

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

22 January 2018

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the oldest women's peace organisation in Australia and the world, was pleased to hear that North and South Korea will march together under one flag at next month's winter Olympics in South Korea. As well, they have agreed to field a combined Women's Ice Hockey team.

Members of WILPF Australia were very disappointed, however, to hear your sceptical comments regarding this peace initiative.

WILPF International President Kozue Akibayashi was recently part of a coalition of distinguished women representing peace movements from across the globe, who travelled to Vancouver to the Foreign Ministers Meeting on Security and Stability on the Korean Peninsula. The women's delegation urged the foreign ministers towards a diplomatic peace process that moves away from war and increased militarisation, and towards peace, reconciliation and genuine security.

We would urge the Australian government to also follow this path.

Attached for your information is a letter from WILPF and other members of the coalition of women about this matter to the Foreign Ministers attending the meeting, including Australia's foreign minister, Julie Bishop.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara O'Dwyer
President
WILPF Australia



Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State, United States
Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg
Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Australia
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
Alan Peter Cayetano, The Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines
Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia
María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
Boris Johnson, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, United Kingdom
Kyung-hwa Kang, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Nikos Kotzias, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece
Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France
Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa
Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand
Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
Didier Reynders, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, Belgium
Halbe Zijlstra, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
Margot Wallström, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister, India

January 4, 2018

Dear Ministers:

Warm greetings and Happy New Year from peacemakers from around the world.

We write to you as representatives of civil society organizations working on a broad range of issues, including peace, social justice, human rights, environment, and women's rights.

We are writing to respectfully request your facilitation of 17 women peacemakers' participation at the January 16, 2018 Ministerial Meeting on the Korean conflict held in Vancouver, Canada. Many of these women peacemakers represent civil society organizations from countries that fought in the Korean War; they have a responsibility and moral duty to help their governments formally end the 65-year old war diplomatically and peacefully.

The delegation of 17 women peacemakers gathered by Women Cross DMZ, Nobel Women's Initiative, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, United Church of Canada, and Women's

International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) represent the best of civil society with their broad and diverse expertise, which will be invaluable towards understanding and resolving the longstanding Korean conflict. Their collective wisdom and experience includes conflict resolution, mediation, disarmament, nuclear policy, environment, military operations, humanitarian aid, human rights, international legal frameworks, and economic development.

To ensure that the only option that is advanced to address the dangerous escalation on the Korean Peninsula in Vancouver is a diplomatic one, we believe the active and meaningful participation of women peacemakers is critical.

Why should women peacemakers be at the table in Vancouver? For one, your governments are obligated to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was unanimously adopted by the UNSC on October 31, 2000. UNSCR 1325 recognizes the important role that women play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace building. In fact, many of your countries have developed National Action Plans to implement the resolution's objectives. By integrating women peacemakers at the meeting in Vancouver to address the most challenging, hard security crisis facing our world today, we believe we can contribute towards finding a diplomatic resolution.

In addition to your governments' commitment to uphold the spirit of UNSCR 1325, we also know from conflicts around the world that new initiatives require women's ideas because we bring a different perspective to resolving conflict and to building peace. Women deepen the discussion on peace and security beyond the interests of combatting parties and are able to energize community buy-in when an agreement is reached. Research shows that women's inclusion in peace processes not only yields actual peace agreements, but also more durable ones. **In a major study spanning three decades of 40 peace processes, of 182 signed peace accords, an agreement was reached in all but one case when women's groups influenced the peace process.** From 1989 to 2011, of these 182 signed peace accords, an agreement was 35 percent more likely to last 15 years if women participated in its creation.[1] In the absence of any formal dialogue, we believe it is urgent that women peacemakers are involved in discussing avenues for building peace and security for the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia.

By supporting the active participation of women peacemakers, you will have the chance to hear new insights, perspectives and solutions, particularly from those who would be most impacted by a renewed military conflict, and those who have most to gain from ensuring an era of dialogue and diplomacy.

Thank you for your consideration of the active and meaningful participation of women peacemakers to the Ministerial meeting in Vancouver. We look forward to the opportunity to engage with you in Vancouver to ensure peace, security and prosperity for all on the Korean Peninsula and region. We look forward to hearing back from you

soon.

Sincerely yours,

1325 Policy Group, Sweden

21st Century Seoul Women's Union, Republic of Korea

350.org, USA

ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality, Lebanon

Action for One Korea, USA

African Women's Active Nonviolence Initiatives for Social Change, Africa

Agir pour les Droits de l'Homme, France

Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Process (AGIPP), Myanmar

Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea, USA

Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma, Thailand

Anglican Church of Canada, Canada

Association Dea Dia, Serbia

Association of War Affected Women, Sri Lanka

beyondit, Republic of Korea

Bolivian Women's Efforts, Bolivia

Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, USA

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Canada

CanDo International, United Kingdom

Catholic Worker, USA

CEHAJ1325, Democratic Republic of Congo

Center for Korean Peninsula Neutralization, USA

Centre for Social and Gender Research "New Life", Ukraine

Centre for Supporters of Human Rights (CSHR), United Kingdom

Channing and Popai Liem Education Foundation, USA

Charles and Doosurgh Abaagu Foundation, (CDAF) Nigeria

Christian Aid, United Kingdom

Chungchung-namdo Education Center for Equality, Republic of Korea

CODEPINK, USA

Colombia Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas, Colombia

Comfort Women Justice Coalition, USA

Committed Some for Uganda, Uganda

Common Nourishing and Education, Republic of Korea

Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI) Nigeria

Community Empowerment for Peace organization, South Sudan

Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique (CFFB), Belgium

Consejo Nacional de Paz Afrocolombiano -CONPA, Columbia

Coordination française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes (CLEF), France

Defenders for Human Rights Centre (DHRC), Iran

Democracy Development Center, Ukraine

Dignity Restoration and Protection Foundation (DRPF), Nigeria

Durebang, Republic of Korea

Ecumenical Peace Institute/Clergy and Laity Concerned, USA

Ecumenical Youth Network, Republic of Korea

Embrace Dignity, South Africa

Environmentalists Against War, USA

European Women's Lobby, Belgium
Ewha Women's Alumni Meeting for Democracy, Republic of Korea

femLINKpacific/GPPAC Pacific, Fiji
Fonds Pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC), Democratic Republic of Congo
Forum Friedensethik (FFE), Germany
Friends Committee on National Legislation, USA
Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, Africa
Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, USA
Gender Action for Peace and Security, United Kingdom
Gender Center of Volyn Region, Ukraine
Gender Equality Network (GEN), Myanmar
German East Asia Mission (DOAM), Germany
Global Campaign for Peace Education, USA
Global Fund for Women, USA
Global Justice Center, USA
Global Ministries of the Christian Church, USA
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, USA
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, USA
Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict Pacific, International
Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict South Asia, International
Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict South Caucasus, International
Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict Southeast Asia, International
Good Friends USA, USA
Granny Peace Brigade, USA
Greenpeace Canada, Canada
Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice, Guam
Hawaii Peace and Justice, USA
Health Development and Information Policy Institute (HDIP), Palestine
Helsinki Citizens Assembly Armenia, Armenia
Hibakusha Stories, USA
Iftopia, Republic of Korea
Inclusive Security, USA
Initiatives for International Dialogue, Philippines
Institute for International Women's Rights, Manitoba
International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms - German Section, Germany
International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), International
International Center on Conflict and Negotiation, Georgia
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), USA
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), International
International Institute on Peace Education, USA
International Network Against Militarism, International
International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility, International
International Women's Alliance in the Philippines, Philippines
International Women's Network against Militarism, Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and
USA
International Women's Rights Project (IWRP), Canada
IPPNW, ICAN Partner, Costa Rica
Israeli Disarmament Movement, Israel

Italian Medical Association for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Italy
Just Associates (JASS), Mesoamerica
Kachin Women Peace Network (KWPN), May Sabe Phyu, Myanmar
Kharkiv Regional Gender Resource Centre - Centre of Gender Culture, Ukraine
Korea Association of Methodist Women in Ministry, Republic of Korea
Korea Church Women United, Republic of Korea
Korea Methodist Women's Leadership Institute, Republic of Korea
Korea Women's Association United, Republic of Korea
Korea Women's Political Solidarity, Republic of Korea
Korean Association of Women Theologians, Republic of Korea
Korean Sharing Movement, Republic of Korea
Kosovo Women's Network, Republic of Kosovo
Kvinna till Kvinna, Sweden
Kyunggi Council of Women, Republic of Korea
Kyunggi Goyang-Paju Women Link, Republic of Korea
Kyunggi Jinbo Women United, Republic of Korea
Kyunggi Women's Association United, Republic of Korea
Kyunggi Women's Network, Republic of Korea
La Strada Ukraine, Ukraine
Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, USA
MADRE, USA
Malaysian Physicians for Peace and Social Responsibility, Malaysia
Massachusetts Peace Action, USA
Middle East and North Africa Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Middle East
MinKwon Center, USA
My Stealthy Freedom, USA
Naga Indigenous Women Network from Nagaland, India
National Council of Churches Korea, Republic of Korea
National Council of Churches Philippines, Philippines
National Council of Women of Ukraine, Ukraine
National Organization of Women, Sierra Leone
NGO Institute of Mass Information, Ukraine
Nobel Women's Initiative, Canada/International
Nonviolence International, Canada
Nonviolence International, USA
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, USA
Nuclear Free World Committee, Dallas Peace and Justice, USA
Okedongmu Children in Korea, Republic of Korea
One Heart for Justice, USA
Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq, Canada/Iraq
Palestinian medical relief Society (PMRS), Palestine
Pax Christi International, International
Peace Action Fund of New York State, USA
Peace Action Montgomery County, USA
Peace Action San Mateo, USA

Peace Action, USA
Peace and Cultural Foundation, Thailand
Peace Boat, Japan
Peace Culture Village, Japan
Peace is Loud, USA
Peace Mother, Republic of Korea
Peace People, Northern Ireland
Peace Women Partners, Philippines
Peaceworkers, USA
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Republic of Korea
Permanent Peace Movement, Lebanon
Physicians for Social Responsibility- Kansas City, USA
Physicians for Social Responsibility, USA
Pressenza, International
Proceso de Comunidades Negras en Colombia-PCN, Colombia
Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka
Rete Femminista "No muri, No recenti," Italy
RootsAction.org, USA
Rwanda Women's Network, Rwanda
Smart Women International Foundation, South Africa
SOFEPADI, Democratic Republic of Congo
Solidarité Chine, France
South Asia Forum for Human Rights, India
Sunlit Sister's Center, Republic of Korea
Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities, Bangladesh
Teso Women Peace Activists (TEWPA), Uganda
The Association of Major Superiors of Women Religious in Korea, Republic of Korea
The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security, Australia
The Center for Peace Education, Philippines
The Christian Network for Peace and Unification, Republic of Korea
The Council of Churches in Korea, Women's Committee, Republic of Korea
The Gongju Women Human Rights Center, Republic of Korea
The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, Republic of Korea
The MATCH International Women's Fund, Canada
The Righteous People for Korean Unification, Republic of Korea
The Syrian Women's Political Movement, International
The United Church of Canada, Canada
The United Church of Christ, USA
The United Methodist Church, USA
The War Prevention Initiative, USA
The World Council of Churches, Republic of Korea
Ukrainian Association for Research in Women's History, Ukraine
Ukrainian Women's Fund, Ukraine
United for Peace and Justice, USA

United for Women's Rights Against US Military Bases' Crime, Republic of Korea
United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, USA
United Voice for the Eradication of Prostitution: Hansori, Republic of Korea

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, USA
Veterans for Peace, USA
Vinnitsia Informational and Educational Center, Ukraine
Voice for Change, South Sudan
Voices for Creative Nonviolence, USA
Vrede, Belgium
We Women Lanka, Sri Lanka
Western States Legal Foundation, USA
WILPF France, France
WILPF Italy, Italy
Win Without War, USA
WO=MEN, Netherlands
Women Cross DMZ, USA
Women Education Development Organization, Liberia
Women Environmental Programme, Nigeria
Women History Forum, Republic of Korea
Women Journalists without Chains, Yemen
Women Making Peace, Republic of Korea
Women Ministers Association of Presbyterian Churches Korea, Republic of Korea
Women Peacemakers Program, Netherlands
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), USA
Women's Action for New Directions, USA
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), USA
Women's Funding Network, USA
Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights, International
Women's Information Center, Georgia
Women's Information Consultative Center, Ukraine
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, International
Women's March Global, USA
Women's Perspectives, Ukraine
World Beyond War, International
World Communion of Reformed Churches, International
World March of Women, Turkey

[1] Marie O'Reilly, Andrea O Suilleabhain and Thania Paffenholz, [“Reimagining Peacemaking: Women’s Roles in Peace Processes,”](#) New York: International Peace Institute, June 2015.