

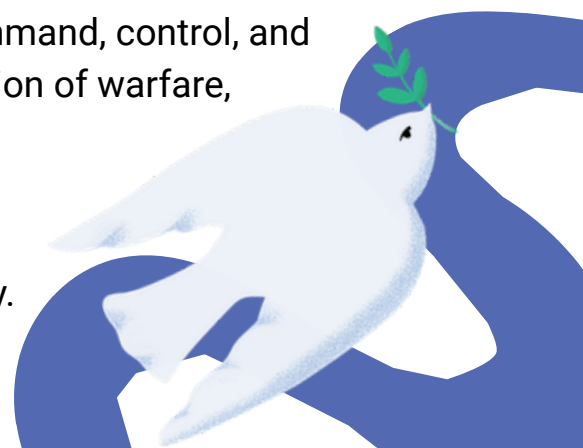
Statement by the Disarmament Working Group of WILPF for 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Disarmament Working Group of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) expresses deep concern about the current global situation marked by escalating violence, armed conflicts, genocide and military aggressions that increasingly disregard international law and multilateral norms. This deterioration does not arise in isolation. It is the consequence of years of selective application of international legal frameworks, that were established precisely to prevent war and protect humanity. Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control frameworks, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, are central components of this international legal architecture. When international law is weakened, ignored, or violated, the commitments to disarmament and human security are also undermined.



At this critical moment, we call on all States parties to the NPT to recommit to the full implementation of the treaty in all its pillars: you have the responsibility to deliver a world without nuclear weapons to future generations and to protect the current one from the catastrophe of nuclear disasters.

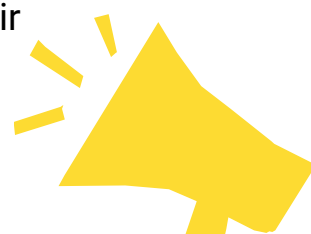
Within the NPT framework, we are troubled by the lack of meaningful progress in recent years. Stalled disarmament efforts both reflect and deepen the broader crisis of declining multilateralism, while risking the normalisation of inaction and eroding trust in the treaty regime. We are particularly concerned by the development of new types of weapons in some nuclear arsenals and by the possibility that some states might consider withdrawing from the treaty or resuming nuclear weapons explosive testing or allowing proliferation. All of these actions contradict the spirit and obligations of the NPT, including Article VI's commitment to end the nuclear arms race and achieve total nuclear disarmament. At the same time, the integration of artificial intelligence into nuclear command, control, and communication systems, and the growing automation of warfare, introduces additional and deeply alarming risks. Delegating life-and-death decisions to automated systems further distances nuclear policy from democratic accountability and human responsibility.



From a feminist, pacifist, and antimilitarist perspective, these developments are particularly alarming. WILPF's grassroots work, together with Reaching Critical Will's advocacy, have consistently demonstrated that militarism, deterrence doctrines, and arms races do not produce security but rather perpetuate structural violence and deepen global inequalities. Research has shown that the impacts of nuclear weapons (across their entire lifecycle) are profoundly gendered. Uranium mining and nuclear testing disproportionately harm Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly in formerly colonised territories. Due to gender, class, race, and other factors, people frequently face unequal access to healthcare, land, and resources when communities are displaced or environments are contaminated. The long-term health effects of radiation, the destruction of livelihoods, and the diversion of public resources toward militarisation instead of social needs all reinforce existing gender inequalities. These harms are intersectional, shaped by age, race, class, colonial history, and minority status.

For these reasons, we call on states not only to meet their obligations under the NPT but also to recognise that nuclear disarmament is a necessary condition for achieving gender justice, environmental protection, and sustainable peace, and therefore to sign and ratify the TPNW, whose structure doesn't limit but complements the NPT.

We are equally concerned about the barriers to meaningful participation in international disarmament forums. Activists, civil society representatives, and scholars – particularly from the Global South, as well as women, youth, and minorities – frequently face visa restrictions and entry risks when attending meetings held in the United States. These barriers undermine inclusivity, legitimacy, and the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. When participation is restricted, discussions risk being dominated by the perspectives of Western states and policy communities, often shaped by militarised security paradigms. This imbalance reproduces historical patterns of exclusion and silencing. It is essential to acknowledge that the regions most affected by nuclear weapons – through testing, uranium extraction, and contamination – are largely those historically subjected to colonial domination, as reflected in the geographical distribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones and their longstanding commitment to universal disarmament.



For this reason, the Disarmament Working Group of WILPF is circulating this collective statement to amplify diverse feminist voices within the NPT process, including those currently affected by armed conflict. We believe the experiences, knowledge, and leadership of women and nuclear-affected communities must be central to international discussions on disarmament and human-centered security.

At this critical moment, **we call on all states gathered at the NPT Review Conference to act with courage and responsibility, and to:**

- Fulfill their obligations under all articles of the NPT, especially Article VI;
- Recognize nuclear disarmament as a necessary condition for gender justice, environmental protection, and sustainable peace;
- Ensure that voices from the Global South and affected communities are centred in any credible discussion on nuclear justice;
- Reaffirm their commitment to the NPT across all its pillars, and their responsibility to deliver a nuclear-weapons-free world to future generations;
- Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and start adhering to it.

Finally, we call on the nuclear states to adopt policies of No First Use of nuclear weapons as soon as possible.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons is incompatible with a world based on peace, sustainability of life, global justice, equality, and care for people and the planet. Feminist peace movements have long demonstrated that security for people and for the planet cannot be built through deterrence, domination, or the threat of annihilation. Instead it must be grounded in cooperation, human rights, environmental sustainability, and the dismantling of the global military enterprise.



More here!

