

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
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25th February 2009

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Please find attached our organisation's submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' Inquiry into Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. This submission is made on behalf of the national and international levels of our organisation.

Noting that the date for submissions was January 31st, 2009, we thank you for the extension of time in which to submit our comments and appreciate that the final date for our submission is today, Wednesday 25th February 2009.

Appended to our submission is an important annex entitled "The Relevance of Gender for Eliminating Weapons of Mass Destruction". This paper which was presented to the Blix Commission was authored by Carol Cohn with Felicity Hill and Sara Ruddick. It explores the question of how gender has been inadequately addressed to date in the conduct of debates worldwide on issues of WMD including nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Because women have been inadequately represented in these debates, we implore the JSCT to look to gender balance in issuing invitations to persons to give evidence in the Committee's hearings when they are scheduled. Ray Acheson, Director of our organisation's Reaching Critical Will project, is based in New York and would be pleased to make herself available by video-link to speak to our submission. We sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to speak to our submission and supply greater detail.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Picone and Ruth Russell

Joint National Coordinators, Australian Section