

Strategic Plan 2019–2021



"We address the root causes of violence through a feminist lens"



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to those past, present and future.

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WILPF Australia



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Welcome

WILPF understands that a feminist critique of peace and security is essential to expose the inherent inequities in the gendered impact of social, economic and environmental consequences.

WILPF's vision is to realise a world free from violence and armed conflict, in which human rights are protected, and women and men are equally empowered at the local, national and international levels.

These are bold objectives and goals to shift Australia's focus towards a feminist peace over the next few years, and to grow the wider movement for gender equality and sustainable peace.

Our actions are focused on achieving this vision. We invite you to join with us to help achieve this and to create the future you want.

Chris Henderson President WILPF Australia



WILPF's Vision

WILPF envisions a world free from violence and armed conflict, in which human rights are protected, and women and men are equally empowered at the local, national and international levels.



About WILPF

WILPF brings a feminist perspective to the analysis of root causes of war and conflict and emphasises the gendered impacts of conflict and war.

As the world's oldest women's international peace organisation, WILPF has been a leading light in the women's peace movement for over one hundred years.

WILPF brings together women and people of diversity from around the world who are united in working for peace by non-violent means.

WILPF played a significant role in establishing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

WILPF affirms that peace and security efforts are more sustainable when women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflict, the delivery of relief and recovery efforts and in the forging of lasting peace.

WILPF promotes participation of women at all levels of decision-making in peace processes, protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, and the prevention of violence against women.

Lasting peace requires feminist perspectives.

This is WILPF's focus.

Goal

Working towards disarmament and challenging militarism to achieve peace and security.

In the current context, both globally and in Australia, maintaining security is increasingly discussed as requiring a militarised response.

However, WILPF argues that militarisation is a counter-productive and ill-conceived response to establishing security whether in the home, our cities, our country and the world.

The more society becomes militarised, the more violence is likely to grow locally and worldwide.

Moreover, increasing conflict and militarisation contribute to further environmental degradation intensifying the risks of climate change.

In 2018 the Australian Government launched a policy to establish Australia as a leading armaments manufacturer and exporter by 2028.

Already arms are being sold to countries with questionable human rights violations, including involvement in violent conflicts, despite Government policy espousing ethical principles to be observed in such sales.

At the same time international weapons companies that profit from such ongoing conflicts have an active presence in Australia sponsoring activities across educational and public sectors (such as programs and facilities at the War Memorial) and further normalising production and sale of armaments and militarisation.

Objectives

- 1. Use feminist analysis to articulate and challenge the impacts of militarism on social, economic and sustainable development, the environment and the advancement of peace and security for Australia and globally.
- **2. Use feminist analysis to raise awareness of the impact of climate change** on peace and security for Australia and globally and its intersection with militarism.
- **3. Expose the reach of armament industry involvement** in education, research and other sectors of public life, enabling Australians to understand the extent and scope of armaments production and militarism in Australia, as well as the social, political and environmental consequences.
- **4. Campaign within the Australian community to raise awareness of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons,** including supporting the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to lobby the Australia government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons.



It's time to support
WILPF in abolishing the
use of weapons of mass
destruction, advocating
stopping wars and
negotiating peaceful
outcomes.

(left) YWILPF members

02 Goal

Women leading for peace and security through prioritising Australia's involvement and commitment to peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

In Australia, WILPF has played a key role in advocating that Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security recognises that gender equality is key to human security, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, reconciliation and cooperation, to promote healing and sustainable peace.

WILPF works alongside other peace organisations and individual women activists from all walks of life, to promote and sustain women's engagement as peacemakers, peace builders and decision makers, in their communities, across civil society, and in their professional, political, and personal lives.

WILPF Australia works to promote the active involvement of women in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peace building, through working on the following objectives:

02 Objectives

- **1. Continue to play a leading role in Australia's National Action Plan** (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security by monitoring and evaluating the first NAP (end 2019); and development and implementation of the second NAP from 2020.
- **2. Establish ongoing WILPF Australia PeaceWomen Awards** to acknowledge and celebrate women working for a feminist peace across a broad range of fields, with the first event to be held in 2021.
- **3. Develop a Peacebuilding Education Program** for women to grow their knowledge of and skills in feminist peace building.





Yuwallarai woman,
policy administrator
and Aboriginal activist
Kirstie Parker honoured
for her national
contribution to peace.

L-R: Madeleine Rees, WILPF Secretary-General; Kirstie Parker, PeaceWoman, policy administrator and Aboriginal activist; and Barbara O'Dwyer, former WILPF Australia president.



What Women Say



"I have always been very impressed by the thoughtful and dedicated way that WILPF have worked for women's and people's rights and for peace, lobbying governments and educating people about how to achieve a decent world for all who live in it

Besides that, they are a very friendly, caring group – always great to be among."

- Irene Gale, WILPF SA member and veteran peace activist

"Pretty much every turn of my career (and social life if we're being honest) has seen tough and tenacious WILPF women leading the way, speaking truth to power, encouraging me to find mine."

- Fiona McAlpine, YWILPF member

"I respect the long history and collective bravery of WILPF, and also the sophistication of the policy positions. WILPF always has solutions, a manifesto to ponder. I believe WILPF plays a role in thought leadership in the feminist sector."

Dr Sue Harris Rimmer, Associate
 Professor, Griffith Law School,
 Queensland

"I am inspired by WILPF's rigorous, thoughtful critique of the intersections between patriarchy, militarism, and neoliberalism, as well as WILPF's rich feminist history. For me, the community of members, in Australia and around the world, and our efforts to challenge both large-scale global issues, and local problems, makes me hopeful for WILPF's future."

- YWILPF member



WILPF Australia works to achieve gender equality and sustainable peace

WILPF Australia knows that women and girls matter, that equality matters, and that gender is a construct, and the product of unequal power structures.

When those structures are changed and patriarchy abolished, we can have genuine equality and the possibility of sustainable peace:

a feminist peace.



Join WILPF Australia

and help make this change happen

Join a vibrant collective of women peace activists within Australia - and in almost 50 countries around the world.

Whether you are a seasoned activist, or you'd like to learn about ways to achieve meaningful change, join us to contribute to the solution and have this change happen.

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