



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

11th Special Session of the Human Rights Council
Oral Statement - 27 May 2009

- On the current situation in Sri Lanka -

Thank you Chairperson.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) welcomes this Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the situation in Sri Lanka. With the end of the upsurge of the armed conflict, the immediate task of providing humanitarian assistance for the victims of the war is immense.

- Decision L1 Rev 2 in Operational Paragraph 5 acknowledges the “commitment of the government of Sri Lanka to provide access as may be appropriate”- the question is: who decides what is appropriate access?
- We call on the Sri Lankan Government to allow the ICRC as well as the international and local non-governmental organizations full access to the former conflict areas, the IDP camps and persons in need.

The end of the armed conflict opens the road to constructing peace in Sri Lanka. Experience teaches us that there must be an understanding and recognition of the root causes of the conflict, which resulted in such devastation and suffering.

- We urge the Sri Lankan Government and all its citizens to unite in building peace on the basis of equality and equity among all its citizens and with the participation of all in the process.
- We advise the Sri Lankan government to install truth and reconciliations commissions to this end, which can address causes and results of the 27 year long conflict.
- We particularly urge the full participation of women in this task and draw attention to Security Council Resolution 1325 as a guide.
- We welcome the recognitions of the specific rights, needs and capacities of girls referenced in Decision L1 Rev 2, Operative paragraph 6, and we also encourage the Council to recall the efforts undertaken by the Security Council to specifically address the issue of Children in Armed Conflict.

To strengthen the Decision L1 Rev 2, we encourage the Council to consider the following:

- The need to address the root causes of the conflict and begin a process of healing in the country by calling for truth & reconciliation commissions.
- The need to ensure that all citizens have fair and equal rights to participate in democratic processes.
- The recommendations of the UN Secretary General after his visit to the country including importance of an accountability process for addressing

violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, by all parties to the conflict.

- By recalling Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820. 1325 to ensure women fully participate in the peace building process and 1820 to ensure that rape crimes are addressed and brought to justice.
- And lastly, by requesting a report from the Government of Sri Lanka to the Human Rights Council at the conclusion of their six month IDP resettlement plan.

Thank you Chairperson.