



E-Newsletter April 2007

Greetings, here is our fifth Environment Working Group e-newsletter. We hope you find it useful and would be very grateful if you could forward it to anyone in your Section and beyond, who would be interested and/or could use the information to further WILPF's aims. Thank you for your contributions and comment.

PLEASE note this edition has details of action we need to take, in Sections and as members of this group. Please respond, where you can, to requests for help and advice.

Congress 2007

We are still hoping to hear from you about your thoughts on the Draft Programme for the EWG for 2007 - 2010. This was in the Feb/March EWG e-news. Read it here if you missed it http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/EWG_eneews_Feb_March_2007.pdf

Urgent - Resolutions

Resolutions needed by 20th April!

Time is running out to send resolutions to the Geneva Office in preparation for Congress. Please urge **your Sections** to consider resolutions around the EWG priorities and send them to the Geneva Office by the deadline.

It would be very helpful to know what your resolutions are. Please let Edel and Sushma have a copy as soon as possible. Their address is at the end of this e news.

It is proposed that we send, from this group, resolutions on the following issues, at least:

- Water conflict between Israel and Palestine and other, neighbouring, countries
- Climate and nuclear energy
- Climate and militarization of space

Please send your suggestions to Edel and Sushma.

Draft Programme for 2007 - 2010

If you missed the last EWG E-News, please read it here for details about proposed areas of priority work for the EWG http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/EWG_eneews_Feb_March_2007.pdf

CSD - 15

April 30th 2007 - WILPF Caucus Meeting

This is the first of the WILPF Caucus meetings. It is an opportunity to meet other WILPF delegates, discuss strategies and share information from the various CSD 15 workshops and sessions. More information from Carole Shaw, UN Office New York, Carole.shaw@wilpf.ch

May 2nd 2007 - The Human Right to Water and the Global Water Crisis”

WILPF's Save the Water Campaign knows water is the most precious resource of the natural commons and makes explicit connections between the topics of energy and water. Through a panel discussion, we intend to present an overarching framework of the global water crisis, and include the subjects of water privatization and the Human Right to Water as sanctified in the UN declaration of Human Rights. More information from Aislinn Ummel, WILPF USA, csd@wilpf.org

May 3rd 2007 - “Weapons in Space or Life on Earth, The Choice is Ours”

Global militarism is the greatest threat to our environment, human rights and sustainable development. Bruce will focus on the dangerous drive to militarize space, currently led by the US Pentagon and aerospace contractors. Promoters of the program declare that “Star Wars” will be the largest industrial project the world has known bringing jobs and profits. They also say they “do not do treaties” and promise “endless war” for the planet’s oil and water as well as for solar system resources. Time is short and we must convert the global military industrial complex to peaceful production and development of sustainable technologies if humanity is to survive. Resources will be available on space treaty negotiations, the US space program and on multi-national corporation “Star Wars” profiteers. More information from Edel Havin Beukes, WILPF Norway, edel@beukes.net

May 8th 2007 - “Nuclear Power is not the Solution to Global Warming”

The thematic focus will be that nuclear power is no solution to the global climate crisis. It is the slowest and most costly way to reduce CO2 emissions. Nuclear weapons and nuclear energy are inextricably linked and there is still no way to store nuclear waste. The production and consumption of uranium, thorium and plutonium to fuel nuclear reactors and to make weapons are unsustainable and dangerous for life on earth. In this event, alternative sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency will be discussed. More information from Edel Havin Beukes, WILPF Norway, edel@beukes.net

Read more about WILPF involvement in this major UN meeting on sustainable development <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/environment/CSD15.html> .

NEWS**WILPF participation in the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (GN) annual meeting in Darmstadt, Germany,**

At least eight WILPF members (from Germany, Britain, Norway and the USA) were among the over fifty people joining with the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in the GN Space conference in Darmstadt, March 24-25. GN represents over 140 organizations working to end militarism in space and working for nuclear abolition. 50 people came to Darmstadt, Germany to represent their groups and WILPF had at least 8 members attend from Germany, Norway, Britain and the USA. Read the report on WILPF involvement in the conference http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/GN_report.doc

In March, UK Section member Rae Street, who is also, spoke in Sheffield, England on the subject of Depleted Uranium. Her speech is very accessible and useful for our work. You can read it here http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/DU_talk_to_WILPF_Sheffield.doc

RESOURCES

- **WILPF Resources**

Uranium weapons – WILPF-Norway’s rapport now available in English

Deadly, low-dose radiation inside the human body

Depleted Uranium is a poison, which in addition is radioactive. Low-dose radiation inside the human body is much more dangerous to people’s health than such radiation from sources outside the body. Tiny radioactive particles in dust and smoke can pass the lung/ blood barrier and be deposited in the bones, where stem cells which produce red and white blood cells are found. This is serious both for soldiers exposed to DU ammunition (Gulf War syndrome), their descendants (deformities) and not least for the population in the war zones, with children as the most exposed group.

Uranium weapons ought to be banned as constituting a threat to humanity.

Physicist Eva Fidjestøl manages to show the complex problems related to uranium weapons clearly and simply. She explains the wide range of problems related to the uranium industry - from the initial chemical-physical processes on to its military uses, from research in the field of health and environment in addition to

the political and economical aspects of production and the disposal of waste. The report is written in a way that enables both the lay reader as well as the specialist to find something of interest in it. It can be recommended to teachers, readers/ lecturers, doctors, health personnel, students and private persons.

The report can be ordered from IKFF-Bergen from Susanne Urban, email susanne@urbanrabbe.no Cost: 50,- nkr + porto / 7,-€ + freight.

- o **Other resources**

“The Effect of Military on Climate Change”, by Pauline Cantwell, from the Peace Caucus in UN, New York. This literature review contains some very useful information for use in our campaigning, for example;

“A two-seat F-16 cruising comfortably at high altitude consumes 900 gallons of fuel in less than an hour’s flight—about twice as much as the average North American motorist burns in a year.”also

“Because at least 60 percent of aviation fuel is burned at altitudes nine kilometres or higher above sea level, the atmospheric effects of military flying impact the entire planet.”

Read more here: [http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/The Effect of Military on Climate Change.doc](http://www.ukwilpf.org.uk/NewsArticles/The_Effect_of_Military_on_Climate_Change.doc)

IF YOU HAVE RESOURCES TO SHARE, PLEASE TELL US.

Notices

1. PHOTO EXHIBITION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, IN BRUSSELS 14/15//16 MAY ‘THE HUMAN COST OF URANIUM WEAPONS’

2. WILPF’s Disarm Campaign – important overlap with EWG work. Please keep up to date by taking time to look at Disarm E-news <http://disarm.wilpf.org/MarApr07/Peace-and-Security-e-news.htm>

3. The EWG is very interested in the environmental cost caused by the military-industrial complex and would be pleased to receive WILPF articles, information or resources to share and learn from.

Book Review

Have you read a book that would help us in our work and that you could tell us about? Email lorraine@mirham.orangehome.co.uk with a short review and we will try to publish it in May.

REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND IDEAS TO:

Lorraine Mirham

Email address: lorraine@mirham.orangehome.co.uk

Edel Haven Beukes: edel@beukes.net

Sushma Pankule: sushmapankule@hotmail.com

We will aim to have the next e-newsletter to you in early June. I will advise you of the deadline for material.

Thank you

E-News produced, this time, by Lorraine Mirham and Edel Havin Beukes