

WILPF UK Scottish branch was in the Scottish Parliament public gallery on the eve of the 16 days, wearing green scarves to support women's rights in Afghanistan. Activists presented the scarves to all MSPs, in time for International Day Against Violence Against Women, and the start of the 16 Days of Action Against Violence against Women 2011.

The theme for 16 Days of Action against Violence against Women 2011 is 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World. Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women'. WILPF sees supporting human rights for Afghan women, and women's involvement in the political process as also an essential part of finding better alternatives to violence in the region. The Scottish branch of WILPF invited everyone to support the call for international negotiations to include women in peacebuilding activities here in UK and in Afghanistan, and acted to draw attention to the international conference in Bonn to discuss transition arrangements for Afghanistan.

Parliamentary motion S4M-01392 was been presented by Scottish Nationalist Humza Yousaf MSP to the Scottish Parliament as part of the campaign.

S4M-01392 Humza Yousaf (Scottish National Party): That the Parliament is pleased to reaffirm its commitment to the cause of ending violence against women; supports the eve of the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign this year, which is themed "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World"; understands that, despite the improvement in the situation of women in Afghanistan over 10 years, it is considered one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman; recognises that international negotiations for transition, international long-term engagement and peace and reconciliation will take place before the end of the 16 days in Bonn, Germany; supports the UK Government in ensuring that women's voices are heard before, during and after these talks in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, which recognises that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security; thanks the Scottish branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for the green scarves to be worn during the 16 days to highlight and support Afghan women's rights, and notes its ongoing work in making known the links between domestic violence and war.

The motion attracted cross-party support and Humza and Labour party MSP Sarah Boyack joined a delegation from the branch in the garden lobby after the parliamentary business of the day.

The Scottish branch have also held street stalls during this period and members committed to wearing their green scarves and explaining why throughout the sixteen days.



Sarah Boyack MSP, Susan Moffat, Janet Fenton (S WILPF Convenor), Humza Yousef

MSP, Gillian Davey, Mary Millington, Anne Scott S WILPF Sec), Shona McAlpine
Parliamentary Researcher, front row Helen Gourley

motion signed by MSPs: Graeme Pearson, Christine Grahame, James Dornan, John Finnie, Chic Brodie, Dennis Robertson, Rob Gibson, Neil Findlay, Christina McKelvie, David Torrance, Kevin Stewart, Drew Smith, Margaret Burgess, Aileen McLeod, Johann Lamont, Mary Fee, Kenneth Gibson, John Mason, Bill Kidd, Alex Fergusson, Mike MacKenzie, Sandra White, Bob Doris, Malcolm Chisholm, Marco Biagi, Patrick Harvie, Alison McInnes, John Park, Richard Lyle