



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Ligue internationale des femmes pour la paix et la liberté

Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO

Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO and UNICEF

International Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Australian Section (founded 1915)

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Senator Penny Wong
Minister for Climate Change and Water
PO Box 6237, Halifax Street
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Dear Senator Wong

We are writing to congratulate you on your re-election as a South Australian Senator and on your appointment as Minister for Climate Change and Water. We are delighted that a person such as yourself has been appointed to this portfolio. While we welcome your appointment to the Ministry as a South Australian, we especially welcome your appointment as a woman.

We would like to give you some background information about our organisation. The Australian Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international non-government organisation in consultative status with United Nations ECOSOC and UNESCO. WILPF also has special consultative relations with the FAO, ILO and UNICEF. We have been in existence since 1915 and our Australian Section works with many related NGOs to put forward our views on peace, social justice, sustainable environment and issues facing women.

WILPF has observed that during the eleven years of the Howard Government, Australia has increasingly moved away from being recognised as a 'good international citizen' as evident in the previous government's failure to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. We are pleased that our new Labor government has made this commitment and urge you now to develop targets for greenhouse gas reduction in Australia that will bring us into line with other developed nations such as the

UK. The inevitability of climate change is now well recognised and it is time for our government to act so that Australia can play our part in preserving species and food supply for humanity.

As a women's peace organisation, we see the lack of natural resources such as water, food and energy as triggers for wars. We are relieved that you will be addressing the issues of fair water distribution. We also look forward to an Australian response to peak oil. This is a problem likely to cause much distress in a country such as ours which relies primarily on oil for transport.

We recognise that these are huge challenges facing Australia. We offer our best wishes to you and wish you well in developing fair and sustainable national and international solutions that will work towards the avoidance of conflict.

We urge you to use your good offices to bring Australia back into the high regard it was once held internationally by genuinely supporting the United Nations, international conventions and treaties thus promoting a more peaceful and just global community.

We look forward to progress on these important issues over the term of your government.

Once again, our congratulations and very best wishes on your appointment to this portfolio.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Picone and Ruth Russell
Joint National Coordinators