

# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

Aotearoa Section Newsletter MARCH 2014



## Militarisation in the Pacific: Women, Peace and Security

*A regional meeting convened by WILPF Aotearoa*

In association with Pacific Media Centre Te Amokura, AUT University

There is a flyer and registration form included in this newsletter. Please use the flyer to publicise the meeting in your area, and please come to the meeting.

Women from around the Pacific will be coming to the meeting to share information about issues, such as foreign military bases, being under military occupation, the links between globalization and militarization.

It will be a great opportunity to meet our sisters from around the region and learn firsthand about the issues of peace and security in the Pacific.

The website is being regularly updated with more information:

[www.wilpf.org.nz](http://www.wilpf.org.nz)

### Friday 25 April

12 noon - a welcome followed by lunch.

2.00pm - an informal information sharing session for WILPF women to speak about the situation in their country.

### Saturday 26 April

9.00am – 5.00pm

There will be a mixture of workshops, plenary presentations and panel discussions.

### Sunday 27 April

will focus on WILPF business, in particular, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015 and the possibility of the Asia-Pacific WILPF sections working together as a regional grouping within International WILPF.

The meeting will end at 1 p.m.

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**25-27 April 2014**

**Sir Paul Reeves Building, AUT University, city campus, Auckland**

## WILPF Congress, April 2015

The WILPF triennial Congress has been held regularly since 1915, with only a few exceptions.

At the Congress members of WILPF adopt the policies and programmes that the WILPF International Board and WILPF Executive committee follow till the next congress.

Members of the Executive Committee, standing committees and working groups are also elected at congress.

In 2015 Congress will be held in the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands where the first meeting of women who formed WILPF met in April 1915.

The plan is to have as many women at the 2015 Congress as attended that first meeting—around 1100. If you would be interested in going, let the Aotearoa Section executive know (contact details on p.4) and keep an eye on the Women's Power to Stop War

website:

[www.womenstopwar.org](http://www.womenstopwar.org)

Information will be added regularly.

**22-25 April 2015  
Peace Palace, The Hague  
Netherlands**

## WILPF Conference 2015

As well as the triennial Congress, which is only open to WILPF members, there will be an international conference at The Hague, 27-29 April 2015.

The conferences will be a place to discuss, share experiences, teach, connect to and promote each other's work.

A special festival will also take place during the conference, so that we can celebrate WILPF's 100th birthday on 28 April in a more light hearted way.

The programme will discuss peace and security from a gender perspective and will include WILPF's current, past and future work. There will be workshops, lectures, seminars, art exhibitions, history exhibitions, debates, and plenary sessions.

Information at: [www.womenstopwar.org](http://www.womenstopwar.org)

**27-29 April 2015  
World Forum Conference Centre  
The Hague, Netherlands**

### **An opportunity to give us your feedback about WILPF**

WILPF International is asking what we think the priorities for WILPF should be.

*We would be interested in hearing your answers to these questions:*

What makes WILPF significant in the peace and women's movements?

What motivates you, as a member, to support WILPF?

How do our activities contribute to social change?

What are the main organisations or group which obstruct peace and human security?

*Email your responses to Megan Hutching, [hutching28@gmail.com](mailto:hutching28@gmail.com) or post to P O Box 2054, Wellington*

# WILPF 100th Anniversary, April 2015

## Women's Power To Stop War

In April 2015 WILPF will be 100 years old, making us the longest-standing women's anti-war organisation in the world. WILPF International is developing a plan to help us celebrate this great achievement, and there will be anniversary events throughout the year.

The theme of the anniversary is 'Women's Power to Stop War'. WILPF has set up a website:

[www.womenstopwar.org](http://www.womenstopwar.org)

which is being updated regularly, and where you can sign the Anniversary pledge (*more about that below*).

The anniversary will have three main parts—the WILPF triennial Congress in The Hague, Netherlands in April 2015; then an international conference which will also be held in The Hague straight after congress, and what is being called the 'Movement'. The Movement

will commemorate the collective work that WILPF women have done over the past 100 years to stop war and create sustainable, global peace. It will also be forward-looking, so that we can celebrate our past, present and future.

The Movement will work at an international, regional, national and local level—just as WILPF itself does.

## Anniversary Pledge

- We/I **support** women's right to political, social, and economic participation and pledge to support Women's Power to Stop War. Like the women in 1915, who came together from across the world to stop World War I,
- We/I **oppose** the assumption that civilians, especially women, can be safe under the conditions of modern warfare, and believe that peace and security should be analyzed from a gender perspective.
- We/I **know** the only sustainable protection is the prevention of armed conflict through dialogue, which addresses the root causes of conflict.
- We/I **call** for global demilitarization built on the foundation of human rights, including complete disarmament, the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and the redirection of military expenditures to meet social and environmental needs.
- We/I **believe** that by connecting women lo-

cally to globally in support of multilateralism and against patriarchy, we can build sustainable peace for all.

We/I hereby **pledge** to engage in the 100 year long struggle to demand Women's Power to Stop War.

Take the pledge here:

[www.womenstopwar.org/take-the-pledge](http://www.womenstopwar.org/take-the-pledge)



**WILPF Aotearoa**

P.O. Box 2054  
Wellington  
Aotearoa New Zealand

[www.wilpf.org.nz](http://www.wilpf.org.nz)  
[wilpf@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wilpf@xtra.co.nz)  
And see us on Facebook

**President:** Celine Kearney

**Vice president:** Pauline Tangiora

**Section co-ordinators:** Edwina Hughes; Joan Macdonald

**Treasurer:** Megan Hutching

*WILPF International, Geneva*  
[www.wilpfinternational.org](http://www.wilpfinternational.org)



Christchurch suffrage memorial, rescued and waiting for a new home. Photo: *Celine Kearney*

## Women's Power to Stop War webinar series

The webinar series is to spread awareness and knowledge of the areas that WILPF works in, such as Un Security council resolution 1325, disarmament, human rights, gender, the environment, etc.

You can join these online seminars.  
We send an email to Section members when we get the details,  
OR you can check the

website:  
[www.womenstopwar.org](http://www.womenstopwar.org)  
OR you can check the Facebook page  
OR you can sign up to the electronic newsletter *Membership News* by going to  
<http://eepurl.com/H6VC1>

There have been two webinars so far. The first was an overview of the Women, Peace

and Security Agenda by Cynthia Enloe. The second was a feminist perspective on disarmament in Africa.

Both can be seen on Youtube. Just search for 'WILPF women's power to stop war'

They're quite long, but very interesting.

