

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) – UK

Our manifesto for the 2024 general election

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working for over 100 years to bring together women from across the world to tackle the root causes of conflict and violence to **establish a peaceful and equitable world.**

Our **radical vision for international relations** is founded on cooperation for the good of all, not on endless confrontation and contest. We are calling for a re-think in the way we look at our economy, our security and the role of our government to ensure sustainable and peaceful alternatives that benefit everyone locally, nationally and worldwide.

We reject the idea that we must prepare for war. Annually, billions in public money are invested into developing and maintaining unnecessary mechanisms for war and military activity. The resources of our country need to be invested in the people, and in food, water, care, health, education, creativity, income, housing, transport. Crucially, and urgently, we need to give people the tools to transition to a fulfilling yet sustainable life, within the capacity of our planet.

The impacts of conflict, militarisation, and the climate crisis disproportionately affect women and marginalised groups, increasing inequalities and generating violence. Women are more likely to experience poverty, discrimination, and violence both in contexts of conflict and peace. However, women are not equally represented in decision-making, leadership and peace-building roles. **Gender inequality must be addressed** to achieve every international sustainable development goal, increase human security and ensure global stability. We advocate for meaningful inclusion and participation of all women, to create a society operating with sustained gender equality and freedom from violence.

The UK section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) asks all political parties, prospective members of parliament and the next UK government to commit to the following actions to **create a just society with genuine security.**



Commit to human rights.

- Uphold our commitments to international United Nations (UN) treaties, conventions and other agreements including:
 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
 - UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (1325+)
 - Convention on Prevention of Genocide
 - International human rights law
- Guarantee the right to free speech and the right to peaceful protest.
- Work constructively through the United Nations and Europe to ensure that we reduce the causes of refugee flight (including conflict, persecution, climate crises).
- Open monitored safe routes for refugees to come to the UK, focused particularly on family reunion. Welcome refugees and allow them to work while waiting for their applications to be processed.
- Stop indefinite detention of refugees, people trafficking and the proposed plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda or any other offshore location.

Commit to genuine security by demilitarisation.

- We need to train, develop and include more people, especially women, with the skills of conciliation and negotiation, to build sustainable peace.
- Sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which upholds the right to life. Immediately stop further expenditure on any aspect of nuclear weapons and nuclear power and fulfil our international treaty requirement to eliminate our nuclear arsenal.
- End all arms manufacture and sales. Ensure we meet our obligations under the International Arms Trade Treaty.
- Initiate immediate ceasefires in all armed conflict and develop negotiations to achieve a just and lasting resolution, under the auspices of the United Nations.
- Recognise that gender-based violence results from militarism, patriarchy, racism and security policies within the UK.
- Increase and invest in services and support for women at risk and ensure that their experiences inform training for the police and other security forces.
- Commit to UK and international agreements to prevent conflict and violence.

Commit to genuine security by ensuring the welfare of all.

- Move the money from militarisation and weapons and invest in genuine security.
- End poverty and move towards gender equality through mechanisms to redistribute existing wealth.
- Call a halt to austerity measures. Ensure social infrastructure is delivered by properly funded and accountable local government.
- Implement a universal basic income. It is affordable, it just needs the political will. It provides a down payment on investment in every person, as a resource for the community.
- Recognise and value unpaid work and create an enabling environment for women's equal participation in economic, social and political processes to advance gender equality.
- Close the gender pay gap (which was 14.3% for UK all employees in 2023 [1]).
- Commit to a gender equal parliament, and increase the number of women leaders, decision-makers and spokespeople in all public spheres. (The present parliament is composed of 32% women [2], ranking it 48th in the UN world rating [3] - at the time of writing.)
- Lead by investing substantial public money into new infrastructure to ensure we can adapt to the changing climate. This must include security of supply of food and water, health services, childcare and lifelong education opportunities. It also includes public transport, flood defences, well-insulated housing and a new smart energy grid.

Commit to genuine security by protecting our world.

- Sign and implement the proposed UN treaty to ban new fossil fuel extraction and develop a fair transition away from all fossil fuel use.
- Stop issuing, and cancel all existing licences for oil, gas and coal exploitation.
- Support the development of renewable energy solutions without the need for unproven and expensive technologies that perversely encourage the continued use of fossil fuels.
- Implement climate adaptation solutions using the knowledge and experience of local communities.
- Take responsibility and contribute generously to a UN "loss and damage" fund to support people in climate vulnerable countries.
- Support the ongoing development of a UN ecocide treaty to protect the planet.

WILPF requests all political parties, prospective members of parliament and the next UK government to commit to the above actions to enable and empower women to champion peace, demilitarisation and gender-just climate solutions from the local to international levels. It is essential to amplify women's demands and incorporate feminist perspectives for peace and climate justice in policy-making and international agreements. We encourage the government to work consultatively and collaboratively with civil society, women rights organisations and experts on these issues.

For more information

If you would like to become a member of WILPF or would like more information about our work, please contact ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com and consider reading our [2023 Annual Report](#).

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- [1] <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07068/SN07068.pdf>
[2] <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01250/>
[3] <https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking?month=2&year=2024>

