

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

UK Section

Annual Report 2020-2021
105th Year

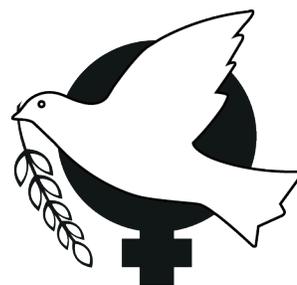


Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Secretary's Report | 1 |
| Membership Report | 2 |
| Communications Report..... | 5 |
| International Report / Disarmament Campaign..... | 5 |
| Women, Peace, and Security – 1325..... | 8 |
| Annual Accounts WILPF | 11 |
| WILPF Trust Report | 14 |
| Environment – XR Peace COP26 | 14 |
| Brighton, Hove, & District Branch Report | 17 |
| Norwich and Norfolk Branch Report | 19 |
| Orpington Branch Report | 20 |
| Scotland Branch Report | 21 |
| Obituaries..... | 25 |

WILPF UK Annual General Meeting Agenda

Saturday 8th May, via Zoom

11.00 Welcome and introductions

Apologies given

Minutes of the AGM September 19th, 2020

Presentation of the 105th Annual Report

Questions on the Report

Financial Statement and any questions on the accounts

Resolutions

Nominations for the 2021 Executive -voting – election

Introduction to the 2021 Executive

Any Other Business

12.30 Comfort break with opportunity to relax – led by Rebecca Plume

13.00 Campaigns Going Forward

Disarmament

Environment

Human Rights

Women, Peace and Security

Secretary's Report

By Paula Shaw, Secretary WILPF UK

That was the year that was!!!

We are now back in correct timing with an AGM in May 2021 and this will be a shorter report as the last AGM was only in September 2020.

January to March 2020 went smoothly with face-to-face meetings and campaigning – even managing an awareness-raising fundraiser with LUSH (Charity Pot) in the City – which gave us £300 towards the cost of our seminar. We used our little office to carry out our work and had great plans. March 14th was an Executive Meeting at Tindlemanor and that was the last time we were able to meet physically!!!

March onwards Zoom took over and we found some members joined our events who might not have travelled to London. It is especially useful for individual members who have no Branch to join. Whenever we “go back to normal” we will continue with Zoom calls to ensure accessibility if members have the technology to join. As an Executive we were able to revise our Constitution and Code of Conduct and develop a mediation process.

Using Zoom WILPF UK continued to be a partner in the International Conscientious Objectors Day event and the virtual event on May 15th was brilliant. We also continued as a partner in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), attending meetings and lobbying for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Thanks to the technical expertise of Cecilia, Membership Secretary, we held Connect workshops in June and July and they were well attended. There was also a Financial Literacy and a TPNW Members Workshop in December.

In June we developed a Black Lives Matter statement, but we have more work to do. In August we responded to WILPF Germany with a continued commitment to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). In September a few of us, wearing masks, managed to join the XR Peace demonstration in Parliament Square – very strange in an empty London. Later in September we held the AGM which went reasonably well and there were excellent resolutions and discussion. In November virtual Alternative Remembrance ceremonies took place. In

December I managed a short and masked visit to our office – sorted the post and cleaned up a little but then we had a further lockdown!

I attended many brilliant webinars from CND, Conscience, LSE, Peace Pledge Union and WILPF International. It has been a privilege to be the Secretary for WILPF UK over the last 3 years and I wish all the best to the woman who takes this post.



PAULA SHAW

Membership Report

By Cecilia Passaniti, Membership Secretary WILPF UK

Last year, we streamlined the membership process and encouraged members to pay their membership fees via bank transfer. The digitisation of memberships, which was decided on by the Executive Committee for archival ease and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) compliance, also proved useful this year when suddenly the arrival of the pandemic impeded us from working in the Tindlemannor office and collecting physical post.

In 2019, around 20% of our members paid their fees via cheque. In 2020, cheque payments went down to 14%. In 2021, we are seeing that only 10% of memberships will be paid via cheque. This is a result of the generous efforts by the members to work with us and change their payment methods to facilitate the

processing of their fees whilst we are all working from home. Furthermore, many of these cheques have shifted to standing orders. In 2021, 48% of the memberships are paid via monthly or annual standing order. This helps the organisation greatly as it means a constant and guaranteed stream of revenues contributing to the payment of the office rent, volunteers' expenses and the running of campaigns. In 2020, 30 new members joined us.

From the beginning of 2021, and as of 23rd March, 20 new members have joined.

| WILPF UK IN NUMBERS | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Updated to December 2020 | Updated to March 2021 |
| Brighton Branch: 31 | Brighton Branch: 26 |
| Norwich Branch: 9 | Norwich Branch: 7 |
| Orpington Branch: 13 | Orpington Branch: 11 |
| Scotland Branch: 27 | Scotland Branch: 24 |
| Non-Affiliated: 192 | Non-Affiliated: 138 |
| Not renewed ¹ : 85 | Not (yet) renewed ² : 91 |
| TOTAL: 272 | TOTAL: 207 |

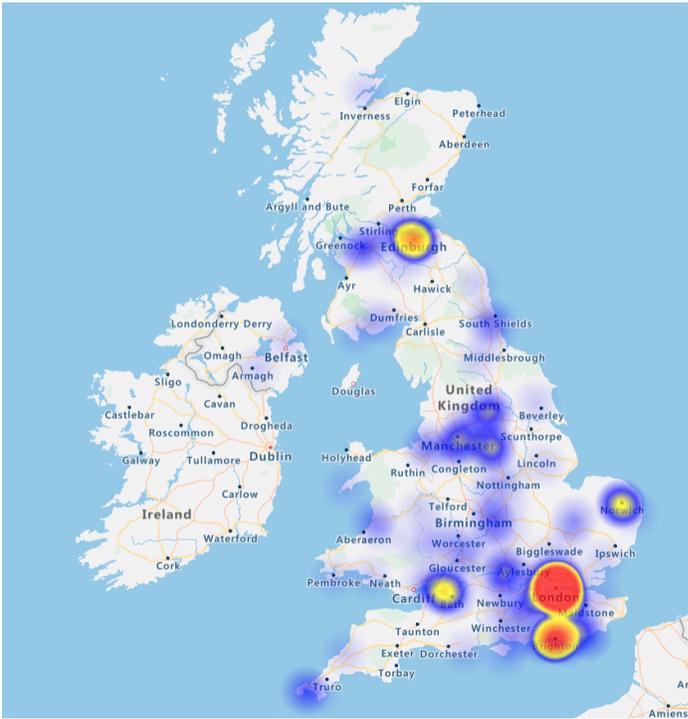
Map 1 (PinPoints) was built using the postcodes of all our members to signpost exactly where in the UK they live. As the map shows, members are spread quite evenly around England and Wales, and across southern Scotland. However, only 2 members live in Northern Ireland which could be a focal point for future campaigning efforts.

Map 2 (Heatmap) was used to highlight the areas of concentration of our members to identify the possible need for additional branches. Given the distribution of our members, the branches in Scotland, Brighton, Orpington and Norwich are justified and necessary. In addition to them, the numbers show the potential to open branches in Manchester and Somerset/Bristol Area, as well as re-opening the London branch.

¹ Not renewed includes members: (1) whose memberships lapsed (i.e. did not pay for longer than 2 years); (2) whose memberships were not renewed by the end of the year who did not reply to emails asking whether they wanted an extension in their payments and did not reply to the emails asking whether they wanted an extension in their payment (e.g. due to unforeseen circumstances given by the pandemic); (3) passed away.

² These members have all paid their 2020 membership, however have not yet renewed their membership for 2021. Individual reminders are sent to members who have not renewed their memberships at the end of each month.

Heatmap of memberships:



Pinpoint of memberships:



Communications Report

By Ellie Routledge, Communications Lead WILPF UK

This year our social media presence has grown to 311 followers on Instagram, 1412 followers on Facebook and 1766 followers on Twitter! We have continued sending monthly Newsletters to our members to update them about the work we are doing. We have also continued to send member mailings to our members to share important events.

The Communications Team has also created three working groups: Disarmament, Climate Justice and Women, Peace and Security. These groups have streamlined internal communications within WILPF UK and allow space for members to contribute to intersectional and intergenerational dialogue. We are hoping to expand these working groups and strengthen our capacity to further WILPF UK's mission.

We are also in the process of updating the WILPF UK website and we aim for this to be done in the next few months!

International Report / Disarmament Campaign

By Taniel Yusef, International Liaison Representative WILPF UK

UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots (Lethally Autonomous Weapons)

WILPF UK is on the steering group of this campaign. Despite lockdown, it has been a strong year building the coalition and consolidating membership. Throughout the year, associated member experts have presented various perspectives from legal, to gendered concerns, to the technological ethics and financial repercussions on panels and online conferences. These have had a combination of audiences from students, academia in general, both STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and political, and the wider political, military concerned or industry related stakeholders. The goal is a pre-emptive ban on Lethally Autonomous Weapons (LAWS) by legally coding human control over critical functions in a legally binding instrument. So far 65 states parties to the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) have endorsed statements calling for such a ban.

The CCW Group of Government Experts (GGE), was mostly postponed during 2020. Partial sessions were held online later in the year. Issues of time zones and accessibility were a concern for some dissenting states. Russia boycotted the process declaring the process as such void.

The UK campaign secured funding from the Global Campaign allowing the retention of UK coordinator role. WILPF UK also contributed to the successful application to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The UK campaign is quickly becoming the go-to coalition of expertise within the UK for commentary or speakers on LAWS.

The Universities Stream has done excellent work in creating networks of campaigners, outreach and panels for experts to raise awareness among the student body. A university pledge was created for students to sign ensuring ethical practice regarding their research application in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning. A questionnaire has been sent in order to gather data on the level of awareness and comfort among students and faculty regarding funding and use of such research for or by weapons developers or associated companies for weapons components.

Initial mapping has been carried out regarding companies that are, or might be, supplying component technology or funding. This is crucial for campaigning and strategic divestment work. The Political Stream began mapping possible parliamentary support. This is a target for the coming year. We have had several virtual meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Defence and other Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office officials, with continued letters and communication. Alyn Smyth, SNP MP made an historical call for a legal instrument to ban lethally autonomous weapons systems in Parliament as part of his private member's bill. We sought to capitalise more on parliamentary commentary, encouraging opportunistic interventions in such complimentary legislation e.g., the Overseas Operations Bill.

In March we initiated an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), with the drones APPG, introducing our campaign and the issues of concern to parliamentarians. There was good attendance to this online, invite-only debate with presentations given by campaign experts as well as a representative from the International Committee for the Red Cross. 11 cross-party peers and 2 MPs attended as well as campaigners, 40 in total. While the Parliamentary Select Committee on Artificial

Intelligence closed after its report, members were responsive, many stating a desire to attend. Two research papers will be used for campaigners' advocacy, a WILPF co-sponsored paper written and researched by Taniel Yusef intended as a resource and briefing document, and a technical paper edited by Taniel and produced by the campaign's Technological Developers Group. This will challenge the UK's most recent paper and NATO's targeting phases, in order to show the ubiquitous nature of the problem. These are due for peer review by June. The technical paper will be used for substantive discussion with the UK government.

The UK government's recent Integrated Review gave some disturbing calls for increased military spending and a desire to become a "Science and Technology Superpower". This includes investment in a new agency to develop artificial intelligence. The military is explicitly mentioned as an area where the UK's investments in AI are growing.

Our strategy for the year is to table parliamentary questions with supportive MPs and unfold the military and finance communication. The focus is on building awareness among stakeholders around the technological, commercial, financial as well as ethical and humanitarian concerns in LAWS development.

Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) had a momentous year. On the day of the anniversary of the UN, the 50th ratification was completed on 24th October 2020 which triggered the 90-day process before entering the treaty into force. This occurred on 22nd January 2021 and therefore TPNW became international law. WILPF members made excellent efforts in local and global celebration and publicity for the treaty, including flags and bell ringing. Articles were written in local newspapers, while mainstream newspapers were more silent on the matter. The treaty received an unsurprising degree of scepticism and neglect. Some business-focussed publications commented on the effects on finance due to the prohibitions on "assistance" which was very useful for future traction.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference was postponed. It was proposed that it be delayed until August 2021 so as not to overlap the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Authority) convening of the Board of Governors in June or Ramadan.

Domestically, the Integrated Review stated the UK government is to increase its nuclear weapons stockpile by 40%, increase its cap on deployed and stockpiled nuclear bombs to 260, while lowering the threshold on the use of its nuclear weapons by indicating that it may fire them in response to “emerging technologies”. Campaigners have responded that this is contrary to articles of the NPT against proliferation. It emphasises the absurdity of investing in those “emergent technologies” if it is a provocation for the use of nuclear weapons.

We continue to work with partners such as Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Mayors for Peace, No Trident Renewal (NTR), Trident Ploughshares, Acronym, Article 36 and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN). The Scottish sections of these and WILPF have been vital collaborators.

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) – 1325

By Maki Kimura, International Liaison Representative WILPF UK

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown has severely curtailed our campaign activities this year. The biggest disappointment was the cancellation of our Autumn seminar, as we were planning to organise a Women, Peace, and Security themed seminar to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. While we could not hold our Autumn seminar, many events took place online around the world during autumn 2020 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary. The information on these events have been shared, in particular, on The Visions of Feminist Peace programme organised by the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security, which was co-hosted by WILPF International between 14 September - 2 October 2020 <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/secure/Womens-Global-Peace-Congress>. Recording of many events from the programme are available from the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security website <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/events>.

While our campaign activities have significantly slowed down, with more new members expressing interest in the WPS agenda, a new WPS Working Group (WG) was formed in autumn 2020. In the February meeting of the WG, a set of activities for 2021 was agreed including: holding a regular meeting to discuss various issues on the WPS agenda, past and present; planning WILPF seminars and workshops on WPS; producing our mid-term CEDAW (the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Shadow Report and finalising the WPS campaign leaflet.

WILPF UK continues to work collaboratively with other civil society organisations and networks which promote peace and gender equality including the Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) network, the Peace Education Network, and the CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) UK civil society network. Through these contacts, we have contributed to and signed the CEDAW UK Civil Society Shadow Report in February 2021, which was coordinated by the Women's Resource Centre. (We will write our own Shadow Report to be submitted in May/June 2021.) We will also be contributing to the production of the Peace Education Study Pack for secondary schools, organised by the Peace Education Network, writing "Gender and Peace" lessons. Building on these networks and to further strengthen our collaboration with other organisations, we are considering developing working relationships with organisations such as the Women of Colour Advancing Peace and Security network and the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy.

WILPF UK Seminar "Women and Peacebuilding in Cyprus" was held during International Women's Week on 10th March 2021, inviting feminist activists and experts from Cyprus; Pembe Mentesh, Katherine Clerides, Katie Economidiou and Sophia Papastavrou, all members of Hands Across the Divide. We were introduced to Pembe, co-President of Hands Across the Divide through the WILPF European network. She kindly agreed to talk to our members and asked her fellow peace activists to join the event. It was an informative and inspiring event attended by 25-30 people.

We are currently looking into issuing a statement in response to the Supreme Court decision in February 2020 refusing Shamina Begum the right to return to the UK. With many human rights organisations criticising the ruling, many felt that it is important to express our concern with the gendered and racialised nature of citizenship and immigration system.



WILPF UK Presents:

#IWD2021 SEMINAR: WOMEN & PEACEBUILDING IN CYPRUS

March 10th, 4PM (GMT) / 6PM (EET)
Register on Zoom (link above)

Annual Accounts WILPF

By Anne Eggleton, Treasurer WILPF UK

| UK SECTION WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------|
| £ | COOPERATIVE BANK MAIN ACCOUNT | | £ |
| 2019 | INCOME | | 2020 |
| 4,711.00 | Membership subscriptions | | 3,880.74 |
| 3,743.15 | Individual donations paid with subscriptions | | 1,381.25 |
| 62,963.71 | Other donations | | 1,655.10 |
| 943.48 | Grants | | 0.00 |
| 75.00 | Meetings and Seminars | | 0.00 |
| 854.35 | Sales T-shirts | | 100.00 |
| 454.20 | Sales Other items | | 69.55 |
| | Miscellaneous: | | |
| 142.00 | Partial refund from seminar speaker | | |
| | Refund of returned SumUp card reader | | 82.80 |
| | partial refund BA flight to UN Conference - unused due to pandemic | | 94.92 |
| 73,886.89 | TOTALS | | 7,264.36 |
| | EXPENDITURE | | |
| 600.00 | Donations & Affiliations - see note 1 | | 426.00 |
| 128.50 | UK Travel | | 65.48 |
| 243.50 | International travel | | 297.29 |
| 456.00 | UK Meetings and seminars - note 2 | | 356.21 |
| 261.60 | Postage, stationery, printing plus computer hardware and software | | 240.77 |
| 3,397.41 | Campaigns | | 529.80 |
| 402.95 | Website, internet and phone | | 524.60 |
| 4,323.02 | Section fees paid to WILPF International | | 5,648.80 |
| 1,150.59 | Purchase of items for sale | | 133.15 |
| 128.79 | Paypal fees (and SumUp commission in 2019) | | 36.83 |
| 11,092.36 | TOTALS | | 8,258.93 |
| 62,794.53 | EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE / (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME) | | (994.57) |
| | OTHER TRANSACTIONS | | |
| (238.35) | See 2019 balance sheet | | |
| | Travel expenses prepaid by WILPF Germany | | (249.93) |
| 17.82 | Deposit Account Interest: Triodos | | 176.57 |
| 62,574.00 | TOTAL | | (1,067.93) |

| COOPERATIVE BANK OFFICE ACCOUNT | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| 2019 | | INCOME | 2020 |
| 120.00 | | Donations | 90.00 |
| 1,682.00 | | Donations as standing orders | 890.00 |
| 4,243.30 | | Use of Office | 3,799.92 |
| 6,045.30 | | TOTALS | 4,779.92 |
| | | EXPENDITURE | |
| 4,207.25 | | Tindelmanor licence fee / service charge | 3,375.00 |
| 605.50 | | Office building - cleaning, new furniture | 22.00 |
| 120.00 | | Computer, repairs, supplies, software | |
| 229.13 | | Office supplies (assume for 2020 all comes from main account) | |
| 494.22 | | Insurance | 527.11 |
| 47.00 | | Volunteer expenses | |
| 5,703.10 | | TOTALS | 3,924.11 |
| | | EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE / (EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME) | |
| 342.20 | | | 855.81 |
| | | ASSETS | |
| | | CURRENT ACCOUNTS | |
| 25,867.68 | | Cooperative Bank MAIN Account | 6,723.18 |
| 5,237.60 | | Cooperative Bank OFFICE Account | 6,093.41 |
| 0.00 | | Paypal Account | 0.00 |
| | | RESERVE ACCOUNTS - see note 3 | |
| 44,466.48 | | Triodos Account | 42,543.05 |
| | | Cambridge & Counties Bank | 20,000.00 |
| 75,571.76 | | TOTALS | 75,359.64 |
| | | REPRESENTED BY: | |
| 12,655.56 | | Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2020 | 75,571.76 |
| 62,574.00 | | Main account excess of income / (excess of expenditure) | (1,067.93) |
| 342.20 | | Office account excess of income / (excess of expenditure) | 855.81 |
| 75,571.76 | | | 75,359.64 |

Notes:

These accounts have been approved by Adrian Thompson as examiner (auditor).

- 1 This includes a donation of £50 to Martletts Hospice in Brighton, in memory of Andrew White who audited our accounts free of charge for many years. He was very kind and helpful towards the various treasurers who were new to the role. Andrew was the son of a long-standing member

of the Brighton, Hove and District branch, Molly Beirne, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

- 2 Most of our meetings have been virtual, making good use of a new Zoom account (£131.82)
- 3 A further £17,900 has been transferred from the main account to Triodos as agreed. Reserves have been used to buy 2 x £10000 5 Year Fixed Rate bonds from Cambridge and Counties Bank

Grants and donations:

2020 has been an unusual year for everyone, and UKWILPF is no exception. It has not been possible to have events or sell much merchandise. Consequently, we have been even more dependent than usual on the generosity of members and friends and we gratefully acknowledge their continuing donations during difficult times.

In particular we have received donations in memory of Rosalie Huzzard, Barbara Starkey, Heather Barfoot, and Cynthia Cockburn.

We have also received donations of £220 in memory of Dahabo Ahmed with the specific request for it to be forwarded to help victims of the flood area of Beledweyne.

We have received £309 as a result of a fundraising day with Lush and have the opportunity for another event which we hope will be able to happen later in 2021.

News from WILPF Trust

By Alexandra Murrell, WILPF UK Executive Committee Trust Liaison

In March 2020, a new set of trustees joined the WILPF Trust and this has helped to relaunch the trust. During the summer of 2020 a new treasurer was appointed.

The current trustees are Deirdre Leask Secretary, Maria O'Reilly Treasurer, Maki Kimura, Charlotte Bill, Martha Jean Baker sharing the administration and Alexandra Murrell WILPF Trust and WILPF UK liaison post.

This has helped the Trust to move forward and has been able to donate to 2 women's organisations Refuge UK, and Crossroads Women's Programme the Self Support programme.

Other charities are being considered. WILPF UK Trust does receive some money from shopping Give As You Live and some donations.

WILPF Trust is open to use for applying for funds from relevant grant bodies. WILPF Trust has had an active year and hopes that it will continue to receive money such as from gift aid donations. WILPF Trust will continue to give donations depending on funds in 2021 and will endeavour to fundraise.

Environment – XR Peace COP26 (Conference of Parties: An Annual UN Climate Conference)

By Jenny Engledow, Environment Campaign Coordinator

The XR Peace Council, to which UK WILPF belongs, held its first and sadly only face to face meeting in March and agreed the planned structure. This council is made up of various groups involved in the peace movement who recognise the links between the environment and militarism. WILPF also has a feminist take on this so has an added dimension. Other meetings have been on zoom but due to covid the action has been very limited this year.

The XR Peace website has the recording of a "Live chat", with questions and answers as part of XR Connecting Communities and as requested five of the council took part with WILPF well represented by having two of our members on the panel, Reb Johnson and Janet Fenton.

We planned to have training to form a WILPF affinity group in preparation for the autumn XR London Rebellion, but this could not happen because of the restrictions. Instead, we held a meeting of those women who were interested. When we are able, we shall have another go at holding this training which will be useful to give confidence when taking any kind of action, for women who do not wish to take part in XR activities as well as those who do.

WILPF and XR Peace had a presence at the London demonstrations in September, and handed out the very well-designed leaflets that addressed the issues with clear messages on:

1. Climate chaos and the pandemic, dangers for our security when warnings are ignored
2. Global ceasefire now, save lives, build international security and peace
3. Nuclear weapons in Covid times, deadly threats to lives, health and security
4. Using nuclear weapons, humanitarian catastrophe and massive climate destruction

WILPF held some "Connect Days", online sessions, based on Environment, Militarism and Climate change, with Janet Fenton, Reb Johnson and Jenny Engledow all contributing.

When attending XR meetings in our own areas it has been proving hard to gain the attention of most of the people to the links between militarization and the environment, especially through a feminist lens. Preparing for the celebration of the TPNW showed how we have much work to do on this. It seems that the nuclear weapons threat, use or accident and the costs in humanitarian terms as well as to the planet is not really on the agenda. We see the need to "move the money" to positive work - which was obviously highlighted by the shortages in the NHS in relation to the pandemic. The whole military machine drains resources that back the patriarchal capitalist system and ultimately leaves children without food in school holidays.

Some members were able to take part in XR events locally, acting as stewards on the "Children's Strike Days" for example, enabling us to listen to the very good

speeches made by the young activists, whilst fending off angry drivers who were delayed whilst the young people sat in the roads with placards stating their demands. Other XR events included a Brighton march that had Black Lives Matter and XR together and several WILPF members took part.

There have been some meetings of the International WILPF Environment Group, which saw the launch of the zine "Down the Green Feminist Road". The meetings seem to focus on reports and have quite an academic feel to them. Anne Eggleton and I are sharing the WILPF Environment responsibilities, which means that we will ensure one of us can attend these meetings.

Some of us watched the brilliant speakers on Women, War and Climate Change that the Scottish branch hosted at the Edinburgh World Justice Festival. We asked Claire Duncanson, one of the speakers and a WILPF member, to write an article based on her talk for us to send to the "Broken Rifle" magazine. It is well worth reading and can be read free online, (see below for this article and further reading).

We planned our objectives for the UK Environment Group, and we were keen to make the TPNW as well-known as we could, using banners, flags posters and billboards; women were very creative and inventive using whatever was in their means given the restrictions.

We are now making plans for COP 26 with a series of 12 posters for each of the days of the conference that will address that day's agenda, for members to display in windows. We expect to create an exhibition and hope that members can find a space in their area to accommodate the panels. Thirdly we would like to produce a booklet with the text of the exhibition for people to take away to be able to read more easily at home.

Recommended Reading:

Women, War and Climate Change - Claire Duncanson and Carol Cohn in Broken Rifle Magazine - (<https://wri-irg.org/en/story/2020/women-war-and-climate-change>)
Defending the Future - Gender, Conflict and Environmental Peace - (<https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/publications/Defending-the-Future-Gender-Conflict-and-Environmental-Peace>)

Covid19 - making our recovery green and feminist - Nela Porobic Isakovic - (<https://www.wilpf.org/covid-19-making-our-recovery-green-and-feminist/>)

Brighton, Hove, & District Branch Report

By Jenny Engledow, Branch Representative (Brighton, Hove, & District)

We just managed to take part in the International Women's Day celebration in March 2020 with women from many organisations and hundreds of visiting women coming to see what we all have to offer before the first lock-down came along.

This changed everything and many of the year's events were mostly using social media, photos, zoom and email of course. We have continued to hold monthly meetings on zoom, and the members who do not join the meetings are receiving a newsletter each month (with minutes and an invitation to comment or make suggestions on our activities). **We will be putting our meeting dates in the WILPF UK Newsletter and you are very welcome to attend. They usually last 1 hour, sometimes a bit more.**

We went ahead with most of the days we like to mark in some way. On Conscientious Objectors Day, 15th May, we tied a white paper poppy wreath with a message onto the railings of the War Memorial, took photos and sent them around in whatever way we could. We used much the same method on the International Day for Children as Victims of War, 4th June and placed some allotment flowers with a message at the War Memorial. About the 250 million children are caught in the "waking nightmare" of armed conflict and terror wondering what their future be. We placed similar flowers with some text in respect of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement and its relevance to the racism in this country. Both were photographed and sent off on social media. Some of us joined in the huge demonstration supporting Black Lives Matter in Brighton with the WILPF banner and placards, and posters have been up in some of our windows. This was when the lock-down rules eased, and we wore face masks and kept socially distanced.

During Hiroshima Day we held a small gathering at the Peace Statue on the seafront, held the two minutes silence and heard short speeches before tying placards to the railings in memory of the victims of the bombing. We were able to hold our evening event with no more than 30 people. Our local Labour party

mayor spoke and was followed by WILPF and ICAN member Ros Cook who spoke about the TPNW and the Cities Appeal, which supports the TPNW.

At the end of the evening some of the councillors, (3 attended), asked her to tell them more. The outcome is, after some input from Reb Johnson (WILPF and ICAN), a resolution was put to the full council to sign the Cities Appeal. This happened just in time for the 22nd January 2021 celebrations when the UN Treaty entered into force and some councillors wrote messages to go on out "Peace tree" action.

Our Remembrance Day event went well, with 2 White Peace Poppy Wreaths placed in different locations in the town: at the War Memorial and the Peace Statue. Several people asked us what we were doing, and we had the opportunity to talk about WILPF's position. We filmed the event, and this was then shown at the beginning of an afternoon zoom meeting where people read poems and articles relating to the day (with some friends as well as members taking part).

In January our focus was on the TPNW and how to celebrate given that we still had restrictions. The outcome was that a friend of WILPF, (I am working on her to become a member!), made some white card doves that had messages on from our members, some of the councillors and 2 of our MPs. Photos were taken and sent as before on social media. Later in the day we went with a huge banner to the town centre and were photographed in various places including outside the Friends Meeting House. Friends have a banner we made for their display/notice board in a very prominent position which is there until they can start having events. We made our way down to the seafront and walked to the Peace Statue where we tied placards to the railings and talked to the various people who stopped to ask if it is true that the UN has banned nuclear weapons and we had quite a lot of opportunities to talk to people.

One of our members, Helen Ledger, was interviewed re the TPNW on a local radio station and we had an article in a local magazine that goes to thousands of homes, and some members had posters or flags in our windows.

We also made polite but nuisance phone calls asking awkward questions of EDO MBM the local factory which makes parts for bombs which are sold to the Saudi Arabians and used in the Yemen. There has been an on-going series of actions over a few years where we work with friends in CAAT to try to rid the city of this very unwelcome factory. The land belongs to the council, so we are now trying to

get them to recognise the absurdity of backing the dismantling of nuclear weapons but allowing the bomb parts factory to continue its tenancy.

Some of us have taken part in XR activities locally and at the London events and are trying to attend some of the meetings which are now on zoom of course.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Norwich and Norfolk Branch Report

By Marie-Lyse Numuhoza, Branch Representative (Norwich, Norfolk)

There have been no activities as a result of the Lockdown and the University not being operational.

However, in the New year there was a proposal to ask the Norwich city council to give us a space to plant a tree in commemoration of TPNW. We have not received an answer. We continue to have good relationship with the University, especially with the School of Development Studies. They recently referred a student volunteer to us.

Orpington Branch Report

By Pat Pleasance, Branch Representative (Orpington)

The year started normally enough with a social get-together in January, and we had our Annual General Meeting in February, when we showed some videos from the excellent WILPF Environmental Seminar the previous autumn.

Then we had lockdown. This has prevented face to face meetings, and members have been getting accustomed to meeting on Zoom. We still have members who do not have computer availability, but we have kept in touch with all by letter.

Sheila Triggs gave a talk on the proposed trade deal with the United States, which has a host of detrimental issues besides chlorinated chicken. These include the danger of undermining our food standards and public services, especially the NHS and the price it pays for life-saving medicines. It could also give US multinational corporations special legal powers. This is something we need to draw to the attention of our MPs when there are votes on trade and agriculture bills in the House of Commons.

We had to cancel our annual Garden Party, at which we had hoped to hear from Ros Cook about the campaign to make “ecocide” an international crime. However, she gave her talk on Zoom, and she showed us a video clip and told us about the campaigning work by Polly Higgins (1968 – 2019). Her definition of ecocide was “the extensive damage to, destruction or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory(ies) whether by human agency or by any other causes, to such an extent that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants of that territory has been or will be severely diminished”. This is a live issue at the United Nations, and with the current emphasis on climate change and the forthcoming COP 26 meeting, it is hoped that it is an idea whose time has come.

Our Branch actively prepared to celebrate the coming into force of the United Nations TPNW (Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) on 22nd January 2021. We wrote to over fifty religious establishments in Bromley to invite them to welcome the treaty and ring their bells. The branch and several individual members ordered WILPF celebratory flags to put in their windows on January 22nd.

Orpington Branch has lost some long-standing members during the past year. Heather Barfoot had been an active campaigner and regular supporter of the branch over many years, in spite of mobility problems. Marlis Woodward has not been able to come to meetings for some time, but she made a good contribution to our discussions in the past. We still considered Rosalie Huzzard to be “one of ours”, although she left Orpington to live in Sheffield and found a WILPF branch there, several years ago. They are all remembered fondly and are missed by our branch members.



TPNW DISPLAY 22.1.21 – GLEN LEE AND SHEILA TRIGGS

Scotland Branch Report

By Janet Fenton, Branch Representative (Scotland)

Wilpf members and supporters from Scotland attended the ICAN Paris Forum in February, using the opportunity to meet with Ray Acheson, Beatrice Fihn and other internationally significant WILPFers. We contributed to and learnt from discussions linking feminism, the climate emergency, gender and different aspects of exploitation to the efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons and we looked forward to an active year.

However, along with others, much of our activity this year was curtailed by the pandemic, our small core group has remained in touch largely by email or

through a WhatsApp group, and like everyone else we have been grateful for Zoom.

By the time of the last WILPF AGM in May it was clear that planned participation at the NPT Review Conference was not going to happen, so our focus was on the peace and gender implications that were becoming apparent arising from the pandemic and government responses to it.

Some members attended a webinar on 18 June 2020 attended by officials from 21 Member States, European NGO networks, and the European Institute for Gender Equality. It was the second in the series of webinars on gender-sensitive responses to COVID-19.

Individually and socially distanced, we were also involved in Black Lives Matter demonstrations, and webinars during June.

In August we managed, despite COVID, to take action as part of the global efforts to remember Hiroshima, with members in different parts of the country participating in vigils and outdoor activities as well as a number of virtual commemorations. Scottish member Janet Fenton was able to co-ordinate and prepare a submission on behalf of WILPF UK to the Government's Integrated Defence Review on September 20th.

We held a successful event as part of the Edinburgh World Justice Festival, in October, led by our member Claire Duncanson on Gender, War and Climate, along with speakers from regions experiencing war and representatives from climate activism. We were able to engage student members in promotional activity for this event.

Claire Duncanson and Carol Cohn are both members of WILPF, Claire in Scotland, UK and Carol in the USA. They work to develop a Feminist Roadmap for Sustainable Peace. They have published an article based on the talk Claire gave for Scottish WILPF in October.

Along with other ICAN Partners we have attended the regular Scottish ICAN Round table meetings (every 4th Month) and contributed to joint events and used our social media platforms to promote the TPNW, (along with many other issues of concern).

We took part in a socially distant photocall to mark the impact of the 50th Ratification of the TPNW and attended the ICAN International Zoom. We noted the significance in Scotland of the rise in support for independence and consequent possibility of Scotland acceding to the TPNW and highlighted this in our advocacy for the TPNW.

We developed the Scottish WILPF Covenant for Peace, on the feminist perspective in the TPNW which was launched at the close of the UN 16 Days of Action against Violence Against Women and completed on the day of Entry into Force of the Treaty. It was supported by a range of cross-party parliamentarians and attracted a letter of support from the First Minister welcoming and committing to the TPNW for 22nd January and recognising WILPF and the significance of the provision for women and girls. A statement on behalf of "Women for Indy" also noted that women are impacted far more by the opportunity costs of nuclear weapons policy given that they experience the social and economic effects far more keenly. In Scotland this increases the democratic deficit of the UK's nuclear policy.

The actions taken by WILPF members in Scotland for Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January are too numerous to mention particularly because the celebrations highlighted powerfully how WILPF women are active in all of the progressive feminist and peace groups in the UK, and Scotland is no exception to this rule.

On Killer Robots we agreed to request a future briefing for Scotland from Taniel (or from Clare Conboy) following the event chaired by SNPCND and led by Alyn Smith.

We were pleased to note that the UK executive agreed to our request that, while Eileen Cook remains the named representative at the executive, we can alternate with other Scottish members sometimes, allowing us to get to know each other. We are in a good financial situation, since we were not hiring venues or travelling. We agreed that working closely with Engender could help our political activity and influence with parliamentarians and are in the process of formally affiliating. We welcomed Engender's Scottish Parliamentary briefings.

We agreed to consider the possibility of providing funds that would enable activity with an undergraduate or post graduate student. We would have

capacity to produce resources which can be used post pandemic if they are needed. This is a plan which we hope to develop.

Our member Eileen Cook has ensured our continued presence with Women in Black and has ensured that we have supported action on the Yemen, particularly the Global Day of Action in January. This is still mostly on social media.

We have joined with the COP 26 Proposal from Scottish CND, Trident Ploughshares and the Peace and Justice Centre and continue to raise awareness and plan for whatever action will take place. We are sharing knowledge of coalition working with the WILPF environmental group in the UK via Jenny Engledow and in Europe via Heidi Meinzolt

We co-sponsored the book launch for Ray Acheson's book, "Banning the Bomb, Smashing the Patriarchy" on 22 March and promoted this through a zoom call including her TEDx talk. Janet Fenton introduced Ray and spoke about WILPF's history and work.

Scottish WILPF's strategy on the forthcoming election includes exploring Engender's analysis, following their social media and cooperating with their endeavours. We are also working on a short Scottish WILPF statement from a feminist peace perspective, which will include a section on nuclear weapons and killer robots, a section on Palestine Yemen and Syria, and a section on climate change and the environment.

Janet Fenton made an input on WILPF's work to the Scottish CND Marshall Islands remembrance meeting in March.

Obituaries

In Peaceful Memory of Marlis Woodward, 1928 – 2021

Marlis was born in Germany and travelled widely throughout her life, becoming very aware of the disadvantaged and dispossessed, and committing herself to making a better world. She fought for the cause of the Palestinian people, as well as celebrating the developments in Cuba and South Africa.

In the 1950s she became a teacher and continued her political activism in the CND, taking part in the big marches against nuclear weapons, as well as being a prolific letter writer to her MP. Marlis became a stalwart member of Orpington WILPF in her later years and enlivened our meetings and discussions, regularly bringing interesting information to our attention.



In Peaceful Memory of Rosalie Huzzard, 1926 – 2021

Rosalie was an inspirational WILPF woman. Her energy, optimism and dedication made a real difference to the causes of socialism, pacifism and feminism that she espoused. Rosalie was an activist in the Labour and Peace Movements, the Quakers and in WILPF.

Rosalie lived all her married life in Petts Wood and became central to the work of the Orpington WILPF Branch where meetings were held in her house and Annual Garden Parties in her beautifully designed garden. Later the branch met at the Petts Wood Friends Meeting House through Rosalie's good offices.

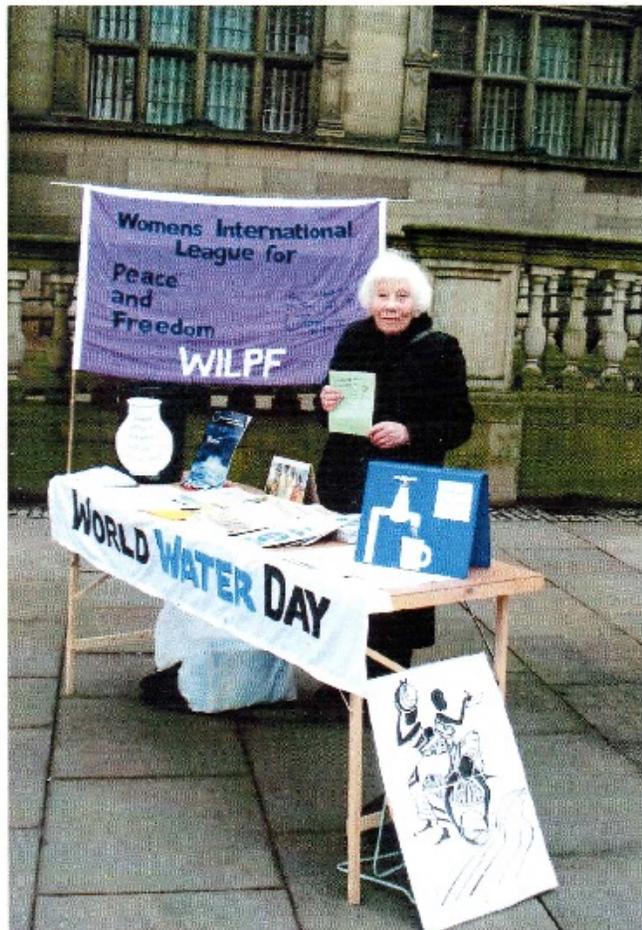
Rosalie and her husband Ron were very active in the local Labour Party. Ron was a Bromley Borough Councillor and stood unsuccessfully for Parliament. and Rosalie worked in the office of Ken Livingstone at County Hall.

Before UK WILPF had a London office, and in the very early years of digitalisation, Rosalie was asked to take on the role of Section Secretary. She dedicated a room in her house to the Secretary's work and the Orpington Branch periodically gathered in her living room to prepare for the well-organised national mailings.

After Ron died in 1998 the branch helped to raise funds so that Rosalie could travel to Costa Rica to support the UK WILPF delegate to the Triennial Congress in 1999. In 2002 Rosalie became President of WILPF UK. It was a great loss to Orpington when in 2003 Rosalie decided to move to Sheffield to be near to her daughter Val.

Although in her late '70s when she arrived in Sheffield, Rosalie built a totally new WILPF branch, and a lovely new garden. She was able to recruit Quaker and Labour Party friends and contacts to build up a good membership. The Sheffield WILPF Branch met regularly in the Friends Meeting House, held Summer Garden Parties, and took part in local activities including the Annual Sheffield Peace and Craft Fair.

Sight loss was a developing challenge for Rosalie in her later years, but she enthusiastically embraced new technologies and retained her interest in working for a fairer world to the very end. Many in WILPF and across the peace and



Rosalie Huzzard of WILPF Sheffield, on the WILPF Stall on World Water Day 2007

socialist movements feel the loss of an activist comrade we were lucky to have called our friend.

By Sheila Triggs

In Peaceful Memory of Heather Barfoot, 1929 - 2020

Heather was for many years a strong supporter of WILPF Orpington Branch, and actively campaigned throughout her life on peace issues. She was a lifelong pacifist and also supported LGBT issues. Many will remember her as a poet. Every year she read one of her poems at the Bromley Peace One Day event on 21st September. Towards the end of her life she faced increasing mobility problems, but her determination to overcome all difficulties was inspirational. Here is one of her poems:

What Shakespeare said about 12.12.82

This day is called - the feast of Greenham.
She that outlives this day and sees old age
Will yearly on the vigil feast her neighbours,
And say tomorrow is St Greenham.
Old folk forget, not all shall be forgot,
And she'll remember with advantages
What feasts we did that day. Then shall these names,
Familiar in our mouths as household words,
Christine King, Sarah, Helen John,
Katherine Barker, Simone Wilkinson,
Be in our flowing cups freshly remembered.
This story will the woman teach her child,
And Greenham Common Day shall ne'er go by
From this day till the ending of the world,
But still in it shall be remembered.
These few, these happy few, this band of sisters
And womenfolk in England, now at home,
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their womanhood cheap, while any speaks,
That stood with us on GREENHAM COMMON DAY

In Peaceful Memory of Connie Fraser, 1921 - 2021

Connie died very peacefully in the nursing home where she lived happily, and her daughter Pauline was by her side. Thankfully she had not been ill in any way. She had been an activist all her life and had attended branch meetings until about 3 years ago when she found the travelling and meetings in the evening too tiring. She continued to come along to WILPF New Year parties and liked to hear the speakers as she enjoyed the discussions that came out of the talks. In years gone by Connie would help on stalls in the town and more recently she was still able to come along to the indoor events on International Women's Day and quietly talk to women about the need for peace, equality, human rights and co-operation.

During World War II Connie made parts for aircraft from "blueprints" which were new designs, a very skilled job. She demanded equal pay with the men and she got it! She had interests in different political spheres and had been a member of the Labour Party until the Iraq war when she left in disgust. Connie was a member of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign and other like-minded organisations. As a young woman she had written a few plays, some of which were performed and she wished she had pursued this. We knew her as a poet. She wrote poems for our Hiroshima Day gatherings for several years and read them herself. She had been a popular tutor with the Open University and received cards from her students many years after teaching them.

She was a gentle determined woman who often came up with suggestions in meetings and clearly enjoyed discussions on many political topics. She was a great believer in peace and justice.

Connie leaves a son and one daughter who comes along to many of our events and demonstrations and has taken up her mother's activism-what a great legacy!

By Jenny Engledow

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

UK Section

Annual Report 2020-2021
105th Year

UK WILPF
52-54 Featherstone Street
London EC1Y 8RT
+44 (0) 20 7250 1968

Report Published By CLP Printer

