



### **Why WILPF is participating?**

WILPF is not attending the Global Summit to echo the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, but we are there, as the longest serving women peace movement, to make our own voices heard: to highlight the silence that exists on weapons and profits made from sexual violence; and to bring attention to the fact that ending violence and eliminating its causes is a critical element in preventing conflict. **Ending sexual violence in conflict (SVC) requires addressing the root causes of conflict. Three root causes include patriarchy, armament, and exclusion. To challenge these systemic problems, WILPF calls for gender equality, disarmament, and participation.**

### **Root cause: Patriarchy, Violent Masculinity and Gender Inequality**

#### **Challenge: Gender equality**

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality and predicated on social and cultural conditions, which are highly gendered. These complex gendered causes and consequences exist differently in pre, during and post conflict settings.
- Sexual violence (in conflict and non-conflict) is a consequence of patriarchal values, stereotypes, exclusion and oppression. Attention must not be deviated from the importance of gender inequality (including lack of women's participation noted above), impunity or social injustice that are under State responsibility.
- Negative masculine identity imposed by militarism and the model of the soldier, patriarchal oppression is amplified during armed conflict, giving way to women being considered as spoils of war, violence being encouraged by superiors to go and rape during their time off to "relax" and even setting up a structure where women would be exploited as sexual slaves.
- Special rapporteur Rashida Manjoo noted the UK's "boys' club sexist culture" which leads to certain perceptions about women and girls and disproportionate impact of funding cuts on the provision of services to women and girls at risk of violence.

### **Root cause: Armament**

#### **Challenge: Disarmament**

- Governments must stop selling and profiting from arms sales that facilitate SVC. Governments and arms dealers must be held to account for transferring arms to situations where there is a risk they will be used to commit gender-based violence, including sexual violence.
- The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) presents an opportunity to take action on disarming sexual violence through effective implementation of its provision on preventing armed-gender based violence (article 7(4)). States must include in their national export regulations binding provisions on preventing armed gender-based violence, including sexual violence. They must make due diligence investigations open and transparent.
- Six countries export over 75% of the world's weapons: US, Russia, Germany, China, France, and the United Kingdom (UK) and all have signed G-8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict
- The UK Government's 2010 Human Rights Annual Report identified 26 "countries of concern"; yet that same year, the UK approved arms export licenses to 16 of these countries, including Israel, Libya, Pakistan, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. In 2013, the UK parliamentary Committees on Arms Export Controls found that over 3,000 export licenses for arms and military equipment, worth more than £12 billion, had been approved for 27 states identified by the UK government's 2012 Annual Report as "countries of concern". These include Saudi Arabia, China, and Zimbabwe.



**Root cause: Exclusion. Women not part of peace negotiations and decision-making**

**Challenge: Women and gender perspectives must be part of peace processes**

- It is crucial that women and gender perspectives are included in peace processes, negotiations and post-conflict transition processes to prevent relapse of conflict.
- Preventing SVC is part of the overall WPS agenda. The 2015 Women, Peace and Security (WPS) High Level Review presents opportunity to increase women's meaningful participation and rights in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Violence against women is rarely mentioned in ceasefire agreements or peace agreements. Even in the case of the Liberian Peace Agreement (2003) – in which women most explicitly played a key role – the issue of rape was not addressed. Studies of 300 peace agreements relating to 45 conflicts situations since the end of the Cold War show that sexual violence or gender-based violence has been addressed in only 10 conflict situations and 18 agreements. Sexual violence has been identified as a ceasefire violation in only six ceasefire agreements.
- If States are serious about ending sexual violence, there must be political and financial investment and commitment in building women's engagement at all levels of decision-making, as called for in CEDAW, Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2122.
- WILPF rejects the patronizing stereotyping and simplification that women are vulnerable victims in and of themselves, which divorces sexual violence from agency, equality and participation aspects of the Women, Peace and Security.
- #Nothing about us without u

**Key words about WILPF**

- WILPF integrated approach
- WILPF's work connects the dots between global and local policy advocacy
- 100th Anniversary: longest-serving women peace organization. Movement, Women's Power to Stop War, including our 100th anniversary conference in April 2015 in The Hague
- WILPF summit delegation includes women from DR Congo, Pakistan, Colombia, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Lebanon, Morocco, Bosnia, and others.

**Social Media Cheat Sheet:**

**General hastags and users**

#WILPF

#TimeToAct

#disarm

WILPF:

Peace Women | @Peace\_Women

WILPF | @WILPF

ReachingCriticalWill | @RCW\_

IKFF Sverige | @ikff\_sverige (WILPF Sweden)

UKWILPF | @UKWILPF (WILPF UK)

LIMPAL-COLOMBIA | @LIMPALCOLOMBIA (WILPF Colombia)

Others:

@end\_svc

@WilliamJHague

@StopRapeCmpgn

@UN @secgen @UN\_Women @IntlCrimCourt