



# 2015 WILPF Australia Centenary PeaceWomen Award Recipients

In late May 2015, WILPF Australia's Centenary Celebrations began with the inaugural National Peacewomen Awards.

The Peacewomen Awards were the first national Australia Awards following five years of Queensland State Awards.

The event celebrated the achievements of recipients Ms. Kirstie Parker, Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First People and Director of Reconciliation Australia; Dr Helen Caldicott, physician and anti-nuclear advocate; Dr Anne Gallagher AO, global expert on international law in human trafficking; and Dr Helen Durham, expert in International Humanitarian Law and first woman Director of Law at the International Committee of the Red Cross in its 150 year history.



**Australian Section**

WILPF 1915-2015

The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO

Centenary Patron

## **Ms Kirstie Parker, Centenary Peacewoman**

Kirstie Parker is a Yuwallarai Aboriginal woman from northwest NSW, from the Lamb and Arnold families. She is Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, the national representative body of the Aboriginal and Torres Peoples of Australia. Congress provides leadership to promote and protect the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. In undertaking this role, Congress accepts the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the minimum standard for the rights of Aboriginal Peoples.

In addition to her role as Co-Chair of the Congress, Kirstie is a director of Reconciliation Australia, and a Co-Chair of the national Close the Gap Campaign. Close the Gap brings Australia's peak Indigenous and non-Indigenous health bodies, NGOs and human rights organisations to work together to achieve health and life expectation equality for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Kirstie is also a former board member of the Australian Indigenous Communications Association (AICA), and a member of the Deadly Awards Executive Academy.

Leadership, capacity-building, media and communications, arts and culture, political representation... Kirstie has worked for her people in all of these areas, holding a range of high level community, not-for-profit and government positions. She has more than 25 years' experience in mainstream and Indigenous print and radio journalism, communications, and management of Indigenous organisations.

From 2006 until her election to Congress, Kirstie was Editor (and sometime Managing Editor) of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander newspaper, the Koori Mail, which was named 2011 Newspaper of the Year (in its circulation category of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association Awards).

Kirstie's many achievements include being named in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac inaugural 100 Women of Influence Awards for 2012, and receiving a Centenary Medal in 2003 for her contribution to the Indigenous community and Australian life.

Like WILPF, Kirstie is passionate about achieving social, economic and political justice. She is a tireless worker, dedicated to improving quality of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and achieving meaningful constitutional recognition for Australia's First Peoples.

"My grandfather toiled in the paddock and shearing shed from sunrise to sundown for little more than mutton, flour, sugar, tea and tobacco." Kirstie said. "My mum started work as a domestic servant from the age of 11 and went on to study at university and run two businesses.

"They stood up for me and their efforts were not in vain. I honour them and all of the old people for the opportunities they helped to create, for ensuring that my generation and all those after could lead better lives.

"Dysfunction and hopelessness are just not our way. I won't wear them as badges of Aboriginality. But perseverance, success, kindness, courage and integrity? Now you're talking."

**PO Box 934  
Dickson ACT 2602**



**1915 – 2015**  
[www.wilpf.org.au/centenary](http://www.wilpf.org.au/centenary)

WILPF is a non-government organisation committed to disarmament, the peaceful resolution of conflict, economic and social justice, and environmental sustainability. On 28 April 1915, more than 1200 women met in The Hague to advocate an end to war. WILPF celebrates 100 years of peace and human rights building.



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**Dr Helen Caldicott, Centenary Peacewoman**

One woman who embodies WILPF's mission to end and prevent war is Melbourne-born Dr Helen Caldicott. Helen has devoted the last 43 years of her life to an international campaign aimed at educating the public about the serious medical ramifications and hazards of the nuclear age. She has equally devoted her time to reconstructing our environmentally destructive behaviour.

The Smithsonian has named Helen one of the most influential women of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1982 she received the Humanist of the Year Award from the American Association of Humanistic Psychology. She was personally nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Linus Pauling – himself a Nobel Laureate. She holds 21 honorary degrees.

Helen believes nuclear power, global warming and the ever-present threat of nuclear war, are the greatest medical threats posed to life on this planet.

Starting her life of activism in 1971, Helen played a major role in Australia's opposition to French atmospheric nuclear testing in the Pacific; and later worked with the Australian trade unions to educate their members about the medical dangers of the nuclear fuel cycle, with particular reference to uranium mining.

In the late 1970s and 1980s while living in the United States she was the founding President of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Helen played a significant role in re-invigorating and founding many other medical associations in other countries which were opposed to the effects of nuclear war, weapons and power. These combined global medical organisations, The IPPNW, were awarded the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

Referring to the medical consequences of the nuclear fuel cycle she says "Nuclear waste will last for 500,000 years, and there is no safe means to prevent these radioactive elements from entering and concentrating in the food chain and in human bodies.

"These elements, which are tasteless, odourless and invisible, are highly carcinogenic and mutagenic. Over time, they will induce epidemics of cancer, leukaemia, genetic disease and congenital malformations. Children are 10 to 20 times more radiosensitive than adults, and are therefore much more susceptible to developing cancer."

Facing a devastating reality such as this, Helen has invested immense energy into her career as a physician and paediatrician specialising in cystic fibrosis, author, anti-nuclear advocate and founder of multiple organisations mostly in the US, opposed to nuclear power and nuclear war. She has spread her message of peace and hosted a weekly radio program *If You Love This Planet*, which was broadcast across Australia and internationally from 2010 to 2013.

Helen has authored seven [books](#): [Nuclear Madness](#) (1978 and 1994 WW Norton); [Missile Envy](#) (1984 William Morrow, 1985 Bantam, 1986 Bantam); [If You Love This Planet: A Plan to Heal the Earth](#) (1992, [W.W. Norton](#)); [A Desperate Passion: An Autobiography](#) (1996, [W.W. Norton](#); published as [A Passionate Life](#) in Australia by [Random House](#)); [The New Nuclear Danger: George Bush's Military Industrial Complex](#) (2001, [The New Press](#) in the US, UK and UK; [Scribe Publishing](#) in Australia and NZ; [Lemniscaat Publishers](#) in The Netherlands; and [Hugendubel Verlag](#) in Germany); [Nuclear Power is Not the Answer](#) (2006, [The New Press](#) in the US, UK and UK; [Melbourne University Press](#) in Australia); [War In Heaven](#) (The New Press 2007); revised and updated [If You Love This Planet](#) (March 2009); [Loving This Planet](#) (The New Press; 2013); and [Crisis Without End](#) (The New Press Sept 2014).

As a woman of immense energy, conviction and compassion, Helen has been the subject of three documentaries: *Eight Minutes to Midnight: A Portrait of Dr. Helen Caldicott* (1982); the Oscar-winning *If You Love This Planet* (2004); and *Helen's War: Portrait of Dissent* (2004)

Helen divides her time between Australia and the US.

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## **Dr Anne Gallagher, Centenary Peacewoman**

Awarded one of Australia's highest civilian honours, and named as a 'Trafficking in Persons Hero' by then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Dr Anne Gallagher has built a formidable career in teaching, law, scholarship, human rights and the administration of criminal justice.

As an international authority on human rights and gender issues, Anne is a genuine trailblazer, who emerged from Australian shores and set her sights on tackling immense humanitarian issues worldwide. In all aspects of her diverse career she has prioritized dignity, security and justice for all, aligning strongly and consistently with WILPF's belief that peace and security are an integral part of human rights.

After a brief period as an academic at the Australian National University, Anne was recruited to the United Nations where she served for over a decade as a human rights officer, working in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia.

From 1998 to 2002 she served as Special Adviser to Mary Robison, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. During this time she helped develop the international legal framework around trafficking in persons and pioneered a 'human rights based approach' to trafficking that has now become the accepted global standard. She continues to work as an Adviser to the United Nations and other international organizations.

Since resigning from her full-time position with the UN in 2003, Anne has held a series of leadership roles in a high profile intergovernmental program. The program is funded by the Australian Government and aims to strengthen legislative and criminal justice responses to human trafficking and related exploitation in all ten ASEAN Member States. This program, which is the world's largest and most ambitious criminal justice initiative against trafficking, commenced in 2003 and will be completed in 2018. It has been widely acclaimed for its impact on laws, policies and practices within and outside the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Secretary-General has publicly stated that the successes ASEAN has achieved in this area: "are in no small part due to Dr Gallagher's persevering effort and her compassion towards ASEAN".

Anne combines her career as a legal practitioner and adviser with a vocation as a teacher and independent, self-funded scholar. While juggling guest lecturer positions at some of the world's leading universities, she maintains a first-rate track record of publication: producing books, journal articles, research reports, training materials and opinion pieces on a wide range of areas related to human rights, women's rights, criminal justice and the rule of law.

Anne's work has been widely recognised. In addition to her 'Hero' award from the US Government she was awarded the inaugural Australian Freedom Award in 2011 and in 2012 was appointed *Officer of the Order of Australia* (AO) for: "distinguished service to the law and human rights, as a practitioner, teacher and scholar, particularly in areas of human trafficking responses and criminal justice". In 2013 she received the inaugural Australian National University *Alumni of the Year* award

Anne is a true inspiration in her global fight against modern slavery, helping to craft global law and policy while working on the front line to confront the current high levels of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and secure justice for the victims of exploitation. She also understands the political and economic dimensions of this complex issue – regularly taking on governments, corporations and even civil society groups that in her view are not measuring up.

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## **Dr Helen Durham, Centenary Peacewoman**

WILPF recognises Dr Helen Durham as a leader in the field of international humanitarian law (the laws of war) who used her vast knowledge in this area to continually advocate for the protection of women during armed conflict, in particular urging for rape to be deemed a war crime.

For many years Helen worked with Australian Red Cross as Director of International Humanitarian Law and Policy in which she was responsible for dissemination information about how to reduce suffering in war, working with governments, military, the broader community and leading teams of lawyers, researches as well as engaging with policy development. She is a Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School and regularly teaches about women and the law of war in the Masters of Law program.

In July last year she was appointed as Director of Law and Policy for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a Geneva based position. In doing so she became the first Australian to be appointed as a Director with ICRC and the first woman Director of Law in the 150 year history of the organisation.

Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, she has a PhD in international law, with a focus on international criminal prosecution.

Helen has been involved in international legal negotiations in New York, Rome and Geneva and has completed a number of short missions with the ICRC in Burma, Aceh, the Philippines and across the Pacific. She has also previously worked as Director of Research for the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law at Melbourne University and is widely published on international humanitarian law with her articles and books being used by practitioners and policy makers globally.

"I believe the law has a crucial role to play in challenging us to treat each other better," Helen says.

"It is a clear articulation on how we wish to live as human beings, what are acceptable ways to behave towards each other, even in extreme circumstances, and what is totally unacceptable. That's why I find international humanitarian law so exciting. During terrible time, such as armed conflict, it is essential that we carve out spaces for humanity."