



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UN Office

Newsletter

February 2010

WILPF NEWS

- March 1-12, CSW and 15th year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action!

TAKE ACTION

- Give us **your ideas** for successful fund-raising!
- Why don't you make your next gift a WILPF membership to a friend or family member?
- Bring up WILPF in conversations with your friends.
- Forward this WILPF newsletter to non-WILPF'ers (spread the word about our organisation and help us become more well-known...).
- Get friends and relatives to join WILPF
- Become a member of WILPF's Facebook group
- Start following us on Twitter
- Learn about a resolution related to our work and tell a friend about it! You will soon find useful information and links on our web-site <http://sites.google.com/site/wilpfuno/Home>

CSW 54 and Beijing +15

This year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will of course be held in New York City, March 1-12. The main theme this year is "the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals". Since 2010 also marks 15 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted, this anniversary will be echoed throughout/during the two weeks of the program.

For more information and updates on CSW54, please visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

Interact with the UNO at CSW

1. attend an orientation-evening on the 27th. More information will be available on our web-site soon. <http://sites.google.com/site/wilpfuno/Home>
2. register for our group-site to stay apprised of all happenings during the CSW. please go to: <http://wilpfcsw2010.grouppsite.com>
3. come to our drop-in breakfasts at the Beekman, during the first week of the CSW (March 1-7). Find out more on our web-site.
4. visit our CSW side-events!
 - a. "Advancing Women as Peacemakers from Jane Addams to the Present" Date: 5th March at 6pm, to be held in 11th flr of Church Center Bldg (US Section)
 - b. "Political Implications of Congolese Women for Change" Date: 10th March at 2pm, to be held in 11th flr of Church Center Bldg
 - c. GEAR panel as part of the GEAR Working Group. Find more details on our web-site closer to the event.
5. please drop by at our office on the 6th floor of the Church Building and say "Hi!"
6. come to our evening training on advocacy students. Place: the Beekman, time will be announced on our web-site soon.

CENTS: Changing Every Nation's Thinking About Security

The UN Office Team has been working with members, the Executive Committee, staff members and volunteers in other WILPF offices since this past summer to develop a central project and set of concrete objectives around which to organize all our fund-raising and advocacy work. This project has finally begun to take shape and was introduced at this year's International Board Meeting in India under the working title of CENTS.

The central objective of this project is to reduce military expenditures by a majority of UN Member States by 2015 (WILPF's 100th birthday). Of course, in order to do this, concepts of "security" need to be redefined such that they support healthy women's lives and we must increase awareness of the threats that militarism pose to women. The project will use three interconnected pillars to achieve these goals: education, law and activism.

Education: UN Educational Events 2010-2012

Ideally we will help and inspire each interested WILPF section, branch, office or working group to hold at least one educational event on this project between now and the end of 2012. These events will help us teach ourselves and each other how to do the most effective research, advocacy, fund-raising and activism making it possible to connect the harms of military spending to the issues of most concern to our local sections, chapters, working groups, etc. The educational information will include information about WILPF, the UN, human rights treaties, Treaty Body Review Committees, how to do research on military spending, how to analyse links between military spending and issue(s) of concern, how to fund-raise, and how to conduct effective advocacy. This will allow WILPF sections and branches to do country- and community- specific research and advocacy.

Law: Treaty Body Review Campaign 2010-2014

Beginning now, we are working with law students and expert legal advisors to develop a sound legal strategy by which to use existing human rights law as a weapon against weaponry. This will include Security Council advocacy, networking with other NGOs, expert-analysis advocacy, shadow reporting and Treaty Body Reviewing as well as legal strategy and research.

Activism: PR Campaign that builds toward a Fact Finding Mission to the UN 2013

In time, we hope to develop an intensive PR campaign culminating in a fact finding mission to the UN in 2013. This campaign should raise awareness and create public pressure on governments, the UN, and corporate interests to create *real* security. During the 2013 fact-finding mission WILPF will ask UN Officials and government representatives what they are doing to fulfil the UN charter, among other things. The result will be a well-orchestrated PR effort that builds on all the preceding work of WILPF's educational events and the Treaty Body Review Campaign.

For more info on the CENTS-project you can watch this video, prepared for the WILPF International Board Meeting in India:

<http://vimeo.com/8522400>

Security Council Update, January 2010

In January, four resolutions were passed in the Security Council.

- [Resolution 1908](#) Haiti: the Council decided to increase the number of troops and police personnel in MINUSTAH (the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti).
- [Resolution 1909](#) Nepal: the Council renewed the mandate of UNMIN (the UN Mission in Nepal) until May 15, 2010 and called for UNMIN to make necessary arrangements for its withdrawal by this date. The Council recognised the need to pay special attention to the needs and role of women and children in the peace process.
- [Resolution 1910](#) Somalia: the Council renewed the authorisation of AMISOM (the AU Mission in Somalia) until January 31, 2011. The Council condemned all violations of human rights and international humanitarian and human rights law while stressing the responsibility of all parties to respect fully their obligations and to take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children.
- [Resolution 1911](#) Côte d'Ivoire: the Council extended the mandate of UNOCI (the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire) until May 31, 2010. The Council stresses the importance of removing obstacles and challenges to women's participation and full involvement in public life. The Council calls upon all Ivorian parties to ensure the protection of civilians, including women and children, to adopt a national action plan to address sexual violence and to take appropriate measures to refrain from, prevent and protect civilians from sexual violence.

Women, Peace and Security issues in the Security Council:

Margot Wallström new Security Council Special Representative

The Secretary-General has appointed Margot Wallström as his Special Representative to lead the strengthening of existing UN co-ordination mechanisms and advocate on the prevention of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. Margot Wallström has been the Vice President of the European Commission in charge of Institutional Relations and Communication since 2004.

Statement by Margot Wallström

"I am honoured to learn from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon that he intends to appoint me as his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. I feel very humble to have been chosen from among many excellent candidates for this post and I thank the Secretary General and those who supported me for their confidence. The challenge is enormous. I intend to bring all of my energy and political experience to bear on it. This is an issue which I regard as one of the most important and yet one of the most overlooked and ignored in modern conflicts. Violence against women is the most common but least punished crime in the world. It continues in every continent, country and culture and the results are devastating on women's lives as well as on their families and on the fabric of society as a whole. In recent years it has been sickening to see sexual violence become a tool of modern warfare. In far too many parts of the world women are excluded from the decision-making process and from conflict resolution and peacekeeping. This absolutely has to change and I am determined to play my part in making that change happen."

Gear

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Coalition was formally launched in February 2008 by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, the Women's Environment & Development Organisation (WEDO) and WILPF. GEAR has since then campaigned for greater recognition of women, and better co-ordination of work on women's issues, within the U.N. It now consists of over 300 women's organisations across the world. The resolution calling for the establishment of a new gender entity as part of system wide reform has been one of WILPF's PeaceWomen project's accomplishments in the past year.

On the 1st of February, Anjie Rosga, WILPF's UN Office director, attended a meeting with other GEAR campaign spokeswomen and the co-chairs of the government committee (Tunisia and Estonia) working on the System Wide Coherence Plan, of which GEAR is a part. Anjie represented WILPF, a long time member of the GEAR campaign, to convey the sense of urgency that many women's groups feel about the need to see real evidence that the resolution on the new gender entity is moving forward. The co-chairs showed willingness to meet with GEAR members during the CSW and WILPF will be sure to have representation at such meetings.

The WILPF UN Office Team will be working to develop a lobbying tips sheet filled with GEAR talking points to provide at the CSW. The UNO Team will also provide advocacy training and guidance on how to integrate messages about GEAR with WILPF's broader agendas.

The first meeting of the General Assembly's informal consultations of the plenary on system-wide coherence will be held on Thursday, 4 February 2010. The reports of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women ([A/64/588](#)) and follow-up to General Assembly [resolution 63/311](#) on system-wide coherence related to operational activities for development ([A/64/589](#)) are now available in all the UN's official languages.



Calling upon all our WILPF MEMBERS. As Fundraising is a long-term and large-scale process, we need your help in finding the best possible ways to execute it.

Please send in any and all Fundraising ideas you may have to: shilpa@wilpfuno.org

Presently



We have proposed plans, as well as some donations, to re-arrange our office-space.

We have 9 UN Office Interns, who schedule shifts around limited space.

Presently



We have several Offices on both sides of the Atlantic, with whom we collaborate on overlapping projects.

We have a wealth of resources that are scattered across all of our Sections & Branches.

If we successfully fundraise



We could bring in some more space-saving furniture

We could better accommodate our current interns, and possibly hire new ones as well.

If we successfully fundraise



We could subscribe to an online, web-based project-management system to store active documents, serve as a forum for discussion, and help us better coordinate our transnational projects, activities, and tasks thus improving staff & membership teamwork across our many offices.

All these efforts would significantly increase our efficiency as an office, and as an organisation. the more we able to do, the closer we come to reaching our goals.
