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NOMINATION OF MADELEINE REES FOR 2021

Mindful of the demilitarized peace order Nobel intended the committee to promote, I wish to repeat and renew last year's nomination of Madeleine Rees, the eminent international leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

WILPF is present in 49 countries with 32 National Sections, 12 Groups, and 5 country initiatives. WILPF's strength comes from over 100 years of experience, geographic spread, local knowledge and a feminist and holistic analysis of the root causes of war and conflict. Rees takes the peace and disarmament agenda forward in a way that commands respect and generates enthusiasm and would do a lot to promote the vision of peace that Alfred Nobel intended to support.

Sincerely yours,



Hedda Giertsen

WILPF's work to date and spotlight on 2020

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) envisions a transformative and permanent global peace where economic, social, cultural, political, racial, environmental, and gender justice is achieved for all.

Today, like yesterday, systems of injustice, inequality, racism, militarism and patriarchy fuel insecurity. Yet, in the face of these threats and obstacles, WILPF members continue to organise locally and globally to create change.

By building the movement, redefining security, leveraging feminist perspectives on peace, and promoting socio-economic justice, WILPF mobilises women to make known and abolish the causes of war and violence, which in turn advances feminist peace for equality, justice, and demilitarised security.

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Despite the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in 2020, militarisation has continued to deform our societies, violating rights, irreversibly damaging our environment and devastating public health. At a time when people all over the world have been struggling to make ends meet, the economy of war and economic warfare continued to put profits over people and over the planet.

Exposing the fault lines and driving resilience

Since its founding in 1915, WILPF has challenged and spoken out against militarism. This is why through its blog series WILPF has been calling for a fundamental reframing of security, one that dismantles the structures of capitalism, racism, militarism, and patriarchy that have diverted resources away from crucial areas where they should have been directed. Some examples of blogs are: [The Pandemic of Nuclear Weapons](#), [Making our Recovery Green and Feminist](#), [Divest, Demilitarise, and Disarm](#).

The COVID-19 blog series then inspired WILPF to create a new [long-read series on abolition](#), authored by Ray Acheson, director of WILPF's disarmament programme. The series of articles looks at the harms caused by border imperialism, police brutality, incarceration, weapons and war, and more. The articles demonstrate how each of these relies on and helps sustain the interconnected systems of militarism, capitalism, racism, and patriarchy.

From Afghanistan to Argentina to Italy and Cameroon, members run public awareness campaigns, worked to support victims of gender-based violence, addressed food insecurity while tirelessly continuing the work for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Disarmament

WILPF continues to push forward its work on disarmament and is firmly established at the leading edge of analysis and advocacy. In particular, WILPF's disarmament programme continues to advance the thinking about gender and weapons in disarmament spaces and applying it to activism, advocacy, and analysis at the UN level. WILPF's experience and resources remain unique and are widely used by governments, NGOs and UN.

In 2020, WILPF's disarmament programme launched the very first [database on gender and disarmament](#) and spearheaded the inclusion of gender perspectives in cyber peace. For instance, in April, WILPF and the Association for Progressive Communications co-authored a [report](#) looking at the gendered impact of cyber operations and gender inequality in cyber diplomacy.

While the importance of gender diverse participation, as well as gendered impacts of armed violence and weapons is becoming increasingly recognised, there is still much resistance. WILPF's work for feminist peace has been essential to question the very system that militarism and arms proliferation is based upon—and it helps to envision alternative systems and structures based on peace, human security, equality, and justice.

Advancing the nuclear ban

In 2020, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) reached the 50 ratifications necessary for it to enter into force. WILPF, as a steering group member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), has been instrumental in advocating for this Treaty.

Over the course of the years, WILPF has also been actively promoting the Treaty locally, including at events with antinuclear activists, students, academics, and artists.

In 2020, as part of the events to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki WILPF also run a [“Four days of action against nuclear weapon spending”](#) to protest nuclear spending as well as to mobilise for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. Members from around the world joined the campaign, crafted [lanterns for peace](#) and [paper cranes](#), organised [local actions](#) denouncing nuclear spending.

WILPF, through its disarmament programme, also promoted nuclear disarmament through other avenues, including a series of “Critical NPT issues” webinars, organised jointly with the Arms Control Association. Webinars looked, for example, at the [legal relationship between the TPNW and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty \(NPT\)](#), the [future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action \(JCPOA\) and the NPT](#), or discussed [nuclear weapon modernisation](#) of the nine nuclear-armed states based on the 2020 edition of [Assuring Destruction forever](#).

Environmental peace work

WILPF is also increasingly looking at the intersection of militarism and environmental issues. International dependence on the production, research, and development of weapons and other military requirements is done in detriments of environmental sustainability and at the expense of human rights.

In 1989, a report from the 24th Congress of WILPF highlighted that members “identified patriarchal values as the root causes contributing to environmental exploitation. These values which see women, animals and nature as objects to be owned, colonized, consumed and forced to yield and to reproduce, allow for the overall pollution and destruction of the earth and the oppression of people. The introduction of feminist values is essential to the healing of our planet.”

Over the past years, WILPF has mobilised with Sections to start advocacy campaigns to show the links between climate change, war and the imminent need to protect the environment. On World Environment Day 2020, WILPF launched a zine called [*Down the Green Feminist Road*](#) to share the feminist eco-pacifist perspective, showing once again how it is impossible to solve an environmental crisis without acknowledging and dismantling the structures of power that took us here.

Additional readings

- [WILPF's Theory of Change video](#)
- [WILPF Stories of Feminist Peace 2019](#)

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