



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

2015 Election Manifesto


The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was founded in 1915, when 1,300 women from a diversity of cultures and languages came together in The Hague to protest the horror of the First World War.

WILPF now has consultative status at the United Nations through its international executive representing National Sections, and women from around the world continue to work for peace by non-violent means and to promote political, economic and social justice for all.


The UK Section brings the following manifesto to the attention of all candidates standing in the forthcoming UK parliamentary election in order to deliver a parliament committed to fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.





WILPF UK requests that each parliamentary candidate comment on how s/he could and would advance the actions below.


 **Reduce military expenditure** and redistribute those funds towards education, health and social care for all, including resources and services

 **Stop expenditure on any aspect of Trident replacement**, immediately fulfil the Non Proliferation Treaty's Article VI requirement to eliminate any nuclear arsenal and sign up to the Austrian Pledge to work towards a nuclear weapons ban treaty

 **Ensure that women, not necessarily from armed forces or diplomatic services, have access to full, equal and safe participation in all peace negotiations and processes.** Where the UK government is negotiating with other governments, every measure compatible with peaceful negotiations should be taken to ensure that women's voices are heard

 **Fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recommendations** on violence against women, the gender pay gap and the dearth of women in Parliament, the legal system and on boards of organisations set up by the UK government

 **Increase the numbers of women leaders and spokespersons in public spheres of life**, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, business, economics, politics, law and media, through incentives and public information services

 **Reject the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).** TTIP is a bid for corporate power that would undermine and circumvent social and environmental achievements and policies by allowing businesses to sue states for compensation if a law affects the organisation's "future anticipated profits." As such, it would discriminate against the poor and unheard, many of whom are women, and would undermine our democratic systems, thus constituting a socioeconomic attack on our sovereign state.



■ Conflict and militarisation disproportionately affect women and girls. More than 80 per cent of people displaced by conflict are women.

■ Inequality engenders violence which is damaging to everyone. Therefore, gender equality must be addressed in order to achieve every international development goal.

■ In 2014, the Global Gender Gap Report dropped the UK from 18 to 26 in its annual analysis of the world's most equal countries.

■ The present Parliament is 22.6 per cent women, ranking it 64 out of 145 on the UN Women world map 2014.

■ More than 40 years after the first version was published, the Working Women's Charter was updated in 2014 to include more recent manifestations of inequality such as the lack of a living wage, flexible working, part-time working and gender diversity in senior executive roles.

■ Fifteen years after the United Nations' Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)1325 was passed, fewer than three per cent of signatories to peace agreements are women and less than 10 per cent of negotiators are women, thus denying the intended effect of the resolution.

■ The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the only legal convention to protect and promote women's human rights, with particular attention paid to the: prevalence of violence against women; gender pay gap; and dearth of women in Parliament, the legal system and on boards of organisations set up by the UK government.

■ The UN's first resolution, in 1946, included the elimination of atomic weapons and all weapons adaptable to mass destruction. Under article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), all state parties are legally obligated to pursue "effective measures" to end the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament. We have yet to achieve that aim.



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