



CSW59

Commission on the Status of Women

9 – 20 March 2015

IMPLEMENTING THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION



**Report on the 59th Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women
March 9 – 20 2015**



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

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List of Abbreviations

ARROW	The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
ATOP	Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention
AU	African Union
AWA	African Women's Alliance
AWAVA	Australian Women against Violence Alliance
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
Cordaid	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CWGL	Center for Women's Global leadership
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FEMNET	The African Women's Development and Communication Network
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FTF	Feminist task Force
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GLWP	Great Lakes Women's Platform
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
ICW	International Council of Women
IDLO	International Development Law Organisation
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IGLHRC	International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
IWHR	International Women's Human Rights

IWRAW AP	International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia-Pacific
KNCW	Korean National Council of Women
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MENA	Middle-East and North Africa
NAP	National Action Plan
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NWPC	National Women's Political Caucus
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PSCF	Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSR	Sector Security Reform
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN NGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liason Service
UNPBSO	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UU-UNO	Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
WFUWO	World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organisations

WFWP	Women's Federation for World Peace
WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
WIPNET	The Women in Peacebuilding Programme
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

1. Introduction

The 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. The theme this year was "*Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action.*"

This summary provides an overview of CSW59 events sponsored or co-sponsored by WILPF, and therefore only represents a fraction of the WPS events held during CSW59.

2. Background on CSW59 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) took place 9 to 20 March 2015 was also the space for the 20 year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. As part of this, it included a review of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the (1995) Fourth World Conference on Women as well as its five year review (Beijing+5). In preparation for this year's session, in 2014 Member States and regional commissions undertook comprehensive national and regional reviews of the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action including its 12 critical areas of concern. Critical Area E: Women and Armed Conflict, is particularly important for WILPF's work for peace and freedom through demilitarization, disarmament, and women's human rights.

Twenty years after Beijing, reviews show unequal implementation on *Critical Area E: Women and Armed Conflict*. While there has been progress in the operationalization of Security Council Resolution 1325 through the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) in 3 African regions (Great Lakes Region, the Mano River region of West Africa and at the IGAD secretariat for its member States) and 14 African countries (Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic

Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda), NAP implementation in terms of the implementation of gender responsive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs has been slow. Additionally, women's participation in peace negotiations has not increased. In the Sudan for example, there were no women signatories or lead mediators in the 2005 Naivasha Agreement and; only 9% of the total witnesses to the peace negotiations were women. However, while women in conflict countries have been left out of formal peace processes, they have found ways to make their voices heard and to influence the peace negotiations. In Burundi for example, women have collaborated with CSOs to run sessions parallel to the peace negotiations; in Liberia women have barricaded meeting rooms until decisions were made and have ensured that their position papers and recommendations made it to the negotiation table.

Presently, no country in Latin America and the Caribbean has developed NAPs for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. However, between the 1990s and 2013, legislative recognition of machineries for the advancement of women has increased

throughout the region. National machineries, especially in the Caribbean are however impeded by the lack of gender-trained staff; lack of access to and resources for the collection of sex-disaggregated data and; limited budgets. Though some are impeded by weak implementation and lack of proper institutional mechanisms, all countries in the region have enacted laws criminalizing violence against women but only 11 Latin American and 4 Caribbean countries have specific legislation to combat trafficking in persons.

The following member states of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) have developed NAP's for the implementation of SCR 1325: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (US). There has been some progress in the Women, Peace and Security agenda as seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina for example, where survivors of sexual violence have been granted war victim status. However, progress has been slow regarding the inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes as the focus remains on women as victims in conflicts. Furthermore, as in Turkey and Ukraine, inadequate mechanisms have been put in place to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, many of which are women and children. In addition, disarmament remains a critical gap: while countries such as the Philippines, Serbia, Germany, Uganda, Ireland and Liberia address disarmament in their NAP, most NAPs fail to address demilitarization and disarmament. Further, France, the UK and the US -- three of the biggest military spenders with

NAPs -- have NAPs which do not address military spending and the impact on women in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The Asian and Pacific region has also seen efforts to address the differential impact of armed conflict on women and girls however, the region is yet to develop frameworks to ensure the protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings, the participation of women in peace negotiations and processes and the prosecution of perpetrators of human rights abuses. Likewise in the Arab region, implementation of Critical Area E of the Beijing Platform has also been lacking or uneven. On February 6, 2014 however, Iraq became the first Middle Eastern country to adopt a NAP. On the other hand, the Syrian conflict has seen a rising number of IDPs; women and children figuring highly among them. Worsened by the presence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the human rights of women and girls continue to be violated and the war has taken its toll on all citizens including women who have also been arbitrarily arrested, harassed, physically abused and tortured. Women however, continue to be on the frontlines of the conflict and advocate for a peaceful, democratic transition.

Given such uneven progress in the global implementation of the Beijing Declaration, increased militarization, armed conflict and what can be described as States' violations of the Beijing obligations, it is imperative that advocates push their governments to take action to move from commitments to accomplishments. Governments must take urgent action to address key gap areas including by:

- Only recognizing peace agreements with women's full and equal participation and rights
- Holding parliamentary debates on Women, Peace and Security to cultivate

discussion and political will for national implementation of the agenda

- Reducing and reallocating government military expenditure and redirecting to gender equitable social services
- Banning nuclear weapons and strengthening national mechanisms for arms exports and small arms and light weapons to prevent proliferation at minimum consistent with the Arms Trade Treaty

At the 20th anniversary of Beijing, the 15th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the 15 year anniversary of the Millennium Development Goals, and the 100th anniversary of WILPF, too many gaps remain. It is time to move from commitments to accomplishments. Join us in raising your voice! Demand concrete action, financing, and accountability for an integrated approach across overlapping agendas toward disarmament, women's rights, development, and peace.

3. WILPF at CSW59

After an exciting two weeks at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women concluded on Friday March 20, 2015.



WILPF delegates from Australia, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Palestine, Syria, the United Kingdom, and the United States; as well as international staff converged in New York City and worked collectively to advocate for a transformative and sustainable Post2015 development agenda that addresses the root causes of violence and war and integrates issues of disarmament, women’s human rights, and Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

WILPF co-sponsored 14 events which brought together regional and global perspectives and gave voice to those women working on peace, disarmament, and women’s rights around the world.

We united as a delegation to collectively raise our voices and bring attention to the fact that 20 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 15 years since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, progress has been uneven. WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees gave the call for us to create a new global movement for change and to “rethink, strategize, organize and make a difference.”

The CSW59 Political Declaration which was adopted on March 4, 2015 however failed to strongly and adequately reaffirm the existing

commitments and ambitions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. WILPF joined over 900 women’s activists from around the world in demanding efforts be ramped up “to achieve the goals of fully realizing gender equality, the human rights and empowerment of all women and girls everywhere.”

With the Post2015 Women’s Coalition, we launched a vision statement outlining a proposal for feminist sustainable development that fills the gap of the weak and inadequate CSW political declaration.

Given the upcoming 2015 High Level Review of the implementation of UNSCR 1325, on March 11th, WILPF co-sponsored a Civil Society Consultation on the 2015 WPS High Level Review. The consultation provided updates on the High-Level Review; participants discussed civil society engagement and were able to give important recommendations towards the drafting of the WPS High Level Review Global Study.

Focusing on uncovering the linkages between hegemonic masculinities, violence, militarism and conflict, events such as WILPF’s Women Confronting ISIS and Amplifying the Voices of Palestinian Women, also sought to show the importance of, and give a voice to local grassroots women and their networks in the fight for women’s rights in conflict settings. Hanan Kaoud discussed the importance of building a movement of women civil society activists so as to empower women’s participation in decision-making and advocate for women’s access to justice and security.

Our events also aimed to put forward a transformative agenda for gender-sensitive peacemaking. At the event on A Transformative Women, Peace & Security Agenda: The Need To Challenge Militarism, PeaceWomen Program Manager Abigail Ruane urged that we reclaim the peace agenda and move away from militarized security toward human security in national and regional strategies and action.

At these events and others, WILPFers joined peace activists around the world in envisioning and taking action for transformative change. Charlotte Bunch reminded participants that “women are not just victims but as survivors, they are the key actors for providing the mechanisms for change.” “It is not just about inclusion, stated panelist Carol Cohn, “but about transformation [of the WPS agenda].” Isabelle Geuskens of the Women Peacemakers Program reminded participants that given the increased militarization within the multilateral system, there is also a need to make concrete investments in especially disarmament, human security, and conflict prevention.

On this 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, WILPFers also shared memories and testimonials of the Beijing Peace Train which traveled from Helsinki

to Beijing, China for the Fourth World Conference of Women in 1995.

We also continued to build momentum around WILPF’s 100th anniversary Women’s Power to Stop War conference at the Hague where we will launch a new global movement for change. WILPF General Secretary Madeleine Rees reminded: “100 years after the founding of WILPF, the feminist anti-war movement is still as important as ever.”

Although what happens at CSW is just a small part of the work that continues day to day at the local and national level, it reaffirms our strength as WILPFers in creating a world of greater peace and freedom tomorrow by integrating our diverse strengths today. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you in this important work both in New York and around the world!



4. Overview and Summaries from Women, Peace and Security Events at CSW59

As part of this year's CSW theme - *"Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action"* - WILPF demanded that in addressing the root causes of violence and war, meaningful action for peace and gender equality, disarmament, demilitarisation, human rights, and WPS be integrated into the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in the post-2015 development agenda.

Some of the overarching themes during this years' CSW were:

- *20 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Spin up efforts to move from commitments to accomplishments*
 - *Renew commitments, resources, and accountability to fully realize gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls*
 - *Stop violence against women and girls*
- Strengthen women's meaningful and equal participation in peace processes for sustainable peace and development*
- Amplify the voices of local grassroots women for peace*
- Promote a transformative gender equality approach to upcoming Post2015 negotiations and discussion*
- *Integrate gender equality and conflict prevention in all international, national and regional policies*

Many of the conflict related events dealt with the situation of women and girls in the MENA-region.

Summaries from WILPFs Main Events at CSW59

Name of Event:	Women Confronting ISIS: Local Strategies and States' Responsibilities
Organised by:	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), The Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice, MADRE, Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI), the Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI)
Panelists:	Yanar Mohammed, Founder and Director, Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI); Nawal Yazeji, Syrian Women's Peace Activist, Damascus; Member, Syrian Women's League; Charlotte Bunch, a Board of Governor's Distinguished Service Professor in Women's and Gender Studies inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame; Radhika Coomaraswamy, former U.N. Under Secretary-General, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict; Madeleine Rees, OBE, Secretary General, WILPF; Patricia Viseur-Sellers, former Gender Legal Advisor and a Prosecutor for the ICTY & ICTR
Themes:	WPS

On March 6, 2015, WILPF in collaboration with the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, The Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice, Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI), the Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) and Madre hosted a Symposium, "Women Confronting ISIS: Local Strategies and States' Responsibilities". The Symposium offered an opportunity to learn and contribute to a set of solutions for the international community to remedy the human rights crisis that Iraqi and Syrian women are facing. The program consisted of three expert panels focusing on preventative measures, protected contexts and prosecution & reintegration, along with special remarks.

After introductory remarks from Michelle J. Anderson and Lisa Davis, from CUNY School of Law, Charlotte Bunch opened the symposium. She reinforced that we should not play into a clash of civilisations discourse, used by political classes, which benefit from misogyny. Further, the colonial legacy cannot condone the use of violence against women as "simply a cultural aspect". She noted that given twenty years have passed since the Beijing Declaration and 15 years since the adoption of UNSCR1325, atrocities against women continue. The solution, she suggests, starts with the rights of women on the ground and an insistence on an international human rights response that prioritizes peace.

The first panel, moderated by Julie Goldcheid, explored the foreshadowing of ISIS abuses in areas where violations of women's human rights were endemic and; the lessons for prevention in other

contexts of war and armed conflict. Jacqui True discussed the political economy of violence against women in conflict situations. She directed attention towards the capacity of global structures that marginalise women to be modified and controlled to serve as early warning signs for more systematic violence against women. Laila Alodaat noted that extremist violence normalises SGBV and explosives impact women disproportionately in public spaces like markets. Further, Liesl Gertholtz explored the practice of naming and shaming in this context and the limitations of the Security Council to look beyond sensationalised violence. Jessica Stern spoke on the vulnerability of LGBTI Iraqis and the absence of support networks.

This was followed by special remarks from Radhika Coomaraswamy, lead author on the WPF high-level review. She remarked that the rise of violent extremism and terrorism are the biggest changes since the inception of SCR1325. In looking at extremism, she reminded that extremism is not always religious, all religions have extremists and extremist violence and that the UN must be careful when understanding the causes of extremism. Further, she noted that attacks on women can never be justified, but women also join extremist groups. The UN must not aggravate the situation and “should put their [our] swords into ploughshares”.

The second panel on protected contexts, moderated by Ramzi Kassem, highlighted the work of local women’s rights activists. Oula Ramadan, from the Badael Foundation, highlighted the broad range of violence against women and the lack of reporting. She stated that Syrian women could learn from the lessons of Iraqi women who have been organising for a number of years. Yifat Susskind noted the subtle change in treatment of women sexual abuse survivors in times of conflict. While she suggested that rape will probably regress into being a crime against family and honour, there is an alternative narrative that “brutality is a radical break from the past”. Sara Ferro-Ribeiro emphasized that there is a structural problem in the international community, with a tendency to isolate and compartmentalise different strategies. She called for a cohesive and responsive strategy, which would lead to better results.

The final panel on prosecution and reintegration, moderated by L. Camille Massey, discussed national and international infrastructures and civil society strategies needed to generate the political will and social change necessary to sustain national commitment to women’s human rights and lasting peace. Nadal Yazeji noted that intention to integrate the women’s rights agenda into the revolution has been successful to some extent. She claimed that religion, however, has nothing to do with this shift and allows ignorance to control the lives of women. Further, Patricia Viseur-Sellers highlighted the need for a gendered analysis of the legal process against ISIS. Finally, Madeleine Rees looked at the situation from a broad context and questioned how we can make the multinational system work. She claimed that we have the mechanisms to reach the end-goal, but we need to get the system on board. “The organizational capacity of women could actually meet the WPS gap in the multilateral system”.

Paula Donovan, the Co-Founder of AIDS-Free World, issued the closing remarks and summarised the key messages of the day.

Name of Event:	Peace Women Leaders Meet and Greet
Organised by:	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Themes:	Participation

Maria Butler opened the event with a brief introduction of WILPF's work and the momentous year ahead. After contextualising the WPS Agenda in post-2015, she shared some of WILPF's highlights this year, including the launch of Peace Women's new website and the WILPF100 Conference in April.

Madhuri Sastry led an energiser, "Yes, because" to spark conversation and create a safe space for discussion. The theme of the energiser was women and peace, and began with the phrase, "women have the power to stop war..." and the next participant followed up with, "yes, because..." linking to the previous statement. Each peace women leader added their own personal flair, leading to excited conversation, long applauses and a sense of shared empowerment.

Maria Butler followed up by introducing WILPF branches from around the world, and provided them the opportunity to share their country highlights. Australia's delegation spoke on the difficulty of producing real action on Resolution 1325 from politicians and the lack of civil society consultation after the initial phase. They noted that the Australian NAP was only adopted in March 2012, and the NAP document devotes considerable attention to what Australia has already been doing to support the full implementation of Resolution 1325. However, WILPF Australia continues to hold politicians accountable, and will be hosting a parallel WILPF 100 Conference in Australia. Further, YWILPF continues to engage with young Australians to broaden the movement.



Kozue Akibayashi, from WILPF Japan, gave an engaging history of disarmament in Japan. She relayed that despite Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, forbidding a standing military, this has been effectively nullified since 1954. Despite Japan overturning its ban on military fighting overseas in recent years, the public still believes that Japan does not have military capability. This makes any real action or discussion on disarmament particularly challenging.

Robin Lloyd and Mary Harrison, from WILPF US, gave a broad overview of the history of WILPF.

Name of Event:	Civil Society Consultation on the 2015 High Level Review
Panellists:	Madeleine Rees, Secretary General of WILPF; Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, International Coordinator/Program Director for Global Network of Women Peacebuilders; Nahla Valji, Policy Specialist on rule of law and justice at UN Women; Louise Allen, Executive Coordinator, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
Organised by:	WILPF, GNWP, WAND, and the Consortium on Gender Security and Human Rights
Themes:	Participation, General WPS

After the country highlights, participants mingled and engaged in a number of the inclusive activities: a video, photo-booth and community art project.

WILPF in collaboration with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND), and the Consortium on Gender Security and Human Rights hosted a civil society consultation to provide updates on the High-Level Review, discuss civil society engagement, and provide space for recommendations. The consultation was moderated by Laila Alodaat, Syrian Human Rights lawyer and Program Associate of WILPF’s MENA Agenda 1325 Project.

In looking at the 20 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 15 years since the implementation of UNSCR 1325, Madeleine Rees reiterated that our demands for women’s inclusion and equality have remained the same. She stated that the solution is to demand gender equality and work to change the inherent patriarchal culture, the structures of power and the unequal socially constructed roles. Before ending, Rees gave the call for us to “rethink, strategize, organize and make a difference.”



Nahla Valji who is presently working on the Global Study for the 2015 High Level Review of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 reminded that 2015 is a critical year for the WPS agenda as 3 simultaneous reviews on peace and security are scheduled to take place. She recommended that we need to think strategically about the obstacles which has prevented us from

reaching the vision which was founded in Beijing and in doing so, ensure that we centralize the inclusion, participation and issues of women in all the reviews as well as women, peace and security and financing recommendations.

Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, International Coordinator/Program Director for Global Network of Women Peacebuilders discussed the role of civil society especially with regard to its participation in the Global Study. She explained that civil society participated in the study based on it being an independent study which adequately reflected civil society voices. She explained the process of the study and its 3 components: National and Regional Consultations; Advisory Groups (inclusive of representatives from civil society) and; a Civil Society Survey. Louise Allen of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security reminded that we have 6 months until the 1325 High Level Review to jointly advocate, develop multi-targeted advocacy and push UN Member States and Agencies to recommit to the principles of a transformative WPS agenda.

Attendees were called upon to make recommendations toward the Global Study based on the four pillars of UNSCR 1325: Participation, Prevention, Protection and Relief and Recovery. These recommendations were documented and after a round of comments and question and answer, the panelists each made closing remarks. Attendees were reminded that while there will be thousands of recommendations towards the completion of the Global Study, not all will be included into the final report. Instead these recommendations can provide road-maps of the micro-economics of conflict and also of the civil society voice within these processes. Rees further gave the call to create a new global movement for change and extended the invitation for all to join WILPF's 100th anniversary conference 'Women's Power to Stop War' at the Hague in April.

Name of Event:	Celebrating 100 Years of Women Peacemakers
Panellists:	Featuring a performance piece Talking with our Grandmothers, Madeleine Rees, Secretary General of WILPF; Catia Confortini, author of "Intelligent Compassion: Feminist Methodology in WILPF".
Organised by:	WILPF
Themes:	General WPS

On March 11, WILPF-US hosted a celebration of WILPF's 100th year. Entitled "Celebrating 100 Years of Women Peacemakers", the celebration featured performances by The Raging Grannies who led the audience in song to open the evening's event.

After an introduction by WILPF US President Mary Hanson Harrison, Katrina Vanden Heuvel, Publisher of The Nation, joined in celebrating WILPF's 100th year. She spoke of the intertwining histories of the two entities - The Nation and WILPF- through the work of Emily Green Balch, one of the founders and the first international Secretary-Treasurer of WILPF (for which she won a Nobel Peace Prize) and a former editor of The Nation.

Next was a performance piece by Robin Lloyd and Charlotte Dennett - Talking with our grandmothers - based on the lives of their grandmothers Lola Maverick Lloyd and Elizabeth Redfern respectively, during WWI. For more info on the performance piece, [click here](#).

Catia Confortini, author of “Intelligent Compassion: Feminist Methodology in WILPF” next introduced the main speaker, Madeleine Rees who gave a keynote address entitled “The World in Crisis: How Women are Challenging Traditional Peacemaking.” In her address Rees reminded that in 1915, the women who went on to found WILPF sought to identify the root causes of war, challenge militarism and promote world peace. Today, we do the same thing but slightly differently because the context has changed, she continued. WILPF’s programmes, Rees explained, continue to do all these - addressing peace and disarmament - and seamlessly work together to identify the root causes of war within the multilateral system.

In speaking of her Bosnian experience and WILPF’s work with Bosnian and Syrian grassroots women, Rees insisted that we develop a system where grassroots narratives/descriptions/voices inform the responses of the UN and other international bodies.

As she closed, Rees invited all to come to the Hague in April for WILPF’s 100th anniversary ‘Women’s Power to Stop War’ conference so as launch a new global movement which will critically analyze the economy and its power structures and how these construct masculinities, violence, conflict and militarization within the multilateral system.



Name of Event:	Beijing Peace Train and Beyond
Panellists:	Robin Lloyd, Chair of WILPF US Development Committee; Ms Regina Birchem, former WILPF International President; Ms Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Africa Women's Peace Train Story to Beijing & Beyond; Ida Harslof, WILPF Norway; Zora Radosevich and Reshma Pattni, New Moon Magazine for Girls and Girls International Forum.
Organised by:	WILPF
Themes:	General WPS

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, WILPF-US hosted Beijing Peace Train and Beyond. WILPFers shared memories and testimonials of the Beijing Train which traveled from Helsinki, Finland to Beijing, China for the Fourth World Conference of Women.

After an introduction by the moderator Ms. Lois A. Herman, the Coordinator of the Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN), who noted that this was the first Beijing Peace Train panel to be held at the United Nations, Ms. Robin Lloyd, Chair of the WILPF US Development Committee presented an excerpt of her film on the Peace Train and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The film comprised amazing footage of the women on the peace train and gave a background of how the concept of a 'peace train' from Helsinki to Beijing was developed.

Ida Harslof gave her presentation next and through a series of pictures recalled her experience on the peace train and explained the artwork she did for WILPF at this time. Of the peace train, she recalled, "we got to know each other and connect with each other...every time we passed borders we would be wakened by a policeman saying "passports please!" The first stop of the peace train was St. Petersburg, Russia, then stops were made in Kiev, Ukraine; Romania and; Istanbul, Turkey before moving on to Beijing.

After a presentation by Ms. Angela Dolmetsch on the Peace Train 10 workshops with Global Women, Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana then described how African women joined the journey to Beijing. They planned a similar 'peace train' from Kampala, Uganda to Johannesburg, South Africa and from there, the women would fly to Beijing.

Before a time of audience reflection, Zora Radosevich and Reshma Pattni, explained that New Moon Magazine for Girls and Girls International Forum had the only girls' delegation to the Beijing Conference. Pattni, who was one of these 'girl delegates' in 1995 reflected on her experience through a series of photographs.

The event was then closed by Ms. Regina Birchem, former WILPF International President.

Summaries from Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Related or Co-Sponsored Events at CSW58

Monday 9 March 2015

Name of Event: Above the Parapet - Women in Public Life

Organised by: LSE, Permanent Mission Liechtenstein and WILPF

Panelists/Participants: Zainab Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; Aurelia Frick, Liechtenstein politician; Dr Purna Sen, Deputy Director of the Institute of Public Affairs at LSE; Joyce Banda, Malawi's first female president; Madeline Reiss, Secretary General of WILPF; Agnes Callamard, Director of Columbia's Freedom of Expression and Information Project.

"Although women do not start wars, they are not consulted on peace processes and rebuilding their countries" - Zainab Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

On March 9, 2015 at the first day of CSW 58, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) co-sponsored a side event with LSE and the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein at the Trusteeship Council Chamber on experiences of senior women who have shaped public life. The session reflected on the personal journeys of women in decision-making positions and touched on the myriad of obstacles facing women in power.

Joyce Banda, Malawi's first female president, highlighted the importance of increasing women's economic power, keeping girls in school, and promoting women's leadership. In promoting women, she stressed that both men and women needed to foster a supportive environment. Madeleine Rees spoke about breaking silences and challenging hegemonic masculinity in international institutions. She stated that "defending the institution is often more important than defending what they are there to do, and institutions often don't do their jobs." Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura stated that "although women do not start wars, they are not consulted on peace processes and rebuilding their countries". When looking at the progress made for women in the past 100 years, she noted that breaking into the boys' club has been easier said than done and that demanding a seat at the table has been hard. Finally, Dr. Agnes Callamard, Director of Columbia's Freedom of Expression and Information Project, explained that it was "hard being a confident woman in a male-dominated field", but some obstacles were not gendered. Closing the session she expressed that it was her values and commitment to social justice, which drove her to ignore obstacles.

Name of Event: Amplifying the Voices of Palestinian Women within the WPS Agenda

Organised by: WILPF, YWZA, MIFTAH

Panelists/Participants: Dr. Lily Feidy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH; Ms. Suhair Ramadan, Women's Rights and Advocacy Expert, YWCA Palestine; Ms. Hanan Kaoud, Director, Development Communication and Outreach – Gender Expert, MIFTAH

Palestinian women and civil society continue to be excluded from any formal processes related to resolution of the conflict in the Occupied State of Palestine. A number of women's organisations and the Palestinian National Institute for Human Rights are proactively collaborating to advocate for women's rights and call for the implementation of international mechanisms to safeguard their status. Women's rights organisations are particularly important at this stage because of their collective actions in communities and the connection they create among peace, justice and gender equality. Hana Kaoud, from MIFTAH, expressed the importance of building a movement of women civil society activists. She noted that Palestinian women were more aware of their role change from victims to agents of change. Both speakers discussed the importance of CSOs moving towards coordination and collaboration to strengthen their position. Suhair Ramadan, from YWCA, also expressed the need to empower grassroots women with advocacy tools and to discover concerns on the ground.

Tuesday 10 March 2015

Name of Event: Post 2015 Women's Coalition: Realisation of Gender Equality, Women's rights and Women's Empowerment beyond the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Organised by: WILPF,

Panelists/Participants: H.E. María Cristina Perceval, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN; Dr. Hoda Badran, Chairperson Egyptian Feminist Union and the Alliance for Arab Women; Gloria Bonder, Headmistress of Gender and Political Society FLACSO (Latin American School of Social Sciences); Susan Hopgood, President, Education International (EI) and the Federal Secretary of the Australian Education Union (AEU); Nalini Singh, Programme Manager, Advocacy and Capacity Building Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW); Radhika Balakrishnan, PhD, Faculty Director Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL).

Women leaders from different regions discussed how women's rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment can be realized beyond 2015 in light of the 20 year review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the new global framework for a sustainable development agenda.

Wednesday 11 March 2015

Name of Event: Transformative Women, Peace & Security Agenda: The Need to Challenge Militarism
Organised by: Women Peacemakers Program (WPP); Consortium on Gender, Security & Human Rights; Saferworld; SAMYAK; Reaching Critical Will (RCW); Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Panelists/Participants: Isabelle Geuskens, Executive Director - WPP; Carol Cohn, Director - Consortium on Gender, Security & Human Rights; Hannah Wright, Gender, Peace and Security Advisor - Saferworld; Anand Pawar, Executive Director - SAMYAK; Abigail Ruane, Manager of the PeaceWomen Programme - WILPF

"We got our resolutions, but what about our revolution" - Isabelle Geuskens, Executive Director - WPP

Taking into account the broad agenda of the Beijing Platform for Action, and reviewing the 15 years of implementation of UNSCR 1325, this panel discussion analyzed the gendered nature of peace and security mechanisms, by uncovering the linkages between hegemonic masculinities, violence and militarism and its current effects on UNSCR 1325 implementation. Hannah Wright opened the event with some overall comments and thoughts on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and the shift towards militarization in recent years. Anand Pawar commented that armies are based on the enemy system and thus, there cannot be an alternative to the word of peace nor to the idea of adding women to a system that glorifies "othering" and "the enemy" - militarization of the agenda won't suffice. Abigail Ruane began by first looking back as to how far we have come in the past 100 years with WILPF; in the past 20 years with Beijing; and in the past 15 years with 1325. She stressed that we must "reclaim the peace agenda and move away from the over-militarization that is continuing to take over national strategies and regional commitments". Further, Isabelle Geuskens discussed the need for concrete investments in disarmament; human security; and conflict prevention. She stated, "we got our resolutions, but what about our revolution." Finally, Carol Cohn stressed the necessity for bringing together the knowledge feminists already hold and then coming up with a transformative WPS agenda that would lead to a feminist playbook for peace.

Thursday 12 March 2015

Name of Event: Institutional Mechanisms, Human Rights and Armed Conflict: Assessing the Situation for Women and Girls

Organised by: International Sociological Association (ISA), the Clinical Sociology Division (RC46) of ISA, Criminologists without Borders and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Panelists/Participants: Sarah Boyd, WILPF; Rosemary Barberet, Susan Kang, and Heather Jones, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, Bangladesh and Former UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative

"In any country where women's rights are denied, women in that country are in conflict" - Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, Bangladesh and Former UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative

Susan Kang began by highlighting work done by the Diplomacy Lab in analyzing global trends within the recruitment and retention of women in the criminal justice systems. Sarah Boyd spoke on her experiences with CSOs and women's organisation relative to women's roles in peacebuilding post-conflict in Nepal and also spoke on challenges and limitations to the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs). She illustrated that in Australia, the NAP was created and drafted in 2008-9 and then implemented in 2012. While early on, there was heavy consulting of CSOs, there were challenges in pushing the agenda because the argument came down to "a peace and security issue" versus a "women's rights issue". Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury reiterated the presence of two "ands": "women" **and** "peace **and** security" and called for women to be included within peace and security. He stated that the two greatest obstacles to the WPS agenda are: the feminization of poverty and the lack of human security perception to corporations. Further, the Ambassador stated "In any country where women's rights are denied, women in that country are in conflict".

Name of Event: Linking the Women, Peace & Security and Arms Control Agendas

Organised by: WILPF, The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations in association with International Action Network on Small Arms Women's Network (WNL), Global Alliance on Armed Violence (GAAV), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Panelists/Participants: Ms. Cora Weiss (Moderator), UN Representative for the International Peace Bureau (IPB); Ms. Natasha Stott Despoja, Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls; Mr. Daniël Prins, Chief of UNODA's Conventional Arms Branch; Ms. Jasmin Nario-Galace, Executive Director of the Centre for Peace Education; and Ms. Ray Acheson, Director of Reaching Critical Will, WILPF.

The session explored how arms control efforts supported the protection of human rights and women's security. Panelists explored ways to curb the destabilising effects of arms flows, and shared experiences implementing national action plans on UNSCR 1325 with arms control provisions.

Name of Event: Sexual Violence in Conflict: Accountability, Achievements and Challenges

Organised by: WILPF; Women's Human Rights Commission of Korea

Panelists/Participants: Ms. Mee Hyan Yoon, Representative of the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan; Ms. Helen Hakena, Co-founder of Letana Nehan Women's Development Agency; Ms. Afar Marie, EACPE Director, Member of Karama; Ms. Gay McDougall, Distinguished Visiting Prof. in International Law, Fordham University; Ms. Maria Butler, PeaceWomen Program Director, WILPF.

Saturday 14 March 2015

Name of Event: Women's Rights to Dignity, Security and Justice: The Rana Plaza Disaster's Human Consequences and Legal Accountability

Organised by: Pasos Peace Museum and the International Institute on Peace Education, sponsored by the Biospherical Institute, with the co-sponsorship of CONNECT, the Global Campaign for Peace Education, The Network for Peace through Dialogue, The Peace Education Initiative at The University of Toledo, Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition, Voice of Women for Peace-Canada, and World Council for Curriculum for Curriculum and Instruction, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Panelists/Participants: Betty Reardon, founder and director of the Peace Education Center and Peace Education Graduate Degree Program at Teachers College, Columbia University; Robin Berson; Tiffany Millieon, Pasos Peace Museum; Janet Gerson, International Institute on Peace Education

The event began with an interactive viewing of the quilts commemorating the Rana Plaza Collapse and the Triangle Fire Disaster. Participants were handed a photo with questions to prompt them. While reviewing the two quilts, participants were asked to find the photo on the quilt and also think about the many more women workers who continue to be denied basic human and labour rights. Quilt viewing questions included: what thoughts occur as you look at the face of this person? What might her life been before and during her work in the textile factory? What might have led her/him to the work that cost so many lives? What do you know of the economic circumstances of such textile workers? What should citizens know about their working conditions? What should we look for and take into account when buying clothing produced in such factories?

This was followed by a panel on “Awareness, Education and Action for Justice and Accountability: Opportunities for Civil Society”. Robin Berson, who spearheaded the creation of both quilts, spoke on the background and international process of quilt production. “I didn’t want unrelieved horrors. I didn’t want only images of fire. Why would anybody look at that? I wanted to emphasize what had been lost. The youngest kid was 14; almost nobody was over 22. You just look at these pictures, and it breaks your heart.” Robin walked the room through the production of the quilts and significance of particular panels. Interspersed among a couple dozen portraits of victims are representations of a shirtwaist ad, a notice for a memorial march, pro-union quotes, lyrics for labor anthems such as “Bread and Roses,” and a rendering of families looking for their loved ones amid coffins in a temporary morgue. Robin reached out to fashion design students, who created individual panels for the quilts. The Rana Plaza sister quilt was particularly challenging to create as many of the victims were unable to be identified. In fact, many of the photos of the victims are slightly tattered, as they were taken directly from light posts and the sides of buildings remembering the lost victims.

Tiffany Millieon, from the Pasos Peace Museum, spoke on the process of quilt making in education for human rights and justice. She covered the variety of reasons and uses of quilts throughout history. She presented the Pasos Children’s Rights Quilt Project, which provides a real and virtual space for students from all over the globe to learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Students are given the opportunity to learn about and use their human rights through the expressive, collaborative, and educative processes of quilt making.

Janet Gerson, from the International Institute on Peace Education, presented the “Possibilities for Accountability: Opportunities for Civil Society”. This was followed by a Q&A with the panel. Participants then broke into smaller groups to develop proposals for civil society education and action to achieve women’s labor rights and criminal accountability for their violation.

5. Visual Snapsho



PeaceWomen CSW59 SNAPSHOT

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

"Women do not start wars, but our bodies are the battlefields; yet we are not consulted on peace and rebuilding our countries."

Zainab Hawa Bangura
Above the Parapet,
March 9, 2015



"Women are not just victims but as survivors, they are the key actors for providing the mechanisms for change"

Charlotte Bunch
Women Confronting ISIS,
March 6, 2015



"Women's participation and inclusion needs to be recommended throughout the Security Council. reach the Security Council."

Nahla Vaijl
Civil Society Consultation on the 2015 WPS High Level Review,
March 11, 2015



"Gender equality and women's rights are at the core of the peace building process."

Movic Cabrera-Balleza
Civil Society Consultation on the 2015 WPS High Level Review,
March 11, 2015



"Women must never be used as a military strategy."

Radhika Coomaraswamy
Women Confronting ISIS,
March 6, 2015



"We cannot look at the root causes of conflict without looking at the structures of power and gender."

Madeleine Rees
Above the Parapet, March 9, 2015



"We got our resolutions, but what about our revolution?"

Isabelle Geuskens
A Transformative Women, Peace & Security Agenda: The Need to Challenge Militarism,
March 11, 2015



"In any country where women's rights are denied, then there is conflict. Those women face conflict from within."

Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury
Institutional Mechanisms, Human Rights and Armed Conflict: Assessing the Situation for Women and Girls,
March 12, 2015



"Amplifying the Voices of Palestinian Women within the WPS Agenda,"

March 10, 2015



Image from the Beijing Peace Train event,

March 13, 2015



5 MIN REPORT: WILPF AT CSW59

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF
WPS EVENTS

80



TOTAL NUMBER OF PARALLEL EVENTS

450



APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF
DELEGATES

4,300



WILPF DELEGATION

53



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

DEMOGRAPHIC OF WILPF DELEGATION



KEY WILPF EVENTS

Women Confronting ISIS: Local Strategies and States' Responsibilities

Iraqi and Syrian women activists discussed the relationship between gender-based abuses under ISIS and State-sanctioned discrimination and violence against women in the Iraq and Syria.

Above the Parapet

Showcased the many challenges that women in public life face especially as they work on women, peace and security, gender and human rights in institutions which inherently exclude them or diminish their roles.

Beijing Peace Train & Beyond

A stimulating panel on the Beijing Peace Train and stories of solidarity in movement.

Celebrating 100 Years of Women Peacemakers

Women peace activists celebrated WILPF's 100th anniversary, looking back at our history, but also paving a new way forward.

Civil Society Consultation on the 2015 High Level Review

Participants were provided with updates on the WPS High-Level Review; they discussed civil society engagement, and made recommendations to inform the review.



QUOTES

"Women do not start wars, but our bodies are the battlefields, yet we are not consulted on peace and rebuilding our countries." - Zainab Hawa Bangura

"In any country where women's rights are denied, then there is conflict. Those women face conflict from within." - Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury

"The conversations have not changed for the past 20 years; not just here but everywhere" - Nahla Valji

"Rethink, strategize, organize and make a difference" - Madeleine Rees

OUTCOMES OF CSW59

"As women thrive, so will we all. If girls are held back, the whole world feels the pain," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



Allows for new partnerships and innovation

Space to reaffirm the vision of Beijing + 20

Women civil society organisations (CSO) were able to bring global perspectives on their work, challenges and progress



A weak political declaration

A lack of civil society participation in negotiations

The Global South did not have a strong presence at CSW59

Demilitarisation and critical area E were often left out of the dialogue

FAILURES OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION

REMOVAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS LANGUAGE

LACKS REAL COMMITMENTS TO ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF BEIJING +20

LACKS COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION OF CEDAW

REFERENCE TO WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS WERE EXCLUDED

LACKS REAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOVERNMENTS

NEEDS STRONG LINKAGES BETWEEN BEIJING, POST-2015 AND SDGS

NEEDS A STRONG LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN & GIRLS AND DEVELOPMENT

FINANCING SCR1325



'There are significant financing shortfalls in the security sector'

USD 10.3 Billion

OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members' aid in support of gender equality in fragile states in 2012-2013

10%

Aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies has grown at a rapid rate of 10% annually since 2008

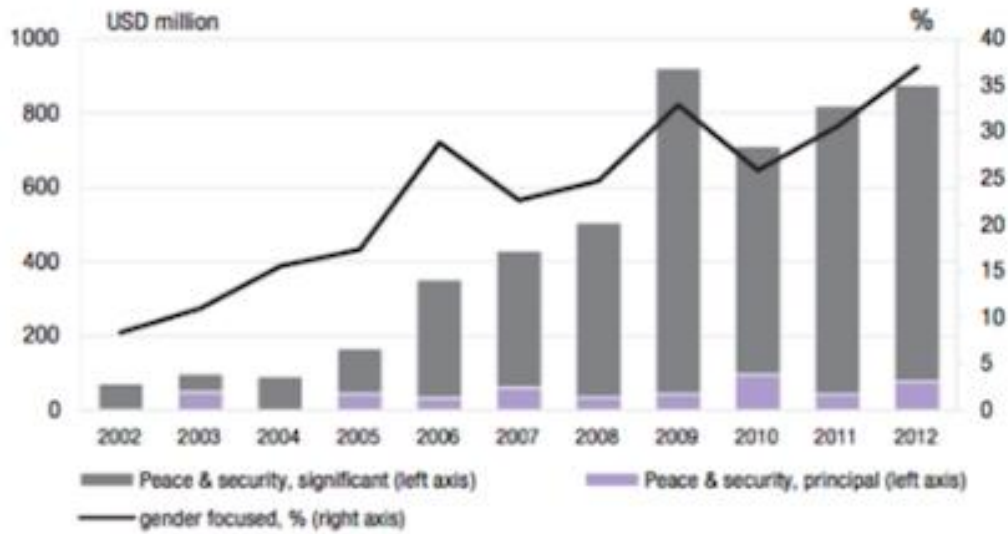
6%

In 2012-2014m only 6% of aid to fragile states targeted gender equality as the principal objective

2%

Only 2% of all aid to peace and security in fragile states targeted gender equality as a principal objective

Chart 6. Gender equality focused aid to peace and security, 2002-12
Commitments, 2002-12, constant 2011 prices



Source: OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) (2015), 'Financing UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Aid in support of gender equality and women's rights in fragile contexts', OECD Publishing: Paris.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
peacewomen.org



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN:

WOMEN'S POWER TO STOP WAR
a global movement of WILPF

7. Reporters

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8. Useful Links

PeaceWomen - <http://peacewomen.org/>

The Official website of the Commission on the Status of Women -
<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women - <http://www.ngocsw.org/>

UN Women - <http://www.unwomen.org/>