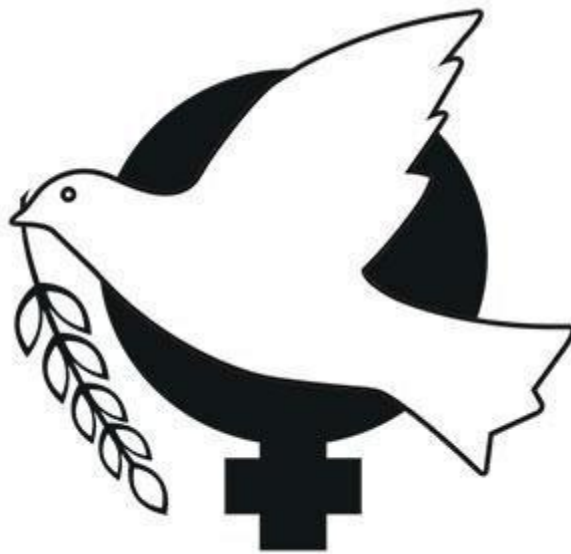


Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

UK Section



Annual Report 2018-2019

104th Year

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2018 – 2019 Executive

Secretary: Paula Shaw (from July 2018)

Treasurer: Paula Shaw

Finance group: Jenny Engledow, Alina Kuhl, Pat Pleasance, Paula Shaw and Sheila Triggs

Membership Secretary: Miriam Karmali/ Chrissie Bradley,/ Lana Astin

WILPF International Board Members Job Share: Maki Kimura and Taniel Yusef

Communications Job Share: Nicole Treanor and Isabel Bull (standing down)

Branch reps: Jenny Engledow (Brighton), Lucia St John (Cornwall), Helen Kay (Scotland from July 2018), Claire Collen (Norfolk), Miriam Karmali/ Josephine Roele (standing down) (London) Pat Pleasance (Orpington)

Campaign leads: Keyet Makonnen (VoAW), Maki Kimura (Women, Peace and Security) and Taniel Yusef (Disarmament)

The full new 2019 – 2020 Executive will be announced at the 2019 AGM.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and created this report.

2018: A challenging year for UK WILPF

UK WILPF Executive Report

In January we held a productive Executive meeting organising upcoming campaigns. Maki led an excellent discussion on 1325 and the consultation on the UK National Action Plan.

On February 21st Sheila and Paula attended the 60th Birthday Party for CND with excellent speeches from Jeremy Corbyn, Caroline Lucas, Pat Gaffney and Bruce Kent.

In March the European WILPF Sections met in Brussels and there was an agreement we wanted to continue working with our European sisters whatever Brexit may bring! In April many WILPF members joined the “coach” not “march” to Aldermaston to celebrate 60 years of CND. We held a Campaign Training Day on the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in London.

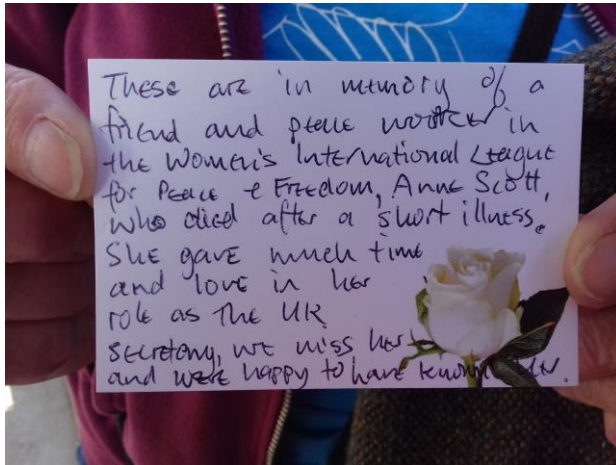
We are so fortunate to have Dr Rebecca Johnson as a WILPF member with her expertise and experience. Every month WILPF UK takes part in a No Trident Renewal Group – chaired by CND and we thank our partners for their support. We also thank Maypole Fund for the Grant to run the Campaign Day.

We held our AGM on April 14th and some long-standing members stepped down. We owe our gratitude to Sheila Triggs, Lydia Meryll and Khedidja Mohammed-Nur for their tireless efforts in WILPF campaigns. We welcomed Heidi Meinzolt and Katrin Geyer, from WILPF Germany, to join us in the afternoon.



We have had support from many younger members in 2018 and I especially want to thank Anna, Astrid, Isadore, Lana and Nicole for their help with events and the admin in the WILPF UK office. Also thanks to Alina for her help with the accounts.

May saw elections in some areas and another successful Executive welcoming new members. Katherine Ronderos also visited the meeting and gave a wonderful presentation of her peace work in Colombia. In June our wonderful Secretary, Anne Scott, stood down due to illness and we all worked together to carry on her tasks. WILPF UK joined the Peace Festival in Croydon and celebrated Margaret Turner's 90th Birthday.



July was a sad month as Anne's illness rapidly deteriorated and she died on the 29th. We were all in shock and many WILPF members attended the funeral in Scotland in August. Any member who knew Anne knew what a wonderful woman she was – more in the Obituary from Scotland Branch.

In August WILPF joined Hiroshima Day events around the country. It was also the month when the Triennial Conference was held in Ghana. There were many WILPF members who joined the Congress. September saw the TPNW

campaign training taking place in Manchester with our partners from CND a grant from WILPF International enabled this to happen. We also welcomed Madeleine Rees to a discussion whilst she was visiting London.

In October Sheila Triggs was taken ill whilst visiting family and was very poorly but thankfully has made a good recovery and is still taking part in the Wednesday vigil with Women in Black. Nicole Treanor gave a presentation about WILPF at a concert held by Musicians for Peace and Disarmament.

On November 3rd the Executive met in Parliament Square to lay a wreath for Anne Scott by the Millicent Fawcett statue. We are hoping to create a memorial film on the WILPF website in 2019. Across the UK there was a lot of news of the Centenary of the end of World War One. WILPF UK has been in a partnership – World War One Peace Forum – for the last 4 years. This group organises the International Conscientious Objectors Day on May 15th and alternative Remembrance events on November 11th. In November 2018 a Peace Festival was held at Friends House, Euston Road, London and was very well attended. “These Dangerous Women” was shown and Charlotte, from Clapham Film Unit, was able to tell people about the next film being made.

An excellent WILPF UK Seminar on TPNW was organised by Taniel and held on November 24th but attendance was low so we are planning differently for 2019. In December we celebrated one year since ICAN received the Nobel Peace Prize and that 69 countries have now signed the Treaty and there are 19 ratifications. ICAN believe the Treaty could enter into force by the end of 2019. We look forward to another campaigning year in 2019.

Paula Shaw on behalf of WILPF UK Executive February 16th 2019

International news

International Board Members' report

A brief report of the 32nd Congress at Ghana, 18-24th August 2018

UK delegates: Maki Kimura & Taniel Yusef, International Board Representatives (job-share), Keyet Makonnen, Marie-Claire Faray, Mariam Suleiman - (Maki Kimura and Taniel Yusef were funded by WILPF UK including the travel fund from WILPF Trust)

WILPF UK member Khadidja Fadoul was representing WILPF Chad.

Feminist Peace Movement in Africa Forum – Saturday 18th August 2018

At the start of the forum, the passing of Anne Scott, WILPF UK Secretary, was acknowledged and we had a moment of silence to commemorate her. The forum covered diverse and rich topics on root causes of violence, women's roles in peacemaking and conflict prevention, and mediation involving diverse speakers from WILPF International, National sections & groups and NGOs in African countries.



Members also had an opportunity to discuss chosen topics (such as mediation; elections and political; disarmament and conflict prevention; political economy and peace; masculinities and engaging men; and migration and displacement) in smaller groups led by members of WILPF African sections. Maki attended the Mediation workshop facilitated by WILPF Ghana, in which concept and technique of mediation were shared. Taniel attended political economy and peace and gave a talk.

While voices from African countries were reasonably represented in the Forum, more grassroots organisations in Ghana, as well as governmental figures from the Ghanaian government could have been invited.

Pre-Congress IB Meeting – Sunday 19th August, PM

Preparation for the Congress was undertaken covering various issues such as an overview of Sections and Groups represented at Congress; new WILPF National Groups; and approval of Standing Personnel Committee's mandate; and appointment/reappointment Conveners of Standing Committees.

This was an extremely important and useful session to get to know delegates from other National sections and groups, particularly those beyond Europe. Each section and group gave a 3 min presentation which highlights its key political issues, and this was an excellent way to learn about the activities of each section. Between Taniel and myself, we covered quite a lot of issues including Nuclear ban treaty, feminist economy, VoAW, WPS, and refugee and asylum women.

Regarding new Constitution and By-Laws, heated (and recurring) discussions on the new governance structure took place. Some delegates felt that the new structure and the decision that led to this new structure had not been democratic as they did not have opportunity to express their opinions, but this view was also challenged by other delegates. After the discussion, it was suggested to change the programme of Congress to offer a Q&A session on 17-19:00, 20th August to delegates who have any questions regarding the new governance structure.



(Selected) Business of Congress

Monday 20th August – PM

New National Sections and Groups: WILPF Chad became a National Section (Khadidja was representing WILPF Chad) and WILPF Sudan was introduced as an emerging group (Mariam was the only delegate affiliated with WILPF Sudan)

Confirmation of Section delegates eligible to vote: Keyet, Maki, Mariam, Marie-Claire, and Taniel were officially confirmed as delegates for WILPF UK

Appointing the Elections and Resolutions Committees: Maki and Taniel were nominated as the members of these Committees respectively.

Networking session for Sections: We gave a brief presentation on the VoAW campaign to make members from other National sections and groups aware of our activities. Marie-Claire provided a brilliant overview of the history and activities of VoAW. Unfortunately, this was an optional session (and many members have left or attended a Q&A session on the new governance), the audience was relatively small.

Tuesday 21st August – AM

Adoption of updated Constitution and By-Laws and the International Programme 2018 – 2021: These have been adopted with the majority votes, but some delegates from WILPF US and WILPF Colombia objected to the adoption of the updated Constitution and By-Laws, as they were not satisfied with the new governance structure. Four work areas for the International Programme 2018-2021 will be 1) Mobilise Women to Abolish the Causes of War; 2) Challenge

Militarism; 3) Advocate Gender Justice, Rights and Peace; and 4) Promote Just Economic and Social Systems. It has also been agreed that environmental work will be another focused area.

Tuesday 21st August – PM

Workshop discussions: Delegates moved to workshops of different topics to have some focused discussions in small groups. Taniel was one of the leads of the workshop 'Ban the Bomb - with WILPF!' and Marie-Claire led the workshop 'Understanding migration and displacement for improving solidarity and actions' with Heidi (Meinzolt) from WILPF Germany. Keyet, Mariam and Maki also attended the latter workshop, where we shared our own experience and activities of National sections/groups and reconfirmed the importance of sections in the Global North and South working together.

Wednesday, 22nd August – AM

Presenting and adopting Resolutions: Taniel was a member of the Resolution Committee. Two Omnibus Resolutions were designed (innately incorporating the environmental factors) which were to enable sections to enact practicable measures to effect change instead of the well-composed and intentioned resolutions of old, which have previously been compiled, but with little uptake to action. This was an attempt to rekindle the spirit of our foremothers inviting sections and international to work independently and together to move for real change in actionable ways on matters affecting us globally and locally.

RESOLUTION ON HUMAN MIGRATION as affected by environmental degradation, militarism, human rights violations, and misplaced governmental and corporate priorities noting disproportionately gendered violence.

RESOLUTION ON MILITARISM AND DISARMAMENT as these issues affect the environment, misplaced governmental and corporate priorities, human rights violations and the resultant migratory movements of populations fleeing and populations accepting those displaced noting disproportionately gendered violence.

There were declarations of solidarity for the two resolutions on the day and the two resolutions were adopted successfully.

Wednesday, 22nd August – PM

Introducing candidates for President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and International Board and Election of International Board: Maki was a member of the Election Committee, but as she only learnt about the presentation of a slate during the Committee meetings (and many issues discussed were confidential), it proved to be difficult to communicate and explain the procedure of election to other UK delegates. This caused some confusion, as we were planning to abstain from voting in the election of the President post.

The slate was subsequently accepted. Africa Regional Representative and Alternate - Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo (WILPF Cameroon) and Olivia Oseji (WILPF Nigeria); Asia Pacific Regional Representative and Alternate - Kozue Akibayashi (WILPF Japan) & Janette McLeod (WILPF Australia); Europe Regional Representative and Alternate - Heidi Meinzolt (WILPF Germany) & Lina Hjärtström (WILPF Sweden) were also endorsed, and it was decided that those regions (Americas, South Asia, and MENA) which could not decide Regional Representative and Alternate should hold a regional meeting before the end of September to nominate Regional

Representative and Alternate. The Extraordinary Session of the International Congress will be held at the end of the October to endorse the nomination.

Regional Meeting: Maki, Marie-Claire and Taniel attended the European Regional Meeting, and Keyet and Mariam attended the African Regional Meeting. In the European Regional Meeting following issues were discussed: 1) Information exchange on existing cross-regional cooperation; 2) Future structure of communication in relation to the new governance structure; 3) Reports from WILPF representatives in European Women's Lobby and Young WILPF on the European level and 4) NATO and Ban the Bomb campaign, and other campaigns and events. In discussing the item 1, Marie-Claire raised a concern that 'the cooperation taking place can be perceived as very colonial' and stated that 'the cross-regional cooperation should take place according to the needs voiced by the African sections, with discussions with the international secretariat', as it was felt that the discussion was started in a colonial way.

Akuse trip on Sunday 26th August

Pat Boadu-Darko, a WILPF UK member and from PBD Travel, now based in Ghana (who also attended a few sessions of the Congress), kindly offered WILPF UK members to visit her in Akuse and meet with women active in a local women's group 'Adventurous Ladies: Bold Step Quality Decisions'.



From Pat, we learned that one of the current projects that they are working on is to build a shelter and provide chairs for post-natal care of mothers and babies, as currently, mothers walk all the way through the scorching sun to get to an open place where a nurse from Akuse Government Hospital visits, carrying their babies on their back and a chair on their head. The cost of a chair is 20 GHS (5 USD), and during the Congress, we asked for a small donation from members, and we managed to raise the fund equivalent of 26.5 chairs.

On our way to Akuse, the van we were travelling with had a flat tyre and we arrived Akuse two hours late.... Upon our arrival, we visited the Volta River Authority Dam, which supplies electricity to villages in Akuse. We then went to the meeting place of the Adventurous Ladies and were received with a warm welcome. We presented the donation from WILPF members, and after short informal exchanges with the group with a photo session, we toured the village to see the area of postnatal care.

The Congress was an extremely good opportunity to meet with members from other National sections and groups as well as WILPF International staff and to learn about how WILPF works. Despite challenges of dis-communication, miscommunication and the lack of trust between some National sections and members, it was felt that WILPF UK delegates all had something to bring back, such as contacts and networks to build on and inspirations and ideas of possible future activities.

Two issues emerged during the Congress that we need to sort out immediately; clarifying the position of VoAW in WILPF structure and activities and how WILPF UK as a National section

could/should work with WILPF International; these would be discussed with Madeline Rees when she visits London later in September.

Maki Kimura & Taniel Yusef, International Board members

UK news

Membership report

WILPF UK has had a 4% increase in membership from 2018 in the first 2 months of 2019. In addition to renewing existing membership to WILPF UK, the Voices of African Women campaign and tailored communications to active Branches have contributed to the influx in new members in early 2019.



WILPF UK has been visible in a number of forums in 2018, which has also generated interest, but, perhaps more importantly, this interest was followed up via email to process membership payments. In addition to WILPF UK's events, WILPF UK's dynamic branch representatives throughout the UK have also been a major source of attracting new members. WILPF UK currently has six branches with Branch Representatives: Brighton, Cornwall, London, Norwich/Norfolk, Orpington, Scotland.

The majority of WILPF UK members who live near an active branch are located in London. As of 31 December 2018, WILPF UK has a total of 278 active members. Twelve out of 25 new members (48%) used PayPal to become members. 115 members contribute to WILPF UK through a standing order.

Grace Armstrong, Office Volunteer

UK WILPF Charitable Trust Report

The WILPF CHARITABLE TRUST was founded to promote Human Rights and particularly 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.

The new Data Protection Legislation, GDPR, dominated 2018 for the Trust, as for many other small charities. The Trust is grateful to the WILPF Executive, for supporting us in our efforts to become GDPR compliant. There is still work to be done, but we are moving in the right direction!

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Anne Scott, a huge blow for WILPF. Trustees joined WILPF UK members in Parliament Square to lay a memorial wreath to this wonderful woman.

The Trust is also grateful to Chantelle Cummings, who has coached us towards defining our vision, identity and plans. The Trust exists to support peacebuilding, women's rights, and small grassroots organizations concerned with the empowerment of refugee and migrant women.

The Trust would like to work more closely with WILPF UK, supporting Human Rights projects and establishing a transparent and mutually beneficial relationship. The Trust helped finance two WILPF UK members attending the 2018 International WILPF Congress in Ghana.

Trustees attended a WILPF UK Executive Meeting in November to discuss the possible functions of the Trust and hear members' views. We hope that some firm foundations can be laid in the coming year.

The Trust can benefit from Gift Aid. This year we reclaimed around £2,000 of Gift Aid from donations to the Trust. We thank both our generous donors, mainly WILPF members, and our Treasurer, Monika Beutel, who will, sadly, leave the Trust in April.

Give As You Live also benefits the Trust (and WILPF UK). Please remember to 'click in', if you are an internet shopper!

Online giving is, however, the easiest way to donate money. The Trust is currently reinstating our Just Giving page for this purpose.

Trust funds are held in the Unity Trust Bank. Should any WILPF member use the Trust for fundraising, she should ensure that trustees know what the money's for so that it can be clearly ring-fenced.

The Trust can be contacted with any comments or questions, at wilpftrust@gmail.com The Trust is always looking for new trustees. Please contact us if you are interested.

Deirdre Leask, WILPF Trust Secretary 26/2/19

Campaign Reports

Disarmament Campaigns

UK WILPF 2018 Autumn Seminar Report

WILPF UK hosted our annual Autumn Seminar on 24th of November 2018. Hosted in the Salvation Army Hall, the event was titled “TPNW: the need for the UK to sign, how and why?”. The focus was primarily on disarmament and formed part of our larger strategy of facilitating the United Kingdom to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Comprised of multiple sessions, we had an impressive range of speakers in attendance across a diverse range of disciplines and platforms, shedding light on the multi-dimensional ways in which nuclear weapons are central such as in campaigning strategies, economic policy, humanitarianism and colonial power.



Prominent organisations were represented, such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Article 36, Soka Gakkai International & Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). The event, therefore, proved an important space for cross-organisational capacity building.

While attendance levels were lower than anticipated, we have since engaged in a reflective session and feel positive about future TPNW workshops, and feel confident about the strong network of dedicated campaigners we work alongside. Moreover, we were extremely thankful

and pleased to see such productive and engaging insights from those who attended and collaborated with the speakers overall.

Nicole Treanor, Comms Officer

WILPF UK and Greater Manchester CND collaborate to bring TPNW Lobby Training Day to Manchester

On Saturday 8th of September WILPF UK and GMDCND hosted a TPNW training day to develop participants’ lobbying and negotiation skills. Our aim was to give attendees the confidence to lobby their MPs to sign ICAN’s Parliamentary Pledge (a serious and binding agreement to work with Parliamentarians across the world so that all Governments sign up to the Nuclear Ban Treaty).

Hosted in Bridge 5 Mill, anti-nuclear campaigners came together to share their experience, expertise and advice on how to become an effective lobbyist. Sessions included an introduction to the background of the Treaty & how it relates to the UK context; common misconceptions about nuclear weapons and myth-busting techniques; and an interactive role-playing session.

Janet Fenton (ICAN International Campaigner & Vice Chair Scottish CND) shed light on the how the rest of the UK can learn from the Scottish context, a country that has a measurable and concrete response to nuclear weapons. Taniel Yusef (International Board WILPF UK) stressed the importance of turning common arguments used to defend nuclear weapons (such as that of the economy and security) on their heads when engaging in conversations around the weapons. Lastly, Sean Morris (Mayors for Peace & NFLA) encouraged participants to engage with local councils as well as MPs and spoke about the value of towns and cities.



One message from the day was particularly strong: the ability to civil society to enact change. The Nuclear Ban Treaty itself is a primary example of what can be achieved when citizens come together in solidarity and pursuit of peace. The Lobby Training Day was an important reminder that we can all play a part in changing UK policy and making it the first nuclear-state to sign.

Nicole Treanor, Comms Officer

A call to arms for the peace community: the Nae Nukes March

Last September, UK WILPF ventured up to Faslane, Scotland for the Nae Nukes March, a rally comprised of a mile walk from the Faslane peace camp to the North gate. The rally aimed to show the support from UN member states for Scotland, which is hosting nuclear weapons against its wishes.

It was a great day with lots of comradery and well-wishes, but it also reminded us of the urgency to get the UK government to sign up to the TPNW.



There is no doubt that we are entering into more dangerous times. It is now more important than ever to mobilise our existing strength as the international peace community, and use it to defeat nuclear escalation.

We must spread the word to others outside our community, in order to embolden the glaringly simple message that we must present to the nuclear powers. We must believe in the power of our democratic voices, and take the 122 states in support of the TPNW along with us on that journey. We will believe in our humanity and morality as global citizens to change our own world for the common good. The message is clear. Nobody wants a nuclear war and global citizens say no to the bomb.

Lana-Emerald Astin, Office Volunteer & Issy Bull, Comms Officer

UK WILPF makes Shape History



In May, UK WILPF was invited to speak at social change organisation Shape History's event 'How to build an online feminist campaign'. Our communications officers Issy Bull and Nicole Treanor spoke about our TPNW campaign. It was a great opportunity to showcase our work to other feminists in London.

Watch the event on our website- <https://bit.ly/2OaAnvh>.

Isabel Bull, Comms Officer

Women, Peace and Security campaigns

Voices of African Women celebrates its 10th Anniversary

On 23 February, WILPF UK celebrated the tenth anniversary of its Voices of African Women (VoAW) campaign at SOAS, University of London. The event, organised by the VoAW campaign members, included four panels and thirteen speakers, with an introduction and summary of the last ten years of the campaign by Sheila Triggs. The event attracted members of the African diaspora community, students, and academics and generated significant new interest in WILPF UK membership.



The first panel was comprised of Niat Chefena Hailemariam (Network of Eritrean Women), Keyet Makonnen (Voices of Ethiopian Women and chair of VoAW), Shukri Adan (Voices of Somali Women's Movement), Marie-Claire Faray (VoAW and Common Cause UK), and Khadija Fadoul (WILPF UK/Chad).

Each panellist is a member of the VoAW campaign and spoke about their respective organisation's work to elevate the voices of African diaspora women in the UK and their respective country in Africa. Topics from these presentations included

awareness building, women's representation in government, refugee (re)settlement and host country support networks, income-generating projects, fundraising in the UK, capacity building, and education.

Aleida Borges, a PhD candidate at King's College, gave the keynote speech on Women, Citizenship and Participation in Politics in Cape Verde, speaking about the implications of political change via the Parity Law in Parliament. Following her presentation, VoAW held a second panel, which included VoAW campaigners Marie Lyse Numuhoza (International Network for Democracy and Peace), Mama Khadiga Hussein (Parliament of Mothers for Peace and Development (Sudan)), and Josephine Apira (Uganda Concern Network). Collectively, they spoke about their respective organisation's work to promote and uplift the voices of African women in political spaces and beyond.



Following the second panel, Kinsi Abdulleh, founder of NUMBI, an art collective that fosters community and solidarity through art, screened a rare archival film entitled "Pioneering voices of black British women activists: The story of Kathleen Warsame." The third panel picked up on these themes with VoAW campaigner Mariam Suliman (Voice of Darfur Women), Olivia Joseph-Aluko (Reinvent African Diaspora Network, speaking on Nigeria), and Neneh Loulane Fayekhan (Commonwealth & Africa Union Women and Youths Initiative, speaking on the Gambia).



The final panel was focused on Voices of Young African Women in the Diaspora and featured Katouche Golle (SOAS) speaking on disability justice and cultural accessibility and Nafisa Jones (FORWARD) speaking about leadership and social action sponsorship for young women advocates against sexual and gender-based violence in East Africa and the UK. The programme closed with Marie Claire Faray and Keyet MaKonnen's remarks. Following the programme, VoAW held a reception where panellists and attendees could network and

continue their discussions on the vast array of topics presented during the event. The 10th-anniversary event received praise for being intersectional and inclusive and for achieving a true 'Pan-African' forum, with a shared platform for all voices and countries to speak to the issues most passionate to them. Voices of African Women campaign hopes to build on this momentum with a renewed commitment to its vision and mission for the next two years.

Grace Armstrong, Office Volunteer

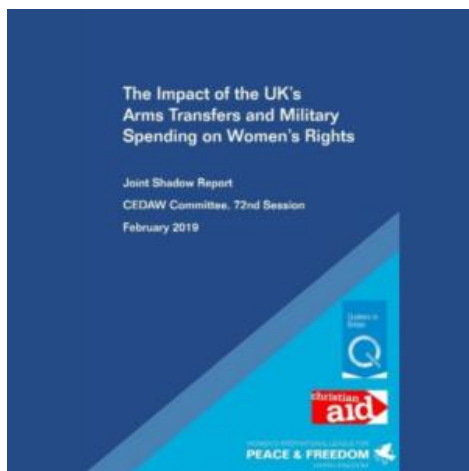
UK WILPF submits reports to CEDAW committee

2018 saw the UN body Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) publish its 2018 Shadow Report on England. As a steering committee member of Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS), UK WILPF joined other women's and civil society groups to submit evidence. Ahead of UK's eighth periodic report during CEDAW's 72nd session on 26 February 2019, we also published two further reports. These were the following -



Following our 2017 Autumn Seminar Voices of Refugee Women, Issy Bull interview three refugee women living in the UK to share their stories in a booklet titled, 'Tales from women seeking asylum'. This was presented to CEDAW's 2018 Shadow report as evidence.

Read the booklet online here - <https://bit.ly/2JgTeWB>.



In February 2019, we joined up with Quakers in Britain and Christian Aid to create a report on the Impact of the UK's Arms Transfers and Military Spending on Women's Rights to submit to CEDAW Committee's 72nd Session.

Read the report online here - <https://bit.ly/2F7WxKv>.



In February 2019, we also produced a Shadow Report for CEDAW Committee's 72nd Session on Assessing the Implementation of the UK's NAP 1325.

Read the report online here - <https://bit.ly/2Y2YGjb>.

Branch Reports

WILPF Brighton and Hove District Report

January 2018 New Year fundraising lunch Lloyd Russell Moyle Labour MP spoke to our assembled group. He was truly inspiring and left a feeling of optimism as his analysis of how education, the health service, trident and the weapons industry should be run and were clear and practical. Lloyd is a Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Arms Export Controls and later in the year some of us heard him talk about how the licences are granted and the opposition that is mounted to try to prevent arms sales.

8th March International Women's Day, had a stall at this very busy and popular event and had many enquiries and were busy with women talking sense most of the time and had a lot of good expressions of agreement. We regained a member who now attends meetings, we just wish some of those women would join us in our work.

April AGM We had a speaker from the Women's Equality Party and found that we have many aims and objectives that are similar, which is no surprise. They have a realistic position which is that they aim to keep women's issues 'on the table/agenda', even though getting to have MP's looks like it will be a considerable way off. There is a hope to get some councillors into local politics in due course. They have since come along to some of our public events as I am now able to keep them informed of such things.



15th May Conscientious Objectors Day We attempted to show a suitable film about a

conscripted doctor in the US military who refuses to use a gun. Unfortunately, the equipment we were trying to use didn't work, but there were very few of us there as the Brighton Festival throughout May draws thousands of people with dozens of events on at the same time, so it wasn't too much of a problem and we had an interesting discussion instead.

June 100 years processions to celebrate some women getting the vote Some of us took part in creating banners and held them up at the London event to celebrate our foremothers hard-won objective of getting the vote. It was a very good and well-reported event of many thousands of women with some stunning banners and costumes and with similar processions taking part in other parts of the UK.

June CAAT film show of 'The Shadow world' we have been part of starting up a Campaign Against the Arms Trade branch in Brighton, [known as BAAT] and have had 2 showings of a film about the arms trade, which is a very horrifying and informative film, and we were lucky enough to get the writer of the book on which the film was based to speak. We filled the two venues and have had follow-up meetings and will be having a demonstration outside a local factory that makes parts for bombs that are dropped in the Yemen, Syria and Gaza. Our WILPF banner will be there and we shall have a stall in town on the same day to tell people that there is a bomb factory in our midst.

July 13 Trump's visit, we were there with our banners and voices, humour and resistance.

July, week's exhibition in the Jubilee Library, Brighton We had created a new exhibition that was less focused on our history as we had that for the last exhibition, but was more on the various campaigns that WILPF concentrates on currently. It was a busy week that we made the most of by having one or two of us there at all times the library was open. We gained three members and talked to many women and men, we listened to people who disagreed with us too, but the overwhelming number of people had the same attitude to world politics as we do- shame they didn't all join us!



6th August Hiroshima Day Once again we had a Hiroshima commemoration which was well attended with a choir who at first sang on their own and then encouraged us to join in singing in the round with them. The local mayor spoke and another speaker had been to Hiroshima and spent time talking with the victims of the bombing and the memory was clearly still very raw.

We had a silent walk around the lake, placed lit candles around the Peace tree we had planted many years ago and held two minutes silence and ended the evening with a gentle song.

August garden party Our garden party was not very well attended, which was a shame as we had lovely food, [though poor weather] and were welcomed by Joyce Gould into her home. Our speaker, Sue Williams, told us about the local charity Thousand 4 £1,000 who provide practical help for migrants, helping them move their belongings and get some basic furniture when they have a place to live. The money pledged each month, (the aim is to have a thousand people

pledge £1 per month) is to help towards rent. Migrants are not allowed to work until their status has been established, which of course includes people fleeing war and state terror, repression and domestic violence and can obviously mean extreme poverty for individuals and families who have no funds to fall back on, some of us signed up.

10th November stall This was a Brighton Against the Arms Trade stall but I'm mentioning it as some of us WILPF women were there and saw the strength of feeling that was raised by our presence. Some people were welcoming and saw the need to be there as the weekend had been talked about so much in the media in relation to war and its horrors. Others were furious with our action and it became apparent that these were ex-servicemen and we reasoned with them that they were saying how traumatised they were by their experiences and we answered that by saying how sad that was and that we were trying to say that should not happen again to another generation of young men and women. It became quite a focus of attention which was surely a good thing.

November 11th Remembrance Day This afternoon event had about 50 people in attendance, some of whom were people passing by who chose to stay and listen and observe the silence with us, which was very encouraging. There were people from Amnesty International, the Quakers, BAAT and of course WILPF. We had a poem read by one of the Quaker group, and a short speech by one of our members, Helen Ledger, about conscientious objectors. We all fastened our handmade white peace poppy wreaths to the railings, which remained there with the official red ones for the rest of the month.



November 25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women It was the first time we have held a public vigil for this day and we had people from the Quaker community, Amnesty International and the Women's Equality Party and of course WILPF. We learnt several things, the first was that we needed to be in a more visible position as it was dark where we had selected to be and as it was dusk when we assembled, and although we lit candles we could not be seen well enough. It was a cold day and some of our members felt unable to come because of feeling the chill, so we will hold it earlier another time before it gets dark

and the sun goes down. We felt it had been successful and has the potential to grow, just as our Remembrance Day event has done.

January 2019 New Year fundraising lunch, we are lucky enough to have one of our members as one the founding members of the Brighton Women's History Group and she gave a talk on local suffragists and suffragettes. It was a really interesting talk including how the changing society and environment enabled this to happen, such as the railways spreading throughout the country.

Jenny Engledow, Brighton and Hove District Branch Secretary

Orpington Branch Report

During 2018 WILPF Orpington branch held regular meetings in Orpington Library and experimented with the use of Skype so that a member who had difficulty getting to this location could join in the meetings and discussions. This proved to be very successful, and this opportunity can be extended to others if they wish to participate in this way.

We heard from speakers on a variety of topics during the year, including Liz Khan from Women in Black, who told us about the origins and worldwide activities of this organisation, and Josephine Roelle who talked about the work of GAPS (Gender Action for Peace and Security), and the UK's new action plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. One of our office volunteers, Astrid Pertuisel, told us about her reasons for joining WILPF, and what is being covered in the MA course on Women, Peace and Security which she is pursuing at the LSE. Some heartening news was given

to us about Ethiopia, when Keyet Makonnen gave us the latest update on events there before the news even reached the press in this country!

Our Garden Party and the fund-raising event was held in July, and this year we focused on Palestine. Three speakers: Carolyn Gelenter, Liz Khan and Georgina Reeves spoke eloquently about "Palestine: the catastrophe that never ended – 70 years of dispossession and oppression." They brought with them a Palestinian student who is currently on a placement at a London University, and between them, they really brought home to us the experiences and daily life of the Palestinian people. Our stalls did a brisk trade, and we took orders for Palestinian olive oil, with the proceeds being sent back to the growers.



WILPF branches were asked to comment on a submission to the House of Lords International Relations Committee, answering a number of questions about British foreign policy, and what a successful foreign policy looks like. We had a detailed discussion and reported our views, which were taken forward to UK WILPF's submission.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a focus for WILPF campaigning this year, and we discussed this at our meetings and kept ourselves up to date with the latest developments. We held a joint stall in the High Street in Orpington with CND, and

there was genuine interest from the public, who were generally unaware of it. We gave out leaflets and collected petition signatures.

During the summer we lost one of our well-loved long-standing members, Babs (Rosina) Watson, and we devoted a meeting to sharing our memories and viewing videos which had been taken at the celebration of her life. We also watched a video of Babs reading one of her own poems. Some wildflower seeds were given to those present to plant in her memory.

Pat Pleasance, Orpington Branch Secretary

Norfolk Branch Report

This year the Branch has again been involved in contributing to a gender and peace module at the University of East Anglia. We also ran a successful stall at the annual Peace Fair in September – which is a great opportunity for selling T-shirts, and have had a presence at most of the Saturday morning monthly peace vigils that take place outside a city-centre church in Norwich.



To celebrate International Women’s Day this year WILPF was invited to lead the vigil on March 2 nd (slightly in advance of IWD) which was addressed by our (female) Sheriff. Afterwards, she joined us for a very convivial lunch at the Friends’ Meeting House. (Norwich is a member of Mayors for Peace - an international organisation of around 6,800 cities across 161 countries dedicated to the promotion of peace. It was established in 1982 by the then Mayor of Hiroshima Takeshi Araki, in response to the deaths of 140,000 people as a result of the atomic bombing in August 1945.)

A presentation by a young Palestinian woman, Sundus Azza, followed the vigil and lunch. Sundus is part of the non-violent Youth Against Settlements movement in Hebron where Palestinians experience unprecedented levels of oppression and abuse of their human rights. Although only 25 years, Sundus spoke with great dignity and calmness despite the personal impact on her and her family. We collaborated with the local Palestinian Solidarity Campaign to organise this.



Claire Collen, Norfolk Branch Secretary

Scottish WILPF Report

Women of peace in Scotland came together with many of her friends and family to celebrate the life and work of Anne Scott in August 2018. The branch activity this year has been much diminished without the enthusiasm and commitment of Anne who was the secretary, coordinator and organiser of the Scottish branch. Anne’s contributions continued after her death. Her input into the local organisation and transport for the September Faslane demo was invaluable and helped us towards a successful mobilisation. She had also made the initial contact with Wilpf Colombia, which facilitated their excellent contribution to our EWJF event.

This year, the Scottish branch maintained our ongoing stalls at events during the year where we promote WILPF, particularly through the provision of materials and the sale of white poppies, it is important to mention the Scottish branch input into the Edinburgh World Justice Festival event on Abortion Internationally. We were able to support this and draw attention to the interesting video from the Colombian group.



Nae Nukes Anywhere was an international demonstration held at Faslane in September, organised by Scottish CND as an International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) celebration in response to the Nobel Peace Prize WILPF member Janet Fenton, as a member of ICAN's International Steering Group was responsible for coordinating a platform from Israel, Russia, France, US, Romania, Germany, the Netherlands along with WILPF's Reaching Critical Will Programme Manager, Allison Pytlak. and a series of meetings featuring these speakers, most notably for WILPF a thought-provoking seminar on Security Feminism and the Bomb WILPF UK member and ICAN Founding Chair, Dr Rebecca Johnson participated in the demo and the seminar. The Scottish branch was hugely active in promoting the events and organising some of the buses that helped to bring around 700 people to Faslane.

On Parliamentary liaison, we have been briefing MSPs about WILPF and its work, focusing on 'Peace through inclusion' in hopes of establishing a Parliamentarian WILPF group,

and have been represented on the Nuclear Disarmament and Men's Violence Against Women CPGs as well as in parliamentary meetings on women in Yemen, and the ICRC and briefings to parliamentary briefings on the NPT and the INF

Following the training days in London and Manchester on the Treaty earlier in the year on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), several members have expressed interest in undertaking TPNW lobbying training, including Dumfries member Clare Philips, and Janet Fenton is to coordinate this work. WILPF members were represented at events to promote a new chapter of Conscience in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In December, the Branch welcomed WILPF UK International rep, Maki Kimura to the branch meeting and Scottish Parliament Nuclear Disarmament CPG the following day. A small group in Glasgow is developing connections aimed at supporting the work of RCW on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and also in exploring interest from African diaspora women in Glasgow in engaging with WILPF UK VOAW work. A pilot training session on the TPNW with Janet Fenton was arranged by Glasgow member Catherine Eschle, hopefully, more to come.

At the start of this year, we expanded our small committee and spent some time in January 2019 talking about the work of WILPF locally and internationally. We were also able to prepare a strong draft which contributed to ensuring a WILPF submission to the House Of Lords inquiry about the NPT which will hopefully impact on the government's arrangement for the final Preparatory Committee meeting before next year's NPT review and ensure that the TPNW is not sidelined there.

In February 2019 a small group of members ran a WILPF stall at the Radical Fair in Edinburgh. Several Scottish women are contributing to the EU-funded project to make a film about the WILPF Congress in Zurich in 1919. We are indebted to Helen Kay for her indefatigable efforts which succeed in ensuring that WILPF's history and its relevance for our work today are never disregarded.

Thanks to Eileen Cook for continuing in the unenviable role of treasurer and for ensuring that WILPF's participation in collaborative working with other groups is recorded and to others in our branch who help to keep us active, involved and represented in the wider Scottish peace movement.

Janet Fenton, Scottish WILPF

WILPF Cornwall Report

We started the year with some of our members attending an Amnesty International meeting in January at Newlyn where the representative for Egypt gave a talk about the current political situation - particularly relevant to us because of previous work we have done with Women's rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

In April, Lucia, our Branch Secretary attended the WILPF AGM in London. We also had a local Branch meeting to celebrate the anniversary of WILPF, with songs and a poem.

In June, some of the members went on the Suffragist's Walk at Lands End to celebrate 105th anniversary of the courage of the Women who participated in the Great Suffrage Pilgrimage. We sang our hearts' out with the song 'Oxygen'. We held a crochet workshop at one of our regular meetings to prepare for poppy making later in the year.

In September we organised a white poppy for the peacemaking workshop with the local Quaker group the Hypatia Trust, for the National Collateral Damage Project, which involved actually making the poppies from different media, including clay, fabric, knitting and crocheting. These were then sent to Friend's House in London to form part of a much larger display.

We also celebrated International Peace Day at Truro at the One World, One Choir Event organised by Paul Haines from the Children of Peace Project, and made a speech about what the Branch does and gained a new local member, all in the absolute pouring rain that only Cornwall can do!

During September, Lucia, Keri, Jo, Roseni and Garry furthered our outreach aims by contacting the local colleges, Penwith and Camborne to promote WILPF and its activities during their Fresher's Fairs.

In October, some of us attended another White Poppy workshop run by the Quakers for 'Collateral Damage' in Marazion.

On a dark and drizzly night in November, we gathered at St John's Hall, had some speeches, then 30 people set off on Penzance's 4th annual Reclaim The Night Walk, ending up at the Redwing Gallery in Penzance where a much appreciated warm welcome with hot soup, bread and music awaited us.

During the year we said 'goodbye' to Brigitte and Viola, who have returned to Germany – our great loss and Germany's great gain. We have continued with our monthly meetings and also sought to get Flora Jane Reynolds, an original Cornish WILPF member from 1930s on to the Wikipedia site, so far without luck and this remains an ongoing project for us.

Lucia St. John, Cornwall Branch Secretary

Obituaries

Scottish WILPF remembers Anne Scott

Anne Scott was a founder member of the Scottish Branch of WILPF. She was a wonderful and hard-working secretary until her life was cut short by cancer on the 29th of July 2018. It was through the branch that I grew to know her well although we had worked together over the years in other Peace Groups (Edinburgh CND and Edinburgh Stop the War) and campaigned together for women's reproductive rights. Anne represented Scottish WILPF in a number of Scottish platforms including the Scrap Trident Campaign and the Edinburgh World Justice Festival. Her presence and support are missed in all these areas by everyone involved.



Anne was an important activist for WILPF at the UK, European and International level. Her long term commitment and activism on issues of peace and justice made Anne an outstanding campaigner, always coming up with ideas on how to communicate with others but equally not afraid of the hard work of maintaining WILPF infrastructure. She offered support to others, was ready to give praise and encouragement to other campaigners, and was modest about her own achievements. Even in her last weeks she was making lists and organising what should happen after her death.

Both Anne and I were admirers of Rosa Luxemburg so I end with Rosa's wonderful words: 'Those who do not move do not notice their chains'.

Anne campaigned to release us all from our chains.

Eileen Cook, Scottish WILPF

“Babs” (Rosina) Watson 1920 – 2018

This summer we lost a much-loved member of WILPF. Well into her nineties she was still attending branch meetings at Orpington and always made some valuable contributions to discussions. In 1914 she was persuaded to make some notes about her life, and I cannot do better than quote some of her own words:

“Mum was an activist, a member of the Co-op Women’s Guild and the Labour Party. I became involved through Guild to collect for milk for the Spanish Civil War against Franco. Joined the Labour League of Youth and a Concert Party (much fun). Put to work in Post Office as a Girl Probationer (age 14).

We were denied the use of lifts (9 floors) so we protested by stamping through divisions, set swinging doors going, and got the cane etc. Met Ted in cycling club – married in 1941. Became a camp follower with Ted’s Ack-Ack unit in the London Blitz then moved north working on the land... I was doing men’s work, demanded the rate for the job (got the sack! ... Met Harry Pollit and joined the Communist Party. Evening’s round pubs selling Daily Worker and sing-songs on old pianos. ... Helped to form CND soon spreading countrywide. ... attended demos against nuclear weapons. -- collected for Med. Aid to Vietnam and condemned American bombing and using napalm.

The last thing I have to say is my joining WILF has been the culmination of all my life’s commitment. My own capacity to activity is sadly diminished, but the belief in women to overcome the wars in the world and their place in decision making, and end their suffering and oppression, is in WILPF and you “can’t kill the spirit” (Greenham 1980 – 90).”

Pat Pleasance, Orpington Branch Secretary

We invite you to join us for our 2019 AGM,

Saturday 4th May, 10.30 am - 4.30 pm

UK WILPF AGM Agenda

10.30 Registration - refreshments available

11.00 Welcome and introductions

11.10 AGM 2018 -notes

11.15 2018 Annual Report presented by Paula Shaw and Questions

11.30 2018 Financial Statement presented by Pat Pleasance and Questions

11.45 2018 Resolutions

12.30 Introductions to the 2019 -2020 Executive

Afternoon 2-4pm

Presentations and Discussions on Congress 2018, Constitution and Campaigns

Banners and Quilts - creative time

Opportunity to network and buy WILPF merchandise

We hope to see you then!