

**Date: 25 November 2011 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
Campaign: 16 Days of Activism 2011 “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's
Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!”**

WILPF sections and members around the world today – November 25 – and until December 10th will engage in collective activism demonstrating our roots as one global women’s peace movement by our united participation in the global 16 Days Campaign. The 2011 theme of the 16 day campaign “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!” directly links to WILPF’s vision and work. For 96 years now, WILPF has led the way as part of a global movement, towards full disarmament, gender equality, racial and economic justice, and an end to all forms of violence.

“We should never forget to do activism. It is what works. It's absolutely central to WILPF”, says Madeleine Rees (WILPF Secretary General) to a gathering of WILPF-ers recently. WILPF sisters and sections worldwide expressed their enthusiasm to set about realizing the 16 days challenge. Worldwide WILPF sections are organizing a variety of inspiring and strategic activities to build on both the message of WILPF and that of the 16 days campaign!

“It is inspiring to be the Secretary General for an organization that gathers so much enthusiasm and determination”, continues Madeleine Rees. With countries spending enormous amounts of money every year on militarism, together we call for a shift in priorities in order to achieve sustainable development, gender equality and peace!

WILPF sections in over 16 countries will take part, including **Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, Germany, Finland, India, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Switzerland, Sweden, the UK, and USA, as well as activities in Geneva arranged by the International Office of WILPF.**

Our sister section in **DRC** is organizing public education seminars and outreach activities focusing on promoting women’s participation and gender equality. The activities will precede the historic Presidential election scheduled for November 27th. Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, WILPF sections around the world stand united in solidarity with our sisters in DRC in the hope of an election process free of intimidation and violence.

“Being part of such a large network of WILPF sisters is one of the best things that has happened to me”, expresses WILPF **Nigeria** President Joy Onyesoh and continues, “I see it as a privilege to have the opportunity of participating in the joint campaign and being at the forefront of the struggle for women's rights and empowerment”. WILPF Nigeria is planning a seminar on the 2nd Dec on Women, Peace and Security.

Several sections will screen the price winning film “The Whistleblower” featuring Madeleine Rees in her former capacity as the head of the UN High Commissioner’s office in Bosnia such as **Sweden and Norway.**

Many of WILPF’s sections are arranging demonstrations, among them the **US** section. They have declared that we will be blowing the whistle on security, and be sure that we will be loud! Whistleblowing demonstrations will take place at local municipal buildings around the US.

The **Australian** section has chosen a cultural activity with a commemorative event and play by The Performers for Peace to be held in Reddecliff Place, Brisbane on the 25th November. In **Pakistan**

WILPF will organize an event for every day of the 16 days campaign, including a joint event in Islamabad on the 25th in coordination with UNWomen Pakistan and more than 30 other NGO's.

In Geneva, **International WILPF** will be hosting a two-day expert meeting on law, its intersections and how we can use it to further our aims of reducing military expenditures, investing in peace and upholding human rights. WILPF is also planning a workshop on how to "Join the Dots" on how we can do better to implement the women, peace and security agenda through the Geneva based mechanisms. The film the Whistleblower will be screened also on December 10th with Kathy Bolkovac and Madeleine Rees on the panel discussions afterward.

Peace to all on November 25th!

Information:

For more information on WILPF activities globally during the 16-day campaign [click here](#).

For comments on WILPF's participation in the campaign contact Maria Butler
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To see WILPF's work on our websites: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch>; <http://www.peacewomen.org>;
<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org>

For the official website '16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence', [click here](#).