



Internationella Kvinnoförbundet  
för Fred och Frihet  
Womens International League  
for Peace and Freedom

**Stockholm 2010-04-27**

## **Section Report, WILPF Sweden**

At the Swedish WILPF Congress in April 2010, WILPF Sweden decided to work on the focus areas identified in the International Program: Challenging Militarism; Investing in Peace; Strengthening the UN; and Building WILPF. Our projects always take their starting point in one or more of these focus areas.

### **Challenging Militarism**

This focus area aims to “challenge security concepts, end conflicts & promote disarmament”.

### **Paying the Price**

Since the United Nations (UN) was founded almost 70 years ago, international arms control and disarmament agreements have been developed and advocated by states, individuals and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Article 26 of the UN Charter clearly states that it is the Security Council’s task to advocate for disarmament and international arms control, yet military expenditures continues to increase every year. Statistics from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) show that total global military expenditure in 2008 amounted to 1464 billion USD, approximately 2.4 % of the world’s total GDP.

Whilst military capacity is exposed every day to be a terminally ineffective method of assuring security given the nature of modern threats, militaries the world over consume ever-increasing amounts of the world’s human and economic resources. Despite this realization, we keep spending more money on more weapons - and by doing so invest in brutal and destructive conflicts. This publication will provide an insight to the misguided nature of prevailing priorities with regard to security demonstrating their real costs and consequences.

The project Paying the Price aims to explore gendered concepts of security, and to visualize how military spending have negative consequences for women, peace and security. In this project we have written a publication called Challenge Militarism in Swedish and English, available here: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/PDF/publications/A5%20folder%20-%20Challenge%20Militarism%20-%202010%20-%20WEB%5B1%5D.pdf>

*Branches engaged in this project:*

IKFF Gothenburg, IKFF Växjö, IKFF Stockholm

## **Investing in Peace**

This area aims to “divert military resources to economic justice & environmental sustainability”.

### **CSW/Beijing + 15:**

WILPF Sweden was present at the CSW and attended many interesting events. WILPF Sweden got the opportunity to speak before the General Assembly during one of the interactive sessions. Here we highlighted the issue of military spending and the need to change the world’s thinking on this issue.

### **Publication Investing in Peace:**

The publication discusses the relation and connection between women’s security and sustainable peace. It argues that sustainable peace, which is relevant to the whole population, requires non-discrimination of women and respect for women’s rights. Furthermore, it provides tools and international agreements that are available when working with these issues. The concept of security and its traditional signification is discussed and put in relation to political decision making made in the name of security. The publication will soon be available in both Swedish and English.

*Members engaged in this project:*

10 young women from different parts of Sweden.

### **Paying the Price (see information above)**

## **Strengthening the UN**

The aim is to “increase awareness and engagement with our global peace organisation”.

### **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference**

During the spring 2010, the Swedish Section is focusing particularly on the NPT Review Conference, held 3-28 May 2010 in New York. This work is done in collaboration with the international project Reaching Critical Will (RCW). We are focusing on:

- Lobbying for a Nuclear Weapons Convention
  - o Among other things, we write articles, have meetings with government representatives, and hold seminars and other events.
- Sharing of information before, during and after the NPT.
  - o We have a nuclear disarmament blog together with 3 other organizations in Sweden, [www.skrotakarnvapen.nu](http://www.skrotakarnvapen.nu) (in Swedish). We will be in New York for the RevCon, where we will work together with RCW staff and produce daily news updates.

**CSW/Beijing + 15: (see information above)**

### **Building WILPF**

The aim is to “invest in the next generation of WILPF activities towards our 100th anniversary”.

#### **Peace Yes Please!**

PYP is a project which has been going on for a few years aiming to involve and inspire young people and students. This year we are producing material for a study circle on “Women, peace and security”. The idea is to produce material that the branches in Sweden can use, together with educational associations around the country, also in cities where we do not have a branch. It consists of four sessions with the themes: Peace & Security; Women & Security; Development & Security; and Disarmament & Security. Within the frame of PYP, WILPF Sweden is organising a workshop during the Peace and Love festival in Sweden. The project is first and foremost targeting youth.

#### **Internship Programmes:**

During the spring WILPF Sweden have four interns; Joanna Sundqvist is currently at the Geneva office, after finishing 10 weeks in Stockholm, Lisa Eriksson spent 10 weeks at the UNO in New York and is now at the Stockholm office, Lina Forssell spent 10 weeks in Stockholm, and Malin Fast spends 20 weeks at the international secretariat in Geneva. The interns are very valuable to WILPF Sweden and our international offices, and they do a tremendous job!

The internship programme is also a very valuable tool for engaging students in our work. Experience shows that the women who have been doing internships with us often stay involved, and continue to contribute to and build our organization.

#### **Work of the Swedish Board:**

The Board of WILPF Sweden is discussing how we as a section can build membership within the organization, primarily to increase our possibility to reach out to a broader audience, but also to raise funds for our Swedish and International Sections in preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

### **Upcoming activities and events:**

- 4 May: lecture on Women, Peace and Security – the role of UN and civil society organizations (location: Gothenburg)
- 5 May: Military Spending Seminar (location: Gothenburg)
- 6 May: lecture on Women, Peace and Security – the role of UN and civil society organizations (location: Gävle)
- 1 June: Breakfast for Peace seminar on the NPT RevCon (location: Stockholm)

- 5 June: Nuclear Abolition Day manifestation (day) and music event (evening) (location: Stockholm)
- 5-10 July Almedalen: Swedish Politicians have their “week of politics” in Visby, where politicians, institutions, media and civil society meet and discuss politics. WILPF Sweden will arrange 3 seminars and participate as experts in different events. (location: Visby)

Emma Rosengren (IB member WILPF Sweden) and Lisa Eriksson (intern at the WILPF Sweden Office)