her life.

### **Pat Pleasance**

## UK WILPF merchandise

You will soon be able to buy UK WILPF merchandise from our website!! Please note that we will only be able to send products from our office on Wednesdays.

Our personalised merchandise includes:



(More colours and products are available. For a full price list and more information please go to our website, [www.wilpf.org.uk](http://www.wilpf.org.uk).)

**Join us for our 2018 AGM**

***Wonderful Women and WILPF Work***

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 11am – 16pm**

**Tindlemanor, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT**

**Morning Agenda 11.00 – 13.00**

**Annual General Meeting**

**10.30** Registration – Refreshments available

**11.00** Welcome and Arrangements for the Day.

**11.05** Minutes of the 2017 AGM

**11.15** Annual Report and Questions

**11.30** Financial Statement and Questions

**11.45** Resolutions

**12.40** Thanks and Introduction to the 2018 -2019 Executive.

**12.50** Any other Business

**Lunch 13 – 14.00 Suggested donation £5**

**Afternoon Agenda 14.00 to 16.00**

- WILPF Congress
  - WILPF Governance
  - WILPF Europe Meetings
  - Feedback from Voices of Refugee Women Seminar
  - Our 2018 Autumn Seminar
  - Global Ban Treaty
  - Maypole Trust Grant
  - Versailles 1919 and These Dangerous Women
- Refreshments available. Entertainment provided

**Looking forward to seeing you then,**

**Note: Tindlemanor is a woman only building**

## **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

52/54 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT

[ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com](mailto:ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com)

Facebook: WILPF UK, Twitter: @UKWILPF

Website: [www.wilpf.org.uk](http://www.wilpf.org.uk)

