

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO
Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF



Australian Section

PO Box 934
DICKSON ACT 2602

20 March 2019

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Since Friday, many thousands of Australians have expressed their sympathy and deep sadness for the innocent inhabitants of Christchurch who were killed because a destructive individual was able, too easily, to obtain dangerous weapons. We are thankful that our current gun laws in Australia are as strong as they are and hope they are never watered down. Indeed, we wish the laws were even stronger.

The availability of guns in the community, however, is only one aspect of the normalizing of violence. At present, the Australian government appears intent on leading Australians into a mindset of increased support for violence, through increased weapons manufacture and armament sales via the Defence Export Strategy; support for war-games; alignment with countries determined to fight rather than seek peaceful resolution of conflict; and the funding by armaments manufacturers of academic institutes and facilities at the Australian War Memorial— all without any real consultation, or the support of the Australian community.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Australia) request that you consider and act on our wish for a reduction in armaments production in Australia; and an increased focus on the peaceful resolution of conflict at all levels in our society and with our neighbours.

Yours sincerely

Chris Henderson
President
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Australia)