

# WILPF International Programme



**2022–2025**



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WILPF International Programme 2022-2025

This International Programme (IP) is the result of a long co-creation journey which began in July 2021 with an initial round of submissions, consultation and Global Calls, where Sections, Groups, and their members, as well as the International Board and International Secretariat, shared their thoughts on the current context and on what should go into the programme. Input was compiled and incorporated in three phases, with two drafts circulated and discussed for feedback (November 2021 and March/April 2022). The IP Development Group and IP Editorial Group that worked on the draft consisted of International Board members and International Secretariat staff, supported by writer Emily Dontosos and facilitator Jerushah Rangasami.

First Edition

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**wilpf.org**

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# Introduction

The world is at a crossroads and a choice must be made: Will we continue to exploit the planet and one another, destroying all that sustains us, or will we change?

A century ago, WILPF's foremothers diagnosed the root causes of war – systems of oppression that seek to dominate people and the planet through physical, psychological, and economic violence.

Today, these systems – patriarchy, militarism, nationalism, capitalism, racism, and colonialism – are destructive forces with global reach that divide us from one another and from the Earth and threaten the very future of the planet.

The present moment calls for us to be even more radical in how we create change. As the world's longest-standing feminist peace organisation, WILPF must be at the forefront of challenging and disrupting the status quo to demand peace, freedom, justice, nonviolence, human rights, and equality for all. We must address negative trends that threaten to reverse progress. We must commit to being bold, brave, and different in our approaches. And we must fully embody the values of our **Manifesto** to achieve our ultimate goal of permanent peace.

Our WILPF International Programme unites us in a common strategic direction for the next three years (2022–2025):

- ▶ It guides our shared commitment to advancing a feminist approach to permanent peace built on the foundations of freedom, justice, nonviolence, human rights, and equality for all.
- ▶ It guides our collective actions at the local, national, regional, and international levels.
- ▶ It demands courage from each of us and all of us.

**THE CHOICE IS OURS.**  
**WE CHOOSE PEACE.**

# About WILPF'S International Programme

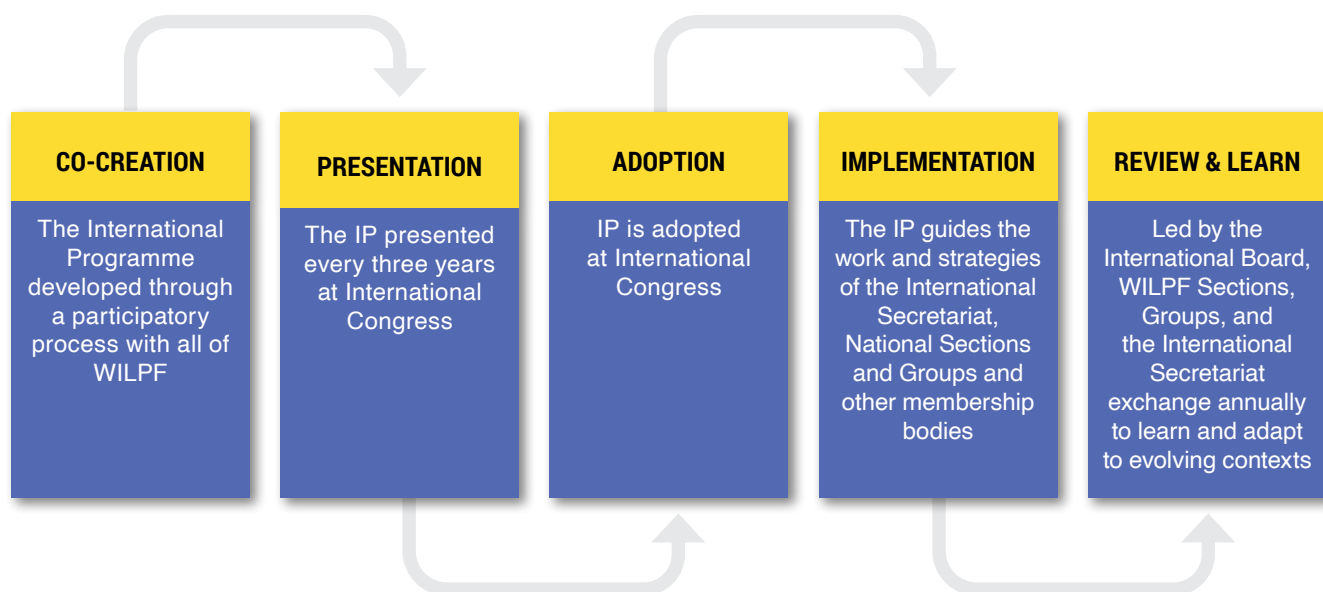
WILPF's International Programme guides the work, values, and actions of the key bodies of the organisation – International Congress, National Sections and Groups, International Board, and International Secretariat – as we work towards our shared vision.

WILPF'S International Programme is reviewed and updated every three years. This International Programme (2022–2025) was co-created through a participatory, collaborative process involving members and staff of WILPF at all levels of the organisation and from all regions around the world. It reflects the current context in which we are working and anticipates the future based on our analysis and understanding.

Most importantly, it builds on the achievements and learnings from the previous **International Programme (2018–2021)**<sup>1</sup> and the courageous work undertaken by all our members and staff around the globe, and across the decades of movement building, advocacy, and activism for permanent peace.

WILPF's International Programme was adopted at the International Congress 2022 and serves as WILPF's roadmap for the three-year period of 2022 to 2025.

## Developing and implementing the International Programme



<sup>1</sup> Note that the 2018-2021 International Programme continued into 2022 due to disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## What's in this document

This document is intended to guide WILPF members and partners through the various components of the International Programme and the foundations upon which it has been built, as well as offer support to members for adapting the strategy to the local contexts in which members live and work. It includes:

### CHAPTER 1

- WILPF's refreshed vision, values, and approach, establishing the foundation for our goals and actions.
- An overview of WILPF's structures and a description of the main bodies of WILPF.

### CHAPTERS 2 & 3

- A brief look at WILPF's history and an examination of the present day context in which the movement is operating.

### CHAPTERS 4 & 5

- The International Programme strategy itself, beginning with the section "Our Feminist Path to Peace." This section establishes our collective vision and goals for a future of permanent peace, with an explanation of a logical pathway to achieve our vision.

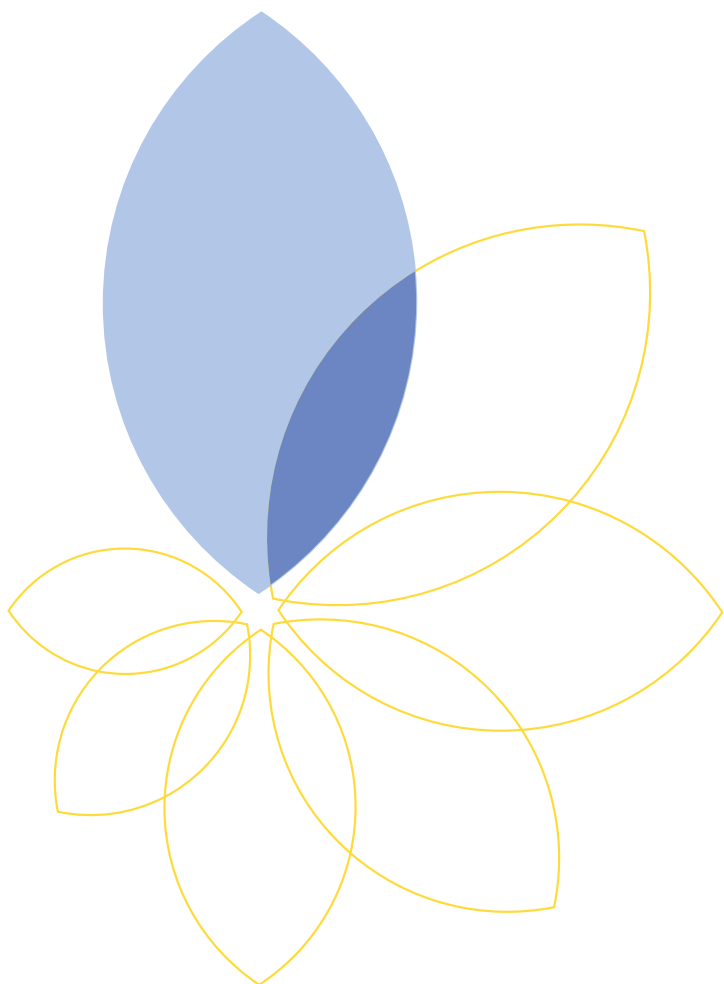
### CHAPTER 6

- The section "How We Will Achieve Our Vision and Goals" articulates three specific action areas that can and should be adapted for our respective contexts.
- The following section offers a look at how we work together, who we work with, and who we seek to influence, providing an overview of our work methods.

### CHAPTER 7

- The final chapter, "Strengthening WILPF," shares our commitments to strengthen WILPF internally as a movement.

Finally, the conclusion shares guidance on how members can begin the process of adapting the International Programme to their local contexts. This is followed by a suggested planning template, which itself can be adapted to the specific needs of each Section or Group.



01

**ABOUT WILPF**

# Our Vision, Values, Approach, and Structure

WILPF is a membership-based organisation that works through feminist principles, in solidarity and partnership with sister activists, networks, coalitions, platforms, and civil society organisations. WILPF has member Sections and Groups in over 40 countries and partners around the world.

## Our vision

A world of permanent peace built on feminist foundations of freedom, justice, nonviolence, human rights, and equality for all, where people, the planet, and all its other inhabitants coexist and flourish in harmony.

WILPF's vision is reflected and embedded in both our [Constitution](#) and our [2015 Manifesto](#).

## Our values and approach

### Values

**Our vision of peace is based on the values we have shared over time. These include:**

**Equality and human rights:** At the heart of our work is a commitment to advance the enjoyment of freedom, human rights, and justice for all without discrimination based on gender or any other grounds.

**Anti-militarism:** We reject militarism in all its forms: as a system that diverts society's resources towards weapons and war; as a mindset and culture that weaponises security and gender relations; and as a leading contributor to armed conflict and armed violence in communities and countries around the world.

**Nonviolence:** We work for social change without resorting to or supporting violence, including harm to people and the Earth. We engage in peaceful forms of protest to promote sustainable and positive approaches to the challenges that are presented to us.

**Solidarity:** We are united and committed to caring for and supporting each other as equals. We believe that experiences of inequality, injustice, and insecurity concern us all. We stand together.

**Anti-racism:** We oppose and strive to eliminate racism – in all its forms – in our work, in our daily lives, throughout and within our organisations, and in how we perceive, approach, and interact with one another and others.

**Ecological sustainability:** In the face of the climate and environmental crisis, we defend and uphold relationships between humans, the planet, and all its other inhabitants that respect and promote the care of biodiversity and promote mutual well-being.

**Care and community:** We prioritise people and the planet over profit, and investment in the public good, such as care, social, and community infrastructure and people's well-being, over privatisation, militarism, and individualism.

**Integrity:** We act with respect, responsibility, transparency, and accountability to ourselves and one another. Working with courage and honesty, we strive to continuously reflect and learn to live our values.



## Approach

To implement this International Programme, we are committed to a feminist approach to peace that is built on:

**Collaboration and participation:** We work collaboratively and in solidarity all across the WILPF movement, and in partnership with other individuals and organisations who align with our vision in the larger movement for peace. Through our holistic, grassroots approach to movement building, we strive to ensure that all people can fully participate.

**Strength in diversity:** As a global network, we see human and cultural diversity as a strength. We are committed to celebrating people in all their diversity and working together with sorority, empathy, curiosity, understanding, and inclusivity by creating spaces for learning, interaction, and reconciliation.

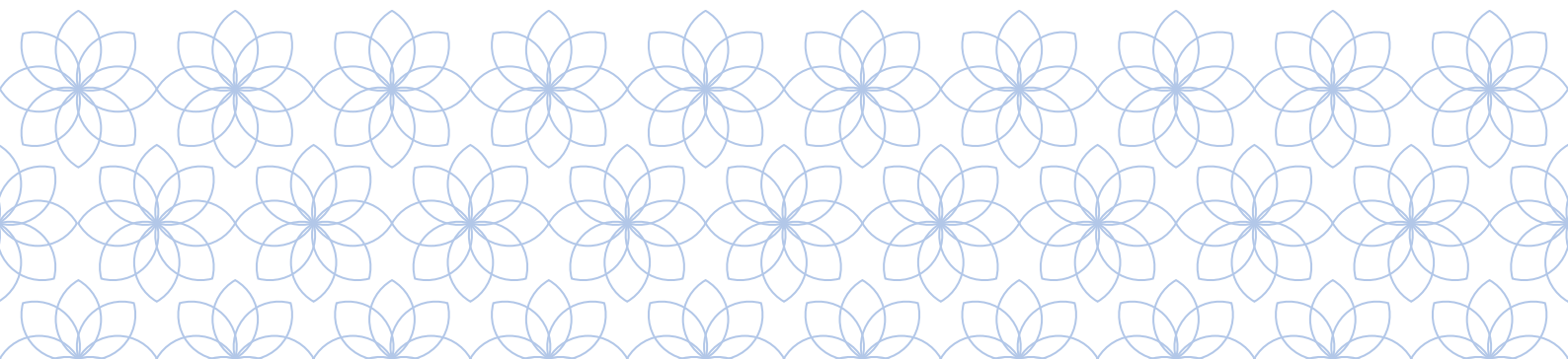
**Persistence:** We work with courage and determination, leaning on our shared values and vision of the future.

**Intersectionality:** We recognise that people experience different types of oppression that often intersect and reinforce one another, including violence and discrimination based on gender, race, social class, sexuality, physical ability, and other traits. We are committed to have our actions informed by gender analysis that takes this intersectionality into account.

**Learning and sharing:** We are curious, and engage in a constant exchange of diverse knowledge and information. We are committed to building shared knowledge about the root causes of violence and conflict in all their forms, and we are dedicated to constantly educating ourselves as we strive to strengthen, grow, and evolve our movement.

**Transforming power:** We work to build peace-enhancing processes that redefine power by seeking to create empowering and collective relationships (“power with”) instead of dominating and hierarchical ones (“power over”).

**Centring lived experience:** We centre the leadership, voices, and experiences of women and others who are directly impacted by violence, conflict, and other manifestations of oppressive systems. We recognise that lived experience allows us to identify and advocate for solutions to challenges, with the support and solidarity of the movement.



## How WILPF is structured

The main **bodies of WILPF** consist of the International Congress, the International Board, the National Sections and Groups, and the International Secretariat.



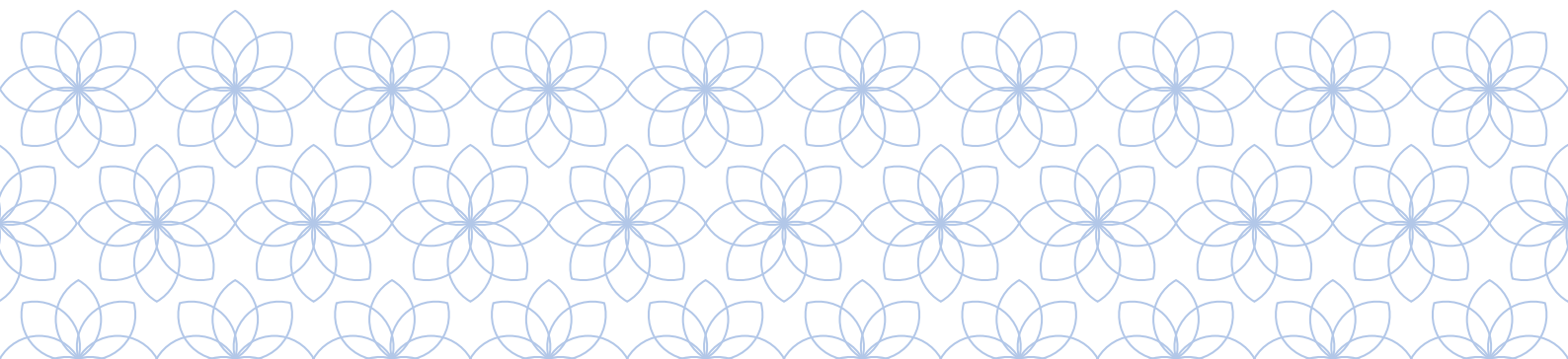
The **International Congress**, which meets every three years, is the highest decision-making body of WILPF. It is composed of all members of the International Board and delegates and alternates representing the National Sections.

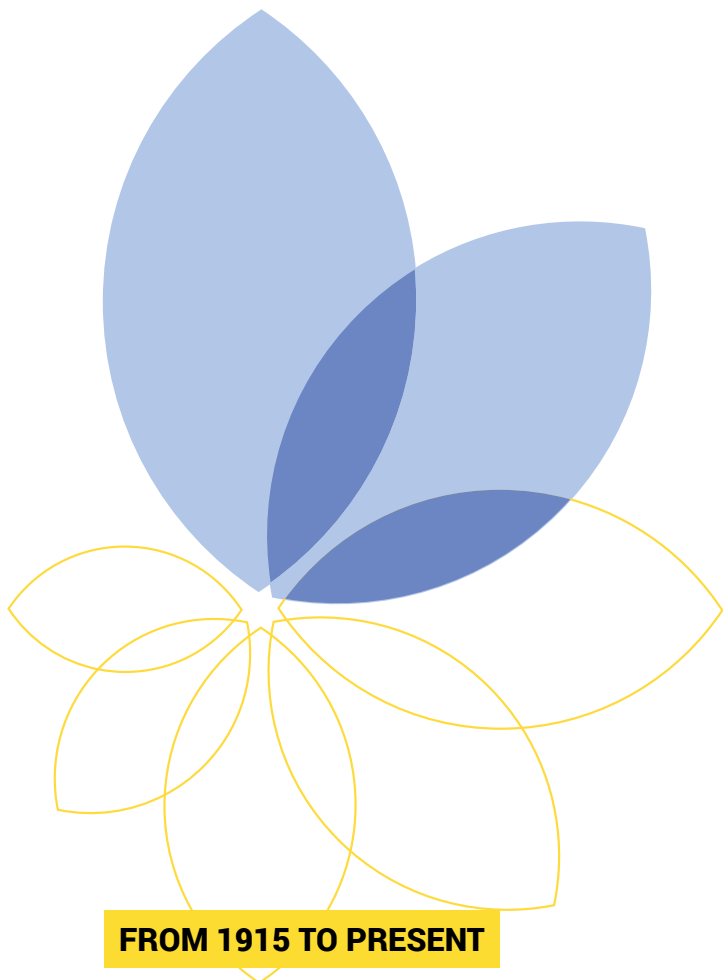
The **International Board** is responsible for the overall leadership and governance of WILPF, sets direction on culture and values, and ensures WILPF achieves its aims and principles between International Congresses. It ensures that the decisions adopted by the International Congress to further the aims and principles of WILPF are implemented and that the organisation meets its legal and financial obligations as a constituted body. The International Board is composed of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and one Regional Representative and one alternate Regional Representative for each region, together with the Secretary-General.

The **National Sections and Groups** are currently active in six **regions**: Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and South Asia. National Sections and Groups use the International Programme as a guide for the development of their own strategies, which respond to their own contexts; they then implement their strategies through a national action or operational plan.

WILPF has a number of formal **Standing Committees** (such as the Standing Constitution Committee, Standing Committee on Risk Management, and Standing Personnel Committee), and **Working Groups**. Committees comprise a limited number of members and their purpose is to provide guidance in key functional areas and advise the International Board. Working Groups focus on specific thematic issues and are open to all interested members.

Under the direction of the Secretary-General, the **International Secretariat's** role includes the implementation and reporting on policies, resolutions, and programmes as adopted by the International Congress and the International Board; managing financial operations; recommending and developing new initiatives in response to emergency and/or emerging issues of primary concern for WILPF; and the provision of administrative support to the International Congress and International Board.





**FROM 1915 TO PRESENT**

## WILPF's Journey

02

In late April 1915, as the First World War raged in Europe, 1,136 activists for women's voting rights and peace gathered in The Hague.

United in their opposition to war and violence, they engaged in dialogue about the root causes of war and committed to taking action to help end the suffering – including by advocating for the inclusion of women's voices at all levels of decision-making.

Together, they established the International Women's Committee of Permanent Peace. In 1919, the Committee was officially renamed the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).



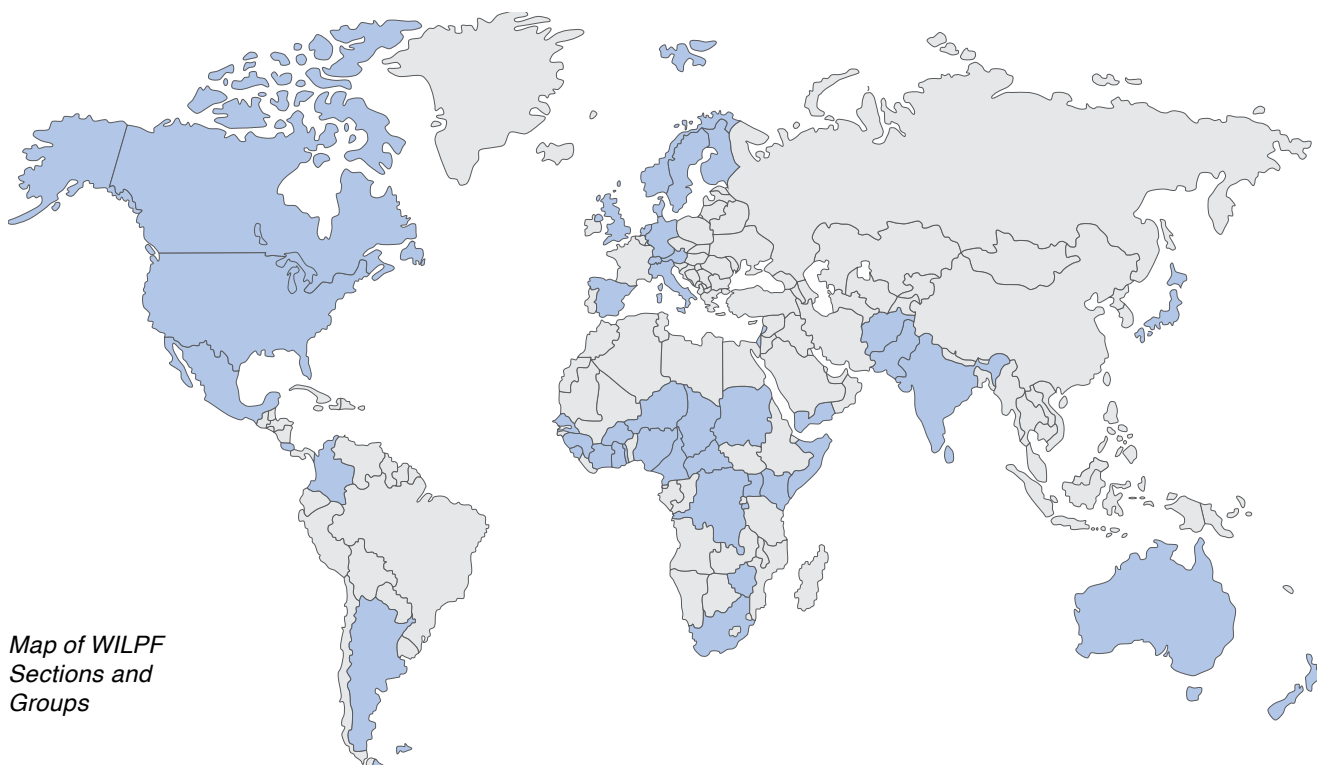
More than 100 years later, WILPF is now a global, feminist peace organisation with member Sections and Groups in over 40 countries across the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, and with partners around the world.

Our evolution from 1915 to the present day has been defined by the growth of worldwide representation and cross-border and cross-cultural collaboration between diverse women activists and movements.

Throughout the 1920s, as nationalism and fascism took root in the wake of the First World War, WILPF members worked to promote international arbitration and mediation mechanisms in case of disagreements between nations. They advocated for the creation of a League of Nations – a group of nations committed to taking diplomatic, peaceful approaches to the prevention and resolution of war – which was established in 1920. In June 1945, the United Nations Charter was signed – an action that was strongly supported by WILPF – and came into force in October 1945. The League of Nations was officially dissolved in 1946.

In the 1930s, as tensions in Europe escalated alongside the rise of anti-Semitism, WILPF mobilised to pressure their governments to resist the policies of Nazi Germany and its allies. WILPF also appealed to the public to speak out against Hitler's actions and policies. Members' efforts to denounce fascism, support refugees, and demand an end to war continued tirelessly throughout the Second World War.





## WILPF's Sections

In 1946, on the heels of the war, WILPF passed a resolution at the 10th Congress in Luxembourg affirming a collective commitment to upholding human rights of all people – a major milestone for an organisation that had, until that point, not actively recognised the struggles faced by people in diverse global contexts.

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, WILPF's tireless work to advocate for a future of peace and freedom for all continued unabated while our global community grew in size, scope, and diversity.

A major milestone for the movement occurred in 2017, when 122 states voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the United Nations headquarters in New York City – a result of years of advocacy efforts by WILPF and other civil society organisations.

That same year, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – of which WILPF has been a proud member since 2007 – was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its successful efforts to make the treaty a reality. TPNW was entered into force on 22 January 2021.

Today, our determination to break down barriers to inclusion and to advocate for justice for everyone has built a representative movement that elevates the voices of peace activists, advocates, and allies everywhere – including across Africa, where the number of Sections and Groups has doubled over the past three years.

Strengthened by our diversity and empowered by perspectives from around the world, WILPF continues to honour the legacies of our founders while forging new paths forward in pursuit of peace, freedom, justice, human rights, and equality for all.

**To read the full history of WILPF, visit [our history page on wilpf.org](https://www.wilpf.org).**

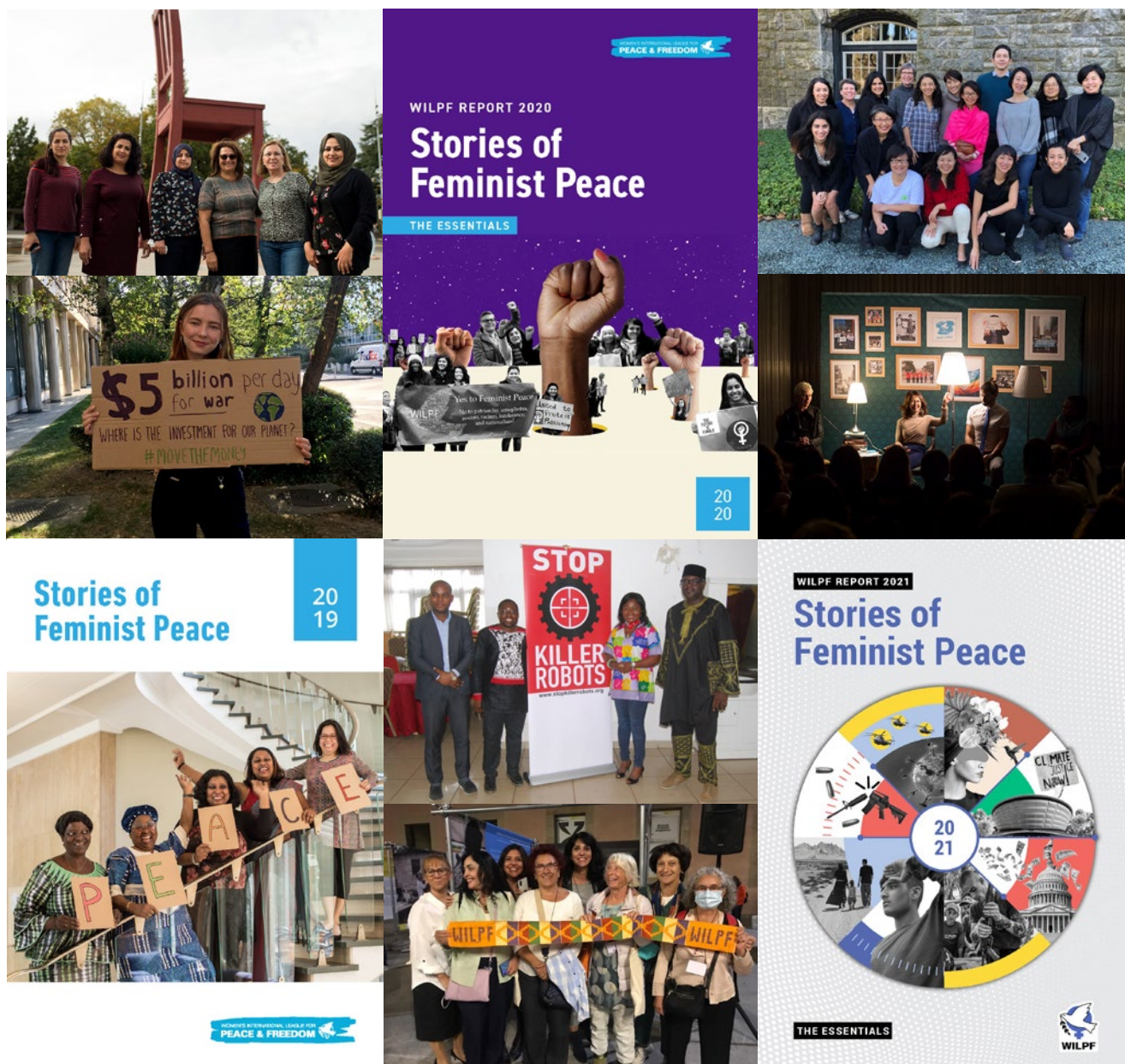


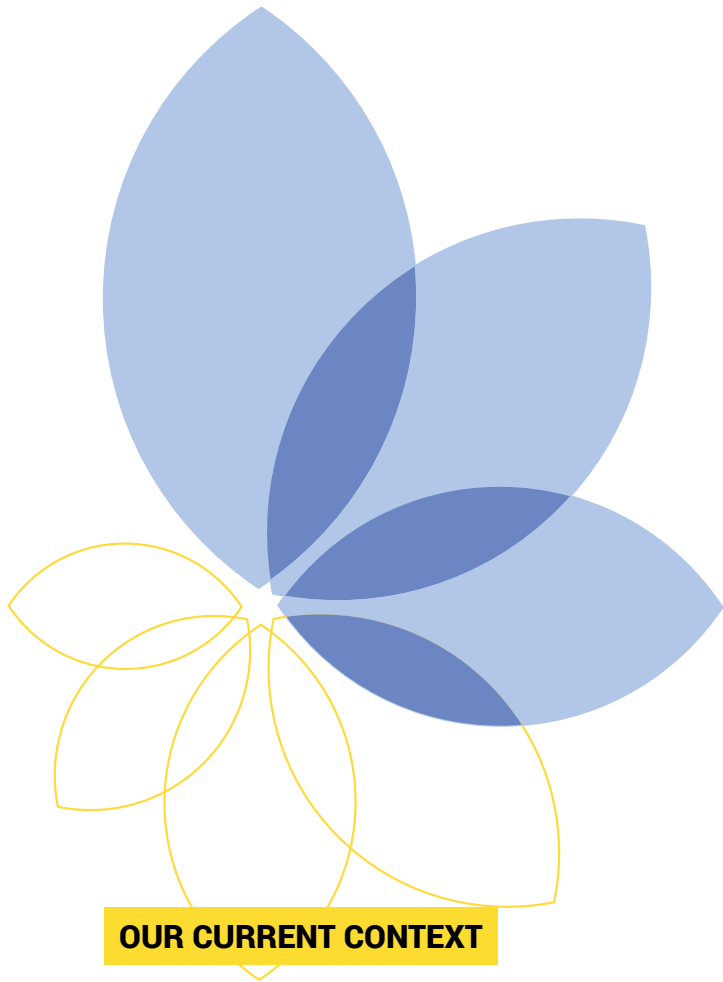
## Celebrating our achievements: 2018-2021

Since the adoption of our last International Programme in 2018, the world has faced extraordinary challenges – including a growing climate and environmental crisis, a global pandemic, the erosion of democracies, and the devastating impacts of militarisation – that threaten the planet and its inhabitants.

Through it all, WILPF's global community has been there – advocating, analysing, and organising for urgently-needed action – even as many members navigated their own personal challenges and struggles across diverse contexts.

A more extensive overview of this past period can be found in our yearly annual reports for **2018**, **2019**, **2020**, and **2021**.





## OUR CURRENT CONTEXT

## Working for Peace in a World at Odds

Here, we describe the key challenges WILPF is working to address as we collectively pursue a future in which people and the planet flourish in harmony. As we define our priorities, opportunities, and challenges for the years ahead, we are committed to constantly evolving alongside the **rapidly changing context** of the world around us.

Today, the interconnected systems of oppression that enable and perpetuate inequalities – **militarism, nationalism, capitalism, racism, and colonialism**, all of which are rooted in patriarchal concepts of power and cultural supremacy – continue to keep sustainable peace and freedom out of reach for the majority of the world's population while accelerating the climate crisis and environmental destruction.



## The growing threat and impact of militarism and conflict

Around the world, **militarism and military activity** – supported by the global financial system and war profiteers – continue to fuel violence in the name of security, leading to deepening inequalities and exacerbating environmental destruction. No living being on the planet is left untouched by militarism, which exerts its influence on decision-makers, in our societies, in our communities, in our schools, and in our homes.

The **inability of the multilateral system to uphold the principles of the UN Charter** and international law has ensured perpetual conflict. From continued oppression in Palestine, to the international escalation of militarism following the war in Ukraine, to the failure of international “stabilisation” in Afghanistan – the list is long. Law and principle have been surrendered to geopolitical interests at the expense of people and of the planet itself.



There is a flagrant **lack of global leadership** for peace. We have seen instruments such as the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security become co-opted into patriarchal structures, rather than being used as vehicles for change. The definitions of “security” remain rigidly militarised. Global military spending is at record levels<sup>2</sup>, and nuclear weapons are now positioned as “usable” rather than unthinkable!

From active conflict within and between countries to the violence of economic warfare, including the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, people and communities are increasingly faced with the **deliberate erosion** of social welfare systems, lack of access to education and healthcare, food insecurity, and constant threats to their lives and livelihoods.

Combined with the impacts of conflict, the climate crisis, economic inequality, colonialism, and other challenges, military activity has caused or forced countless people to **leave their homes to seek safety elsewhere**. Yet through increasingly militarised borders and discriminatory asylum systems, the international community is turning its back on the human rights of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants, who face continued violence, racism, and other violations.

These realities have been supported and compounded by the growing influence of **oppressive ideologies** and their networks rooted in nationalism, racism, and white supremacy. Women, girls, and other people in marginalised situations are paying the price as their rights are increasingly threatened, compromised, or violated.



<sup>2</sup> SIPRI, “World military expenditure passes \$2 trillion for first time,” 25 April 2022, <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2022/world-military-expenditure-passes-2-trillion-first-time>.

## The continued erosion of human rights, justice, and equality

The COVID-19 pandemic has further laid bare the systemic inequalities in our societies created by a **capitalist and neocolonial global economic system**.<sup>3</sup> For example, resources such as vaccines were allocated according to the priorities of those in power. People and communities already experiencing marginalisation and oppression have suffered the most severe impacts of the pandemic while the wealth and privilege of the few are protected. These realities are further compounded by **state-sponsored austerity measures** in some countries, sponsored by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and enacted by national governments.

The **climate and environmental crisis** – clearly communicated by recent reports<sup>4</sup> from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and driven by the reckless neocolonial actions of people, states, and corporations – is exacerbating these inequalities as the world's most vulnerable populations disproportionately grapple<sup>5</sup> with the effects of a crisis they did not cause.

Yet governments and corporations – enabled and empowered by a global economic system that promotes lifestyles based on the consumption of non-renewable energy – continue to invest billions of dollars each year to **protect and grow their economic interests** at the expense of people and the planet.

## The differential impacts of discrimination

All of these challenges have also clearly demonstrated that oppression based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability, age, class, and other factors directly impacts the enjoyment of **human rights**, including to health and education.

Women, girls, and people experiencing marginalisation – particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination – are among **those at greatest risk of having their human rights violated** as they face increased job insecurity, growing poverty, worsening health, lack of access to education, and heightened risk of gender-based violence.



3 See, for example, WILPF, “HRC44: Statement on COVID-19 and Women’s Rights,” 2020, [https://www.wilpf.org/advocacy\\_documents/hrc44-statement-on-covid-19-and-womens-rights/](https://www.wilpf.org/advocacy_documents/hrc44-statement-on-covid-19-and-womens-rights/)

4 See the Reports section of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s website: <https://www.ipcc.ch>

5 Concord Sweden, Feminist Policies for Climate Justice, 2020, <https://ikff.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/fem-rapport-2020-final.pdf>

Women human rights defenders and environmental defenders are facing increased violence, harassment, and intimidation<sup>6</sup> – both in person and online – because of their leadership, pointing to growing **resistance to civil society spaces** and the realisation of women’s rights, as well as the lack of mechanisms in place to protect them.

In addition, the legacies, influence, and practices of colonialism continue to harm and oppress people and communities around the world, including through **occupation<sup>7</sup>, apartheid, and systemic injustices inflicted against Indigenous Peoples**.

In the face of these challenges, civil society movements – the people and organisations working for change – are experiencing existential threats, limited access to resources and funding, and the reversal of gains made in recent decades.

## Finding hope and strength in activism

The challenges before us are profound and unprecedented. But just as we always have, WILPF continues to work for a future of peace, freedom, justice, human rights, and equality for all.

In a world with deep structural problems, activism cannot stop at analysis; we must **resist and disrupt the root causes of inequalities** that divide and oppress us. And we must develop and promote alternative systems and leverage the spaces available to us – advocacy, organising, mobilisation, and direct action – to create true and lasting change.

Working for permanent and sustainable peace is a long-term commitment. Although we have faced and will continue to face countless setbacks, **we know activism works** – and that in the face of intersecting crises, we will continue to find and take hold of opportunities to advocate for peace.

Through it all, we will continue to elevate the voices of women, girls, and people in marginalised situations while pushing back strongly against the forces attempting to hold us down, violate us, and shut us up.

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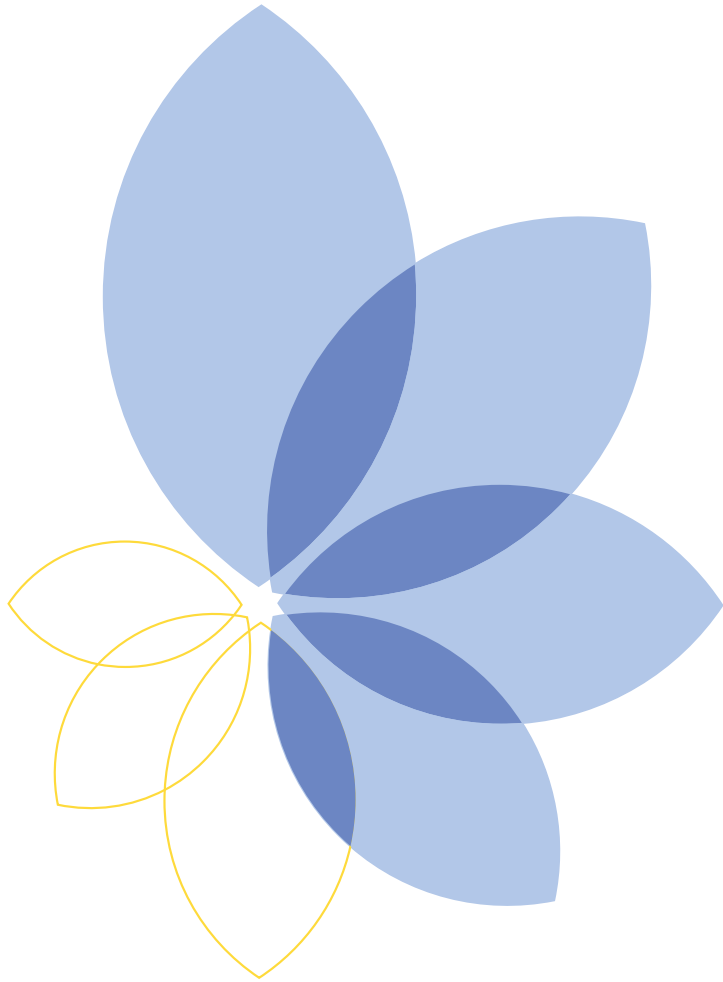
**We will continue to speak truth to power.  
We will continue to celebrate and be  
strengthened by our solidarity as we  
pursue a future of feminist peace.**

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<sup>6</sup> See, for example, “Women Human Rights Defenders Should Stay Strong,” 2018, <https://www.wilpf.org/women-human-rights-defenders-should-stay-strong/>

<sup>7</sup> See, for example, a joint statement from WILPF and the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling about the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (2021): [https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HRCSS30\\_WILPF\\_WCLAC\\_Jt-statement.pdf](https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HRCSS30_WILPF_WCLAC_Jt-statement.pdf)



04

**THEORY OF CHANGE**

# Our Feminist Path to Peace

Over the course of the next three years, we will continue working towards our collective vision of feminist, permanent peace built on foundations of freedom, justice, nonviolence, human rights, and equality for all.

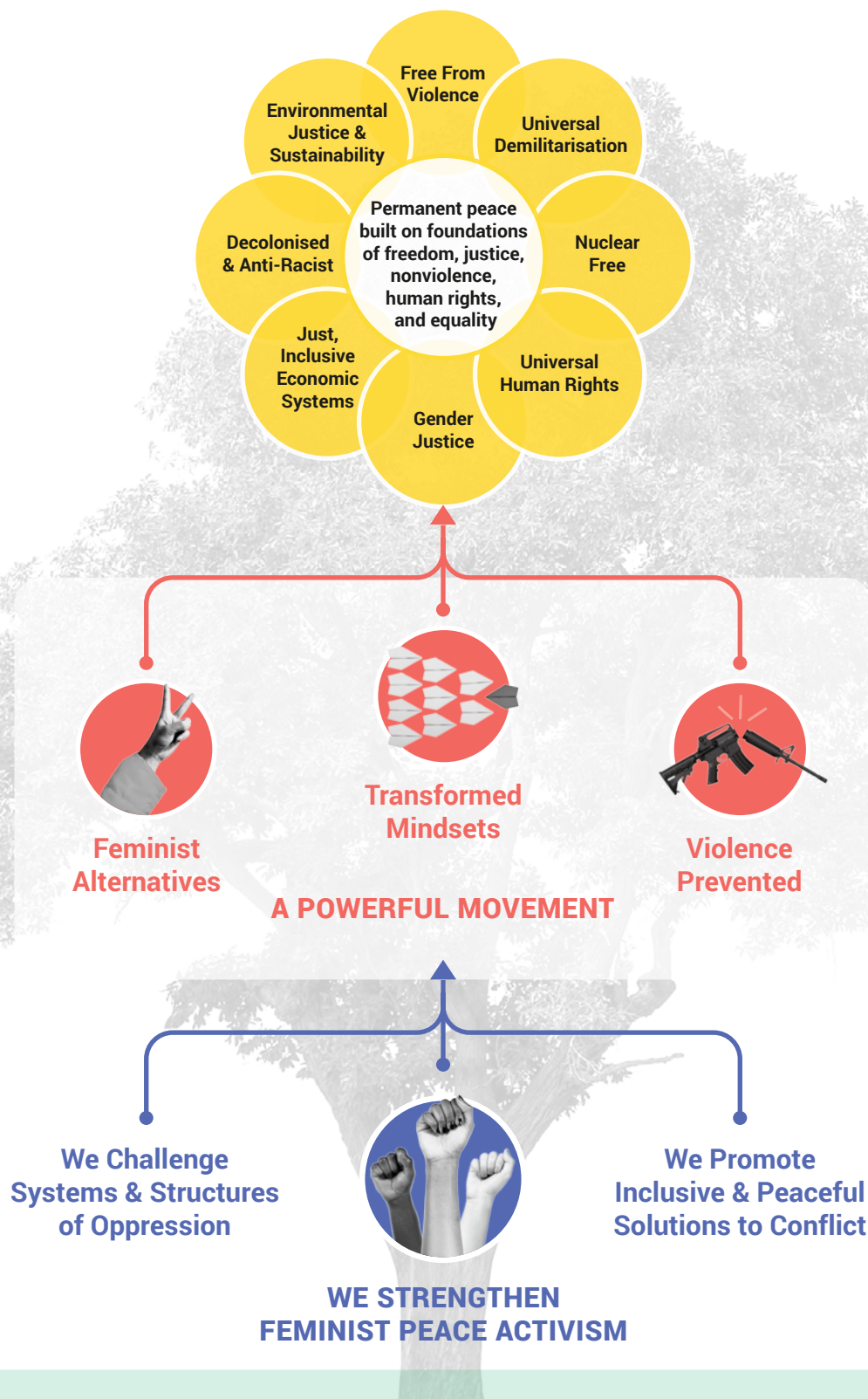
The chapters that follow describe what we aim to achieve and the steps that we will take to make progress towards our vision in 2022, 2023, and 2024. The approach described in these pages relies on the leadership and work of WILPF Sections, Groups, and members around the world, to adapt it to our respective contexts.

## OUR VISION

## OUR GOALS

## OUR ACTIONS

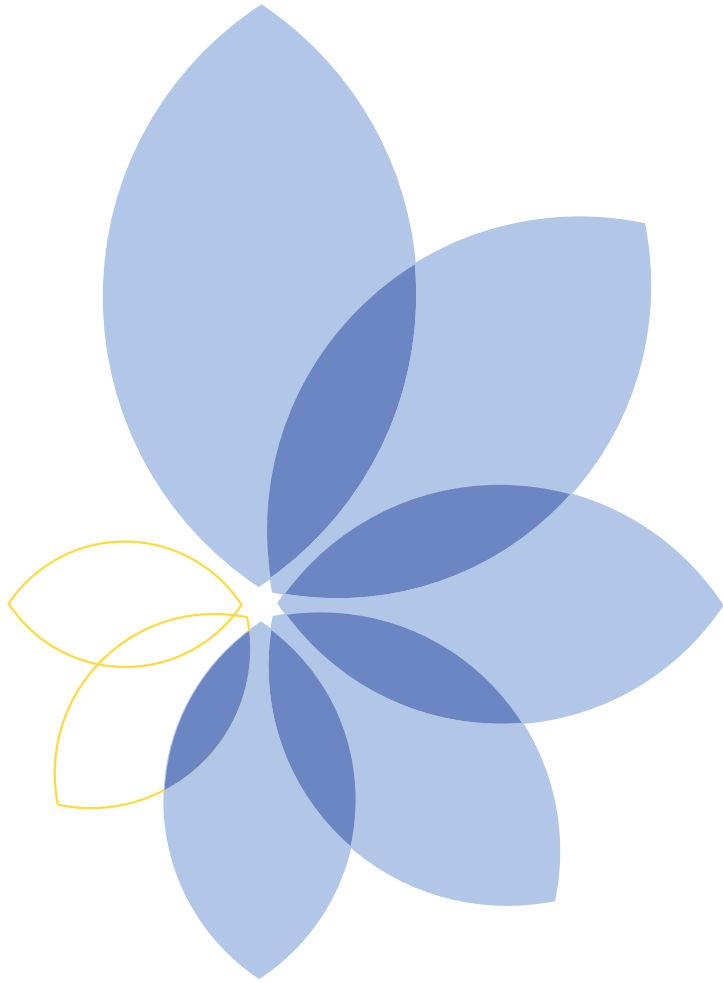
## HOW WE WORK TOGETHER



## CONNECTING LOCAL TO GLOBAL ACTION, WE WORK THROUGH:

Activism & Organising + Awareness Raising + Solidarity Dialogues

Advocacy + Alliance Building + Resourcing Feminist Peace + Analysis



05

#### OUR VISION & GOALS

## What We Aim to Achieve

We are united in our determination to study and make known the root causes of war, and we work to abolish the legitimisation, practices, tools, and mindsets of war.

We believe thinking and acting transformatively can create a future in which permanent peace is possible.



## Our vision

Our vision is a world of feminist, permanent peace built on foundations of freedom, justice, nonviolence, human rights, and equality for all, where people, the planet, and all its inhabitants coexist and flourish in harmony.

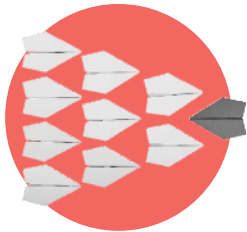
Our concept of permanent peace is a world defined by:

- **Total and universal demilitarisation and disarmament:** All weapons are eliminated everywhere, and cultural, political, and economic systems based on weapons and war are transformed to meet the needs of people and the planet.
- **A nuclear-free world:** Nuclear weapons and nuclear power are banned and abolished in favour of sustainable energy.
- **Universal human rights:** All people everywhere have all their human rights fully realised without discrimination on any grounds, and human rights violations and abuses are prevented, addressed, and remedied. Securing human rights is crucial to conflict prevention and resolution.
- **Gender justice:** An end to patriarchy, with gender equity (equal distribution of resources, access, and opportunities based on needs) and gender equality (equal outcomes for all) achieved.
- **Just and inclusive economic systems:** People, the planet, and its other inhabitants are put before profit and growth. Our economies are centred around dignity, equity, care, justice, and sustainability. Valuable resources are no longer squandered and exploited by militarism and corporate greed.
- **A decolonised and anti-racist world:** The violence and inequalities created by colonialism and racism have been identified and transformed and people everywhere are actively repairing the harms that have been done, including through policies, legislation, and reparations.
- **Freedom from violence in all its forms:** People, in all their diversity, enjoy lives free from the threat or experience of violence, including at the structural, state, collective, and interpersonal levels, enabling them to live in freedom and dignity.
- **Environmental justice and sustainability:** Societies co-exist in harmony with nature and function sustainably; the disproportionate impact of the climate and environmental crisis on people from areas of the world that have been historically marginalised is recognised and addressed.



## Our goals

To achieve our vision, we will work towards four interconnected goals:



**Transformed  
Mindsets**



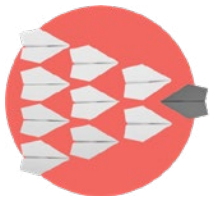
**Violence  
Prevented**



**Feminist  
Alternatives**



**A Powerful  
Movement**



### Transformed mindsets

**We envision a future where militarised mindsets are transformed, where we have shifted dominant attitudes and beliefs that champion discriminatory and destructive forms of power.**

Concepts of security will be reframed from violence and militarism to systems and structures that offer true peace and security, including a world free from weapons and well-resourced community and social infrastructure.

Public attitudes about militarism will be shifted through awareness of the devastating costs of war, conflict, and institutionalised violence, and through knowledge of nonviolent ways to address conflict.

Destructive gender norms will be transformed from harmful power relations to equal partnerships; from militaristic notions of masculinity to men and boys as allies of peace; and from simplistic male versus female stereotypes to the acceptance of more complex gender realities and identities.

Racist, privileged systems, practices, and patterns of behaviour and colonial mentalities will be addressed, repaired, and dismantled.

*"We reaffirm our determination to end, now and forever, the patriarchal relations of power, control, and abuse that have deformed the lives of women, children, and men for millennia, and which contribute to violent societies."*

WILPF Manifesto (2015)





## Violence prevented

**We envision a future where violence is prevented through peaceful and gender-responsive means that address root causes of conflict.**

Gender-based violence will be prevented and eradicated in all its forms and from all spheres of life, both in times of conflict and peace.

Conflict will be addressed and resolved through nonviolent, inclusive means, including dialogue, mediation, and diplomacy. Justice and gender equality is at the heart of conflict prevention.

The use and circulation of small arms in public life and communities will be halted and dismantled. Weapons – including nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction – and their manufacturing will be stigmatised, prohibited, and ultimately eliminated through the universal ratification and implementation of multilateral disarmament instruments.

The arms trade, at the local, national, and international level, will cease along with the development of new weapons systems and technologies.

Military alliances will be dismantled and military budgets – in particular those supporting colonialist, occupying, or imperialist forces and militarised borders – will be redistributed towards the public good.

Governments, corporations, militaries, and other actors will be held accountable for human rights violations and abuses. Human rights and justice will be secured, including through accountability to address and prevent armed aggression, oppression, and occupation, and to provide remedy to victims.

*“Violence is not inevitable. It is a choice. We choose non-violence, as means and as end. We will liberate the strength of women and, in partnership with like minded men, bring to birth a just and harmonious world. We will implement peace, which we believe to be a human right.”*

WILPF Manifesto (2015)



## Feminist alternatives

**We envision a future where systems of oppression are replaced with feminist alternatives that champion human rights, demilitarisation, accountability, and restitution, and where a just, ecological transition has been achieved, led by economic policies that prioritise the well-being of people and the planet.**

Crisis and security responses, including responses to issues related to climate change, health crises, migration, and other critical concerns, will be demilitarised and will instead be led by properly trained and resourced civilian disaster response efforts.

The original principles of the United Nations to guarantee peace, justice, and human rights will be restored. It will be protected from corporate capture and corruption and instead driven by public engagement and accountability. Global action agendas for a better world will be pursued and implemented to their fullest extent.

State and non-state actors will uphold human rights norms and legal instruments, and there will be effective laws and public policies to the benefit of rights-holders.

To advance a just transition towards ecological sustainability and a fossil fuel – and nuclear-free future, corporations and exploitative businesses will be reigned in and held accountable to communities impacted by climate change and the environmental crisis. Environmental causes of conflict – such as resource scarcity and land degradation – will be addressed through regenerative policies and practices. The human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment will be respected and upheld.

Neoliberal economic policies will be replaced with investments focused on public resources, basic human needs, and community and social infrastructure in order to ensure human security and the well-being of people and the planet.

Decolonisation will be achieved through the acknowledgment and transformation of unequal power relations rooted in colonisation and imperialism. Laws and policies that welcome and protect asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants will be implemented and upheld.

*“We will shake the foundations and topple the structures of power that foster it: capitalism and its class system, patriarchy with its gender hierarchy, and nationalism with its racist ranking of diverse peoples.”*

WILPF Manifesto (2015)



## A powerful movement

**Feminist activism underpins the success of each of our first three goals. We envision a powerful, inclusive, and intersectional feminist movement that connects peace activists and other social justice movements on a global scale as we pursue collective action for change.**

Feminist organising in local, community, and grassroots settings will be strong and vibrant. Contributions and exchanges by activists will be local, collaborative, and participatory, and mutual support will be provided.

Women and other feminist activists will be connected beyond borders and acting in solidarity for peace, to demand an end to systems of oppression and to participate fully in economic, social, political, and environmental/land decisions in any territory of the world.

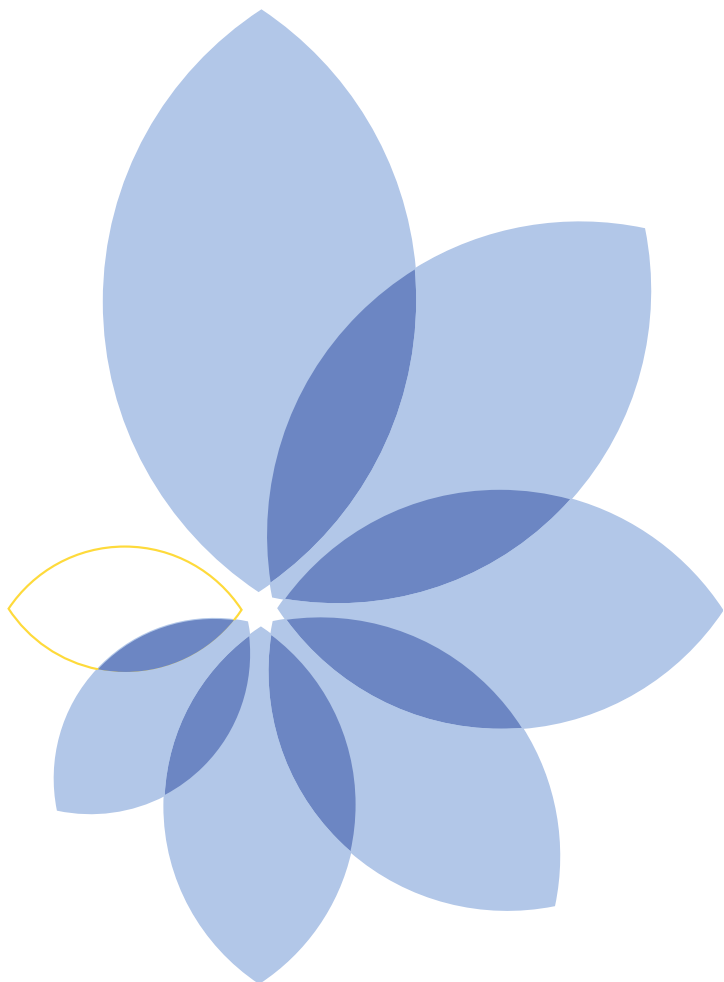
Women and other feminist activists will have real and effective opportunities to bring the realities of conflict from a gender perspective to the attention of decision-makers, including at peace tables and as part of long-term peacebuilding strategies, and will have their solutions for peace heard and acted upon fully.

The achievement of a safe and enabling environment will ensure activists can promote disarmament, human rights, and peace without fear of harassment, threats, or attacks.

Women's and feminist organisations will be widely supported and properly resourced.

*"We are determined that WILPF shall grow and become more effective, that we will engage, mobilise and amplify the energies of women worldwide to do away with militarism as mindset, militarisation as process and war as practice."*

WILPF Manifesto (2015)



06

**OUR ACTIONS**

## How We will Achieve Our Vision and Goals

To achieve our vision and goals, we will continue to mobilise one of the most powerful forces for change: women's and feminist activism, rooted in an anti-racist and intersectional approach that challenges and eliminates discrimination in all its forms.

The following section outlines the core actions that will guide us at the local, national, regional, and global levels over the three year period of 2022 to 2025.

## Our actions

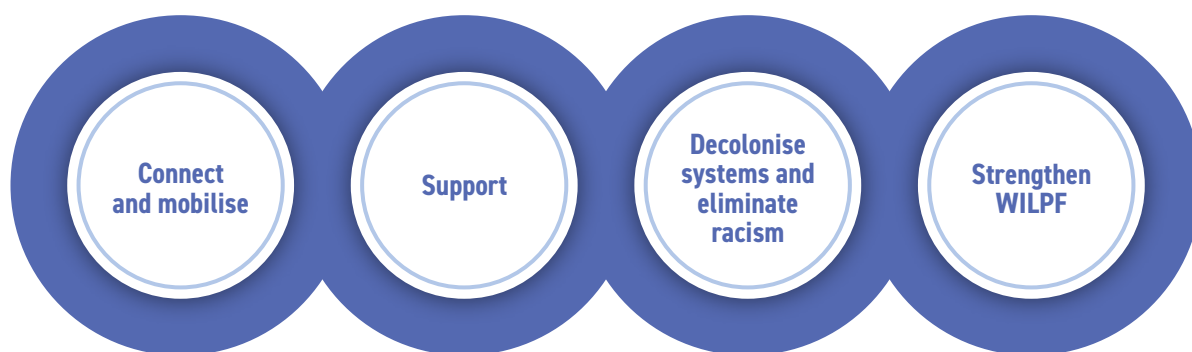
We will work together from the local to global levels on three main action areas for the strategic period of 2022 to 2025:

Each action area will be adapted for the unique needs and contexts of WILPF members, Sections, Groups, and regions worldwide (**please see the template in the Annex**).



## We strengthen feminist peace activism

**We will support, protect, and mobilise feminist peace activists, build synergies, strengthen our movement, and work to decolonise the movement.**



### Connect and mobilise

- Support solidarity dialogues and the creation of vibrant feminist spaces and networks that connect the movement and agendas of feminist peace activists from local to global, amplifying collective activism at all levels and working alongside like minded partners and other aligned movements.
- Engage diverse communities, including men and boys, in our movement to advance feminist leadership in peacemaking and women's political participation.
- Create collaborative campaigns that build on our respective strengths and address our common concerns.

## Support

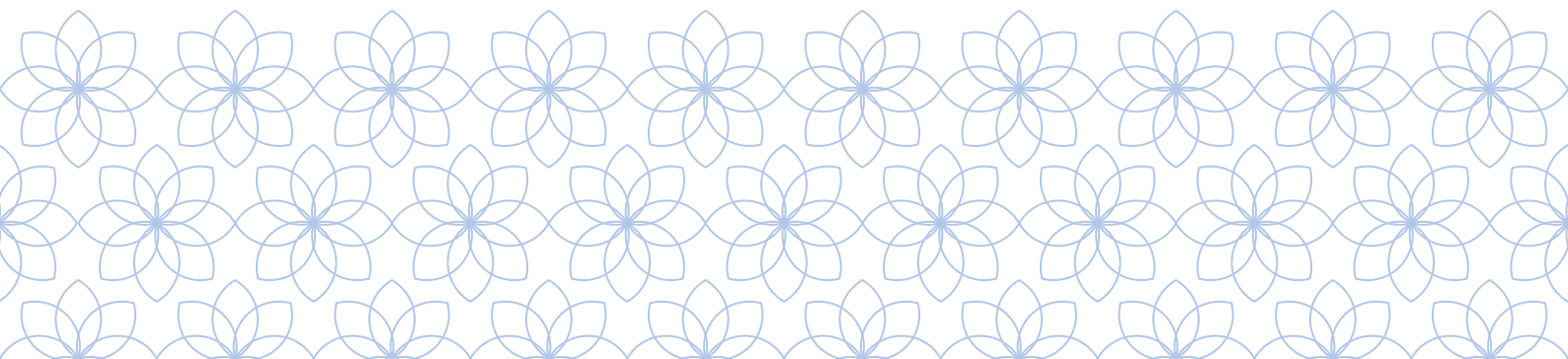
- Support activists by promoting collective care and psychosocial support.
- Advocate for the protection and rights of activists impacted by conflict, gender-based violence, and other gender-specific threats to their well-being.
- Resource the feminist peace movement through mutual support, by mobilising resources, and by advocating for feminist activism to be properly supported and funded.

## Decolonise systems and eliminate racism

- Identify and transform the violence and inequalities created by colonialism and racism by acting on structural racism, sharing knowledge among ourselves and others, and centring the knowledge and experience of Indigenous Peoples, people experiencing racism, and people in marginalised situations in WILPF mobilisations, advocacy and analysis.
- Acknowledge and engage in the diversity of feminist histories, perspectives, and legacies around the world and in our own communities.

## Strengthen WILPF

- Implement our organisational development priorities to strengthen WILPF as an organisation and a global movement by holding ourselves accountable and living our values in everything we do.
- See the dedicated section “Strengthening WILPF” in this International Programme.



## We challenge systems and structures of oppression

We will expose, disrupt, and challenge the systems and structures of oppression – patriarchy, militarism, nationalism, capitalism, racism, and colonialism – by demonstrating how they are interconnected. We will use human rights and intersectional gender analysis, informed by people impacted by violence, and promote feminist alternatives.



### Organise against militarism and war

- Raise awareness of militarised security and how it has been sustained by the priorities of patriarchal masculinity, corporate profit, and false narratives of security rooted in arms and violence.
- Monitor and advocate for disarmament, demilitarisation, and denuclearisation, including through continued work on the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty and work to prevent the development of new technologies of violence, including autonomous weapon systems.
- Advocate for the dismantling of military alliances and for military budgets to be redistributed towards the public good.
- Call for accountability, regulation, and an end to the arms trade.
- Call for gender-responsive monitoring and control of small arms and tools of war circulating in communities.
- Denounce and resist the militarisation of our lands and communities, including by challenging violent oppression, occupation, corporate use of militaries, militarised police, and militarised borders.

### Mobilise for human rights and gender justice

- Pressure states to fulfill their human rights obligations, including extraterritorial; challenge discrimination, exclusion, oppression, and apartheid; and demand accountability and redress.
- Advocate for policies, laws, and programmes that advance gender justice, human rights, and peace; counter the backlash against gender equality; and advocate for prevention and redress of gender-based violence and discrimination.

- Advocate for the protection and rights of internally displaced people, asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.
- Seek justice and restoration for victims and survivors of racism, occupation, colonial destruction of Indigenous culture, and confiscation of land.
- Act for the protection and expansion civic engagement and action, both offline and online, challenging laws and practices that prevent people from protesting or expressing their views.
- Call for the release of people detained for critical, dissenting views, including political prisoners and human rights defenders.

### **Advocate for environmental justice and sustainability**

- Deepen our feminist analysis on the impacts of militarism on the environment, the climate crisis, and on historically marginalised populations.
- Advance anti-militarist and ecofeminist perspectives in international frameworks such as UN human rights instruments, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Promote and advocate for accountability and solutions to the climate and environmental crisis, including a transition to fossil fuel-free and nuclear-free sustainable energy, legally binding and gender-responsive measures to rein in corporate power, and progress towards sustainable practices at all levels of society.
- Seek justice for people and communities most impacted by climate change and environmental destruction.

### **Mobilise for socio-economic justice**

- Advance feminist political economy analysis to support and frame our calls for social and economic justice.
- Monitor, control, and resist imposed policies of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and call for democratic oversight of IFIs.
- Hold corporations to account, resist neoliberal, colonial, and neocolonial policies that drive inequalities between people and countries, and expose and challenge corporate capture and land grabs.
- Promote global and domestic politics and policies that prioritise care for human well-being while making known the links between gender justice and socioeconomic justice.
- Raise awareness and support for the idea of feminist budgets, the need for food security, and the economic autonomy of women.



## We promote inclusive and peaceful solutions to conflict

Guided by gender conflict analysis and a commitment to nonviolence, we will promote violence prevention and support inclusive, peaceful solutions to conflict at all levels of society.



### Mobilise for peace

- Raise awareness about the impacts of conflict, challenge patriarchy and rigid and inequitable gender norms, and mobilise men to actively oppose violence and work for feminist peace and gender justice.
- Mobilise solidarity, dialogue, and feminist diplomacy in response to crises together with women and peace activists in situations of concern.
- Build and engage in networks for peace and justice.

### Demand global to local accountability

- Advocate for Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas grounded in human rights and local perspectives, championing prevention first and resisting militarism.
- Leverage human rights and justice for conflict prevention and resolution at all levels.
- Advocate for the critical role of strong, effective multilateral systems, diplomacy, and international law in advancing inclusive peacebuilding processes and solutions.
- Bring the gendered impacts of armed conflict and the arms trade to the attention of decision-makers, facilitate women's access to national, regional, and multilateral systems, such as human rights mechanisms and the UN Security Council.
- Demand action and accountability on legal, normative frameworks and instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the Beijing Platform for Action. Promote feminist perspectives on global action agendas, such as the Women, Peace and Security and the UN Sustainable Development Goals that align with WILPF's vision and values.

### Work for transformative peace and violence prevention

- Advance community-based, national, and regional peacebuilding initiatives. Resist polarisation and promote understanding of the underlying cycle of violence.
- Support peace activism, including through peace education, dialogue, reconciliation, local disarmament initiatives, and women's involvement in peace processes.
- Work to prevent gender-based violence through awareness building and advocacy at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

### Move the money

- Campaign for reduction and redirection of military spending to meet social and planetary needs, including care, social and community infrastructure, and the guarantee of people's rights to education, housing, a clean environment, health, and work.
- Document and analyse the impacts of divestment from human rights and social spending due to military spending.

## How we work together

As we work across all three action areas, we are rooted in our feminist and anti-militarist values and approach. We bridge and link the experiences of women and feminist activists between local realities and international forums, and use a number of methods to pursue our actions and advance our vision. They include:

### Activism and organising

Working together as peace activists all over the world, we undertake nonviolent activism. This includes public campaigns, protests, boycotts, peace art, and political rallies. WILPF organises locally and globally.

### Analysis and reflection

We use different analytical approaches to better understand and study the causes of war, conflict, and violence and their interconnections. For example, we develop and promote intersectional analysis and feminist political economy, historical, and socio-cultural analysis.

### Awareness-raising

Through cross-cultural communication, community-level discussions, media relations, and peace education, we reach wider groups of people to deepen reflections on and transform mindsets related to systems of oppression.

## Advocacy

We use advocacy to advance concrete changes in practices, policies, laws, norms, programmes, and systems for permanent peace and to promote human rights and accountability. Advocacy work focuses primarily on governments, parliamentarians, the United Nations, regional institutions, and other actors to stop violence and work to abolish the causes of war. We also conduct advocacy with others, including non-state actors and civil society, to help create a favourable climate for feminist peace.

## Alliance-building

We build bridges and join and form alliances with like-minded communities, organisations, movements, policymakers, diplomats, and politicians.

## Solidarity dialogues

We create spaces to bring women and feminist activists together to mobilise, learn from each other, and strengthen our collective power.

## Mobilising and resourcing feminist peace

We mobilise resources and mutual support to strengthen and enable local, national, and global actions of WILPF Sections, Groups, and partners, and advocate for feminist activism to be effectively funded and resourced.

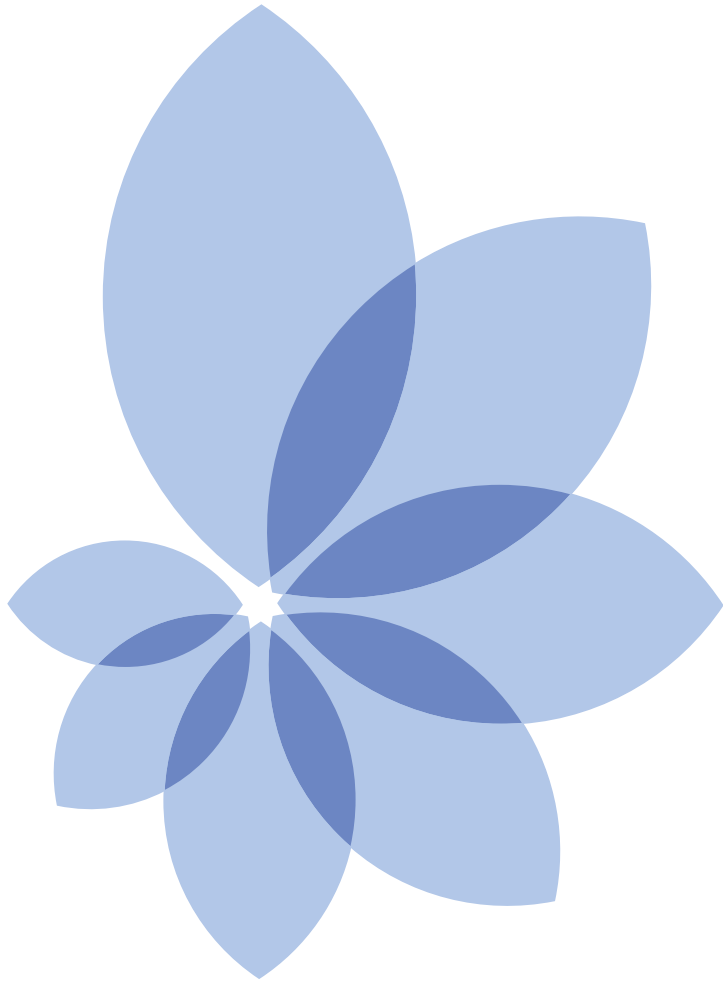


## Who we work with

As a global network of feminist peace activists from diverse contexts, we work with fellow activists, local communities, and like-minded organisations and social movements.

## Who we seek to influence

We seek to influence and hold accountable those who make policy, those who create and promote systems and structures of oppression, and those who act against our vision. This includes governments, multilateral government bodies (including regional institutions), individual decision-makers, companies, and warring parties, as well as people and communities worldwide.



07

## Strengthening WILPF

As we seek to strengthen the feminist peace movement as a mobiliser and convenor, we are committed to strengthening our own organisation through intentional, thoughtful strategies that build on the work already underway and guide us forward.

This work has been identified as a dedicated action as part of our movement building priority. It is an ongoing, participatory process with Sections, Groups, and regions, the International Board, the International Secretariat, and all our membership bodies that will empower change over the long term.

## Better align practices and actions with our values

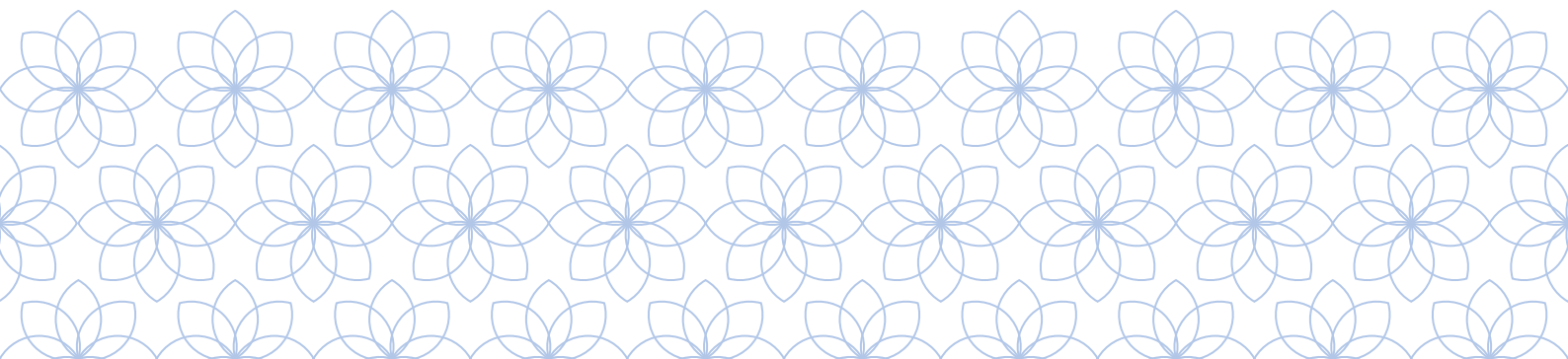
### We will:

- ✓ Create spaces to learn about each other and discuss and reconcile our diverse opinions and views.
- ✓ Strengthen foundations of trust, respect, and confidence across all of WILPF and between its different bodies by implementing principles of transparency and accountability.
- ✓ Build a culture of learning across all of WILPF to ensure our diverse individual and collective expertise and knowledge are shared and spread horizontally.
- ✓ Promote equality, intersectional reflections, and collaboration across all of WILPF and strengthen connections between the different parts of WILPF.
- ✓ Support current and future leaders to reflect our values through their work, actions, and guidance.
- ✓ Strengthen organisation-wide commitment to eliminate systemic racism in all its forms by mobilising members and staff to work towards a culture of empathy, understanding, restoration, and inclusivity as we build a movement that celebrates and reflects our global diversity.
- ✓ Build processes for internal conflict resolution and complaints management to ensure we can learn from our own internal issues and differences and strengthen our work.

## Ensure a future WILPF

### We will:

- ✓ Mobilise, engage, and invest in young and emerging leaders and promote intergenerational cooperation, including by strengthening and energising the work of the Young WILPF network.
- ✓ Enhance fundraising capacity, and ensure practices are aligned with feminist principles that centre accountability, flexibility, intersectionality, and movement building.



## Strengthen governance and accountability

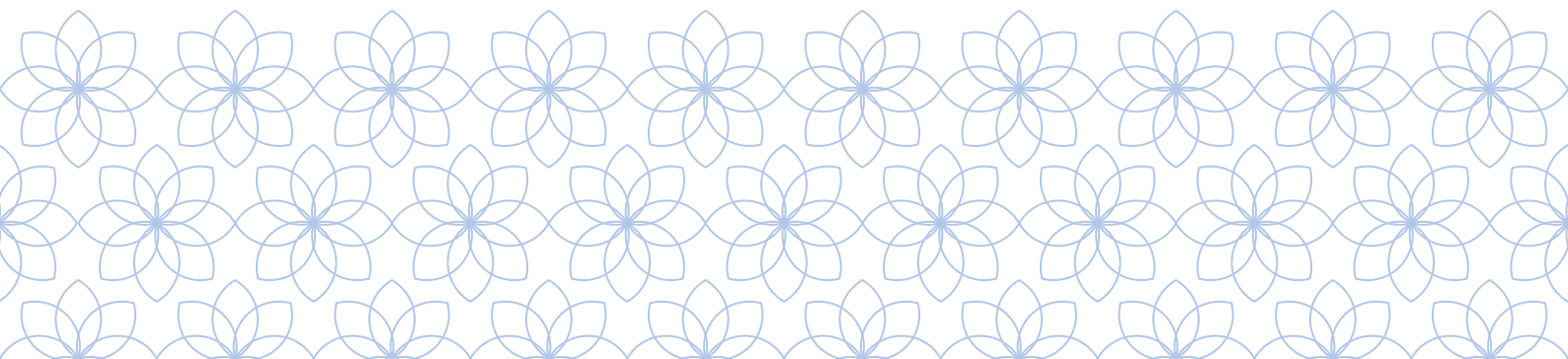
### We will:

- ✓ Develop an accountability framework rooted in feminist principles, including collective monitoring and learning and taking action to ensure we are protecting and living our values.
- ✓ Improve governance practices and transparency, including by establishing a shared understanding of decision-making structures, roles, and responsibilities.
- ✓ Enhance funding transparency and ensure practices continue to be aligned with feminist principles, including by building awareness of power dynamics, refining guidelines on which sources we will accept funding from, and ensure that how funds are raised and used is in compliance with our feminist values.
- ✓ Conduct a power analysis of how we work together within WILPF in order to monitor and identify steps to address harmful dynamics impacting our work and focus areas.
- ✓ Establish a collective understanding of oppression and a collective commitment to taking action on structural racism, ableism, ageism, classism, and other forms of discrimination. Identify steps to address oppressive systems, attitudes, and perspectives within WILPF.

## Ensure we can all relate to our systems, structures, processes, and practices

### We will:

- ✓ Strengthen horizontal organisational structures and systems, such as communication pathways and practices, advisory bodies and mechanisms, resourcing of regional work, and collective monitoring and learning with regards to implementation of the International Programme to ensure all parts of WILPF are working together to set the strategic direction.
- ✓ Improve WILPF's collective approach to work, strategy, decision making, movement building, action, and leadership.
- ✓ Ensure our community of members and peers is supported and given feedback, including through enhanced organising and communication practices as the movement grows and diversifies.



**CONCLUSION**

# From Strategy to Feminist Practice

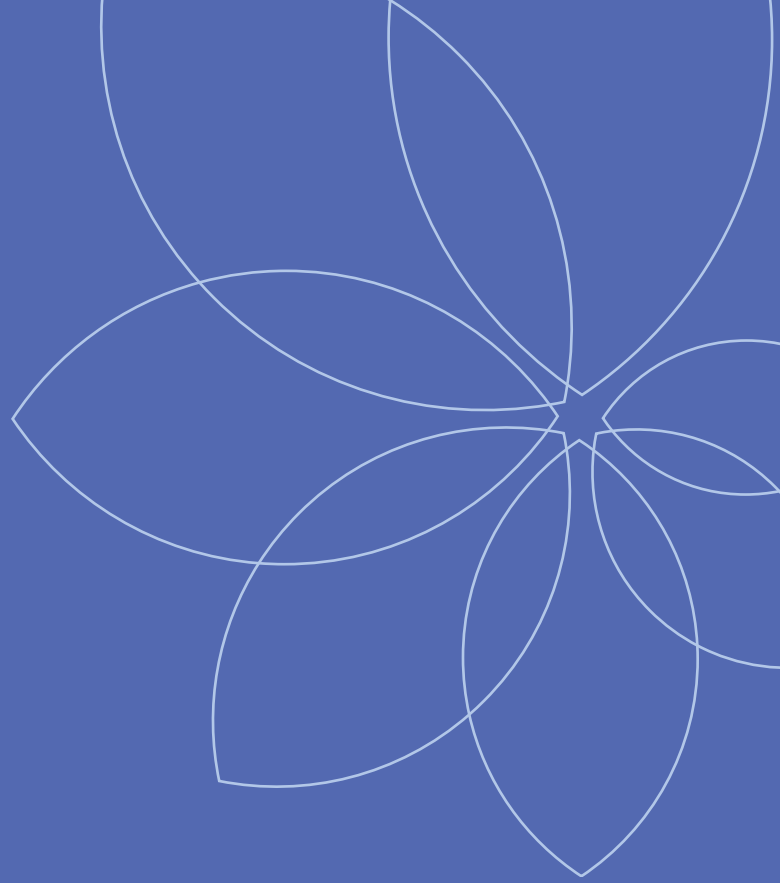
The WILPF International Programme for the period of 2022 to 2025 was developed through an extensive, participatory process of co-creation involving members, staff, and partners from all over the world.

As a strategy, it guides a continual process of learning, engagement, and knowledge sharing as it is adapted and implemented across the many contexts that make up our diverse, global movement.

To help each Section and Group begin the process of applying the International Programme framework to their own unique work and priorities, a suggested planning template has been provided on the following page. This can itself be adapted to the specific needs of each Section or Group.

As part of our collective commitment to learning and sharing to ensure continuous improvement and impact, a collective results framework for understanding our progress and achievement of our goals will be developed – a framework that will be widely used and shared by the whole of WILPF.

Ultimately, through the implementation of this International Programme in contexts around the world, the WILPF movement will grow in strength, and step by step we will make progress towards our vision of feminist, permanent peace built on foundations of freedom, justice, nonviolence, human rights, and equality for all.



## ANNEX

# Planning Template

This planning template has been provided to help you apply the International Programme to where you are within WILPF. It can be adapted for the specific needs of your Section or Group.

1. **Context and priorities:** What are the main issues you are working on (trends and developments, thematic priorities) in your context?
2. What are the specific **changes and results** you hope to see as a result of your activities?

*Note: Refer to the global goals in Chapter 5 – Transformed Mindsets, Violence Prevented, Feminist Alternatives, A Powerful Movement – as relevant to your Section or Group.*

3. What are the main **actions** you will work on to advance the global priorities?

*Note: only fill out the action areas relevant to your Section or Group.*

- To strengthen feminist peace activism.
- To challenge systems and structures of oppression.
- To promote inclusive and peaceful solutions to conflict.

4. **Strengthening WILPF:** How do we strengthen our collective power and organisation to do this work?

*Note: Please refer to Chapter 7.*

- What collaboration, mobilisation, or support will help your Section/Group achieve its aims? (Across sections, in your region, with the International Secretariat, etc.)
- What are your organisational priorities (local, national, or contribution to regional and global priorities)? (For example, how will you work on accountability, anti-racism, conflict resolution, leadership, and ensure a future WILPF?)



# Ideas

[illegible]





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