

NOVEMBER

2018

migration,  
militarism,  
and more

WILPF

Cape Cod

## **RESOLUTION ON HUMAN MIGRATION**

AS AFFECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION,  
MILITARISM, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND  
MISPLACED GOVERNMENTAL AND CORPORATE  
PRIORITIES, NOTING DISPROPORTIONATELY  
GENDERED VIOLENCE

*Call for Actions in Solidarity for all WILPF sections, Groups, and members to organise and campaign, **where appropriate and relevant in their regions**, against acts of violence and aggression by working to formally dismantle the industries that contribute to war and conflict, human displacement and migration, and negative environmental factors arising out of misplaced governmental priorities and contributing violations of human rights and degradation of the human condition.*

*from the Summary of the Omnibus Resolution on Migration,  
adopted by the 32nd Triennial Congress of WILPF,  
meeting 20-22 August 2018 in Accra, Ghana.*

*[This month, the newsletter focuses on an issue that has increasing relevance to those of us in the US Section of WILPF. In order to deepen our connection to the work of WILPF, we illustrate below the Resolution on Human Migration by using global and domestic reports that show us the multitude of ways we in the Cape Cod branch might find work. -- ed.]*

**PREAMBLE:**

Across centuries, people have migrated to flee war, hunger, unrelenting poverty, and political oppression, seeking asylum or a better quality of life. Migration is not a new phenomenon. Today, we are witnesses to massive amounts of death and suffering of migrants. The Mediterranean Sea is becoming a huge cemetery; children are separated from their families when crossing the US border, and their parents are treated as criminals; countries are building detention centers; women are raped; and, over and over, refugee rights established by international law are being violated. A new kind of war is unfolding before us, whose objective is the potential denial of the humanity of others and ourselves.

As our fore-mothers did in 1915, we must identify and denounce the roots of this type of war and above all, develop and disseminate a statement proposing alternatives to the current state of affairs.

It is not easy in our global world to isolate the root causes of displacement, which have developed in a multidimensional network where many factors are intertwined. But some outstanding tendencies are in the roots:

- a) Increasing inequality (the *feminization of poverty*, intersecting vulnerabilities, sexual and economic exploitation), and only capital-gains development agendas for profit of the elite in power;

ξ Of all the people in the world living in poverty, 70% are women. Women also constitute the majority of the **1.5 billion people** living on **\$1 a day or less...** The highly gendered nature of economic disparity, however, remains largely unrecognized on a global stage.

In this context, poverty is not defined as simply a lack of money, but rather also the denial of access to fundamental human rights, including health, education, nutritious food, property, representation, etc. All factors considered, the World Health Organization considers extreme poverty to be *the world's most ruthless killer*.

[<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~abbat221/classweb/feminizationofpoverty/>]

- b) Military budgets (nuclear and conventional) oriented to maintain political and economic power, *militarized fortress-like borders* as a means to fight terrorism and criminalize migration, expenses/investments extracted from countries' budgets, free movement for commodified products but not for

labor, undermining the ability to create a state for the common good of all, forcing people to migrate, but not for human security;

ξ The Pentagon is sending over 5,200 troops to the border with Mexico as thousands of Central American migrants walk towards the US in a caravan. General Terrence O'Shaughnessy said Operation Faithful Patriot would focus on Texas, Arizona and California.

President Donald Trump earlier said the "invasion" of migrants would find the US military waiting for them...

"If they apply for asylum, we're going to hold them until such time as their trial takes place. We're going to hold them, we're going to build tent cities, we're gonna build tents all over the place," he said in an interview on Monday.

There are already 2,100 National Guard members at the border, sent after a previous request by Mr. Trump in April.

[<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-46026050>]

c) *Economic activities that destroy natural ecosystems* on which all life depends, including extreme extraction of minerals, water, petroleum products, and destruction of forests, all of which aggravates climate change, thus robbing populations of their traditional means of living, while forcing them from their territories;

ξ About a dozen different species go extinct every day, and scientists predict that 30 to 50 percent of all species could be extinct by the middle of the 21st century. This is one more of the calamitous effects of deforestation. Cutting trees removes the habitat for tree-dwelling animals, birds and insects, and global warming, to which deforestation contributes, kills fish and amphibians as well as other creatures. **Loss of habitat also creates social issues for people who live in the forest who must relocate to inhabited areas.**

[<https://sciencing.com/environmental-problems-caused-deforestation-tropical-rain-forests-22487.html>]

d) *Promotion of a dominant patriarchy*, focusing on conflicts (ideological, beliefs, interests, etc.) as a win-lose struggle leading to sexual revictimization and re-traumatization of women and others who have already experienced male violence;

ξ Moreover, to the extent that wartime rape *is* a weapon of war, policymakers who invoke the "weapon of war" narrative may actually strengthen belligerents' strategic positions. Commentary about the Islamic State's sexual "brutality" – exemplified in a recent policy recommendation aimed at "shaming" the organization – risks reinforcing the Islamic State's intimidating reputation (which is already well-known

on the ground and in the refugee camps). Reputations and rumors matter in conflict; recent research in Lebanon has suggested that *fear of rape* has become an important reason for refugees to leave Syria. Playing into combatants' rhetorical strategies could result in increased refugee flows, contribute to efforts to diminish women's involvement in public life, or even increase the incidence of wartime rape.

[[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/09/24/wartime-sexual-violence-is-not-just-a-weapon-of-war/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.64a60c58ff0f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/09/24/wartime-sexual-violence-is-not-just-a-weapon-of-war/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.64a60c58ff0f)]

e) Elitism and desire for exclusivity of population sectors that have a "good life," *manipulated by unscrupulous leaders seeking power over others*, who foster a culture of fear and policies which deny values built with difficulty by generations: justice, freedom, equality, human rights, and respect for nature;

ξ Far-right congressman Jair Bolsonaro has won Brazil's presidential election, raising fears of a rollback of civil rights and free speech... His win is a voter rejection of the leftist administrations that have governed Brazil for most of the last 15 years. Latin America's largest economy has been stuck in recession since 2014. The political establishment has been rocked by a high-level corruption scandal, and crime and murder rates have spiked... Many business people support Bolsonaro's free-market economic positions, which would stimulate growth by privatizing state-owned enterprises, reduce regulations, and making it easier for foreign investors to enter the Brazilian market... Christian evangelicals also support Bolsonaro's promise to end sex education in the schools, keep abortion illegal, and end same-sex marriage.

[<https://www.voanews.com/a/far-right-candidate-wins-brazil-s-presidential-election/4632706.html>]

f) A total loss of humanity of *political leaders in speaking and acting on the issue of migration*, "blaming the victim," and a significant rise of racism, xenophobia, othering, the building of extreme political tendencies/parties/governments, pushing fear, and stereotyping are further polarizing the political climate;

ξ LONDON — The Czech president has called Muslim immigrants criminals. The head of Poland's governing party has said refugees are riddled with disease. The leader of Hungary has described migrants as a poison.

This week, Austria's new far-right interior minister suggested "concentrating" migrants in asylum centers — with all its obvious and odious echoes of World War II.

So when President Trump said he did not want immigrants from "shithole" countries, there was ringing silence across broad parts of the

European Union, especially in the east, and certainly no chorus of condemnation.

In fact, some analysts saw the remarks as fitting a pattern of crude, dehumanizing and racist language to describe migrants and asylum seekers that has steadily edged its way into the mainstream.

[<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/12/world/europe/trump-immigration-outrage.html>]

g) Unstable, *corrupt or disrupted governance* in some countries negatively impacts the rights and quality of life of citizens, as well as the proliferation and illegal circulation of weapons exposing people to total insecurity.

ξ The Corruptions Perception Index 2017, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople, uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. This year, the index found that more than two-thirds of countries score below 50, with an average score of 43.

Over the last six years, several countries significantly improved their CPI score, including Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and the United Kingdom, while several countries declined, including Syria, Yemen and Australia.

This year, New Zealand and Denmark rank highest with a score of 89 and 88 respectively. Syria, South Sudan and Somalia rank lowest with scores of 14, 12 and 9 respectively. The best performing region is Western Europe with an average score of 66. The worst performing regions are Sub-Saharan Africa (average score 32) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (average score 34).

[<https://www.mhlnews.com/global-supply-chain/top-10-most-corrupt-countries-2018>]

We bring this urgent initiative because the lives of many people, and also international law, are at risk. A climate of fear of the Other is being pushed by some leaders, and people are being co-opted by them. The rapidly changing political climate in many countries is the subject of high-level discussions. Proposals and projects, which previously seemed absurd and against the law, human rights obligations, and international conventions are all being put forth, so that Europe, a continent once the bulwark of human rights and the rule of international law, is now showing its worst face, while US policy is even worse.

Migration affects women in a particular way. Committed to the maintenance of life around them, and the lives of human beings and nature, women, out of desperation, seeking a better life for their children, are forced to emigrate. A variety of fates await them, many of which are unfavorable. At the same time, women are leaders within the movements that defend land and human rights. We should invest in a culture of

integrative dialogue, a climate of tolerance and welcome, and guaranteed human rights standards for the benefit of whole societies and their coherence.

§ *[So many of this resolution's demands are directly related to what's going on in our country, the United States of America, that there is MUCH our branch could do to support these demands. Only a few of the possibilities are mentioned, due to space limitations, but the imagination of this branch is limitless. Put it to work! -- ed.]*

*Learning from affected women, and joining them, the 32nd Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting 20-22 August 2018 in Accra, Ghana, proposes this resolution:*

**WILPF calls on governments and leaders of destination countries to:**

- **Guarantee** safe and legal access to destination countries, supporting other countries of first arrival, and sharing the burden amongst all potential recipient nations;
- **Not build** "anchor" centers, or concentration camps for refugees and migrants in any nations where migrants are either in transit or arriving at any stages;
- **Base all interventions** in countries of origin on a gender-sensitive conflict analysis, on the multi-vulnerability of women, with special attention to real needs;
- **Create perspectives** for a sustainable and just future, empowering women as agents of change;
- **Disarm** for a culture of dialogue, instead of militarization and securitization;
- **Abolish** the policy of systematic return to first country of asylum, while recognizing and taking responsibility for the established lives/rights of refugees under their jurisdictions;
- **Cease** the return to "countries of origin" of children of asylum seekers who have known no other country, while using petty crimes by young adults as an excuse for deportation;
- **Move** the money from war to peace, investing in infrastructures (schools, hospitals, roads), regenerate depleted forests, ensure provision of water in the communities, etc.

§ ***Order copies of [Women and the U.S. Budget: Where the Money Goes and What you Can Do About It](#), by former WILPF executive director Jane Midgeley. Read it as a branch, discuss it, and take action.***

**WILPF calls on nations to:**

- **Respect** and strengthen international covenants and other documents protective of fundamental rights and prevent further dismantling of rights and

freedoms, particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that provides for the rights of people to cross borders;

- **Invest** in education, present and promote alternatives of integration, empowerment of migrants, engaging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in those efforts;
- **Promote** and encourage transfers of technology that would allow millions of people to no longer move to seek quality training and would enable underdeveloped countries to have the means to produce wealth for the well-being of their populations.

§ *Study the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Make a list of the ways the U.S. and its president violate that document. Take action to educate the public.*

**WILPF calls on government and political leaders to:**

- **Present** legal instruments and regional integration of laws on migration;
- **Ratify** the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and assure specific commitments for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and National Action Plans on Security Council Resolution 1325 on the local, regional, and national levels;
- **Combat** trafficking, new forms of slavery, and discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, or any other ground recognized under International Human Rights Law;
- **Not imprison** refugees, but respect international conventions against torture.

§ *Study up on CEDAW, the WPS Agenda, and other efforts to move women into leadership on these issues... Show some of the branch-owned films on women's successful efforts to end wars... Reach out to WILPF branches located near the southern US border to see how we could work in alliance with their efforts.*

**WILPF calls on nations to:**

- **Put in place** regional/national/community policies to combat the proliferation and illicit circulation of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that fuel wars and thereby victimize vulnerable populations who are then forced to migrate.

§ *"The Trump administration took a major formal step [May 14, 2018] toward officially shifting authority from the State Department to the Commerce Department over the approval of U.S. small arms exports, including semiautomatic rifles and weapons ranging in size up to .50 caliber.*

*"In a closed-door briefing for lawmakers, State and Commerce officials outlined specifics of the shift long sought by small arms manufacturers as a way to cut red tape and boost exports — but decried by pro-regulation Democrats who warn the policy change could dissolve barriers designed to keep U.S.-made firearms from criminals and terrorists overseas.*

*"While Congress could still block the initiative — Monday's briefing on Capitol Hill sets in motion a public comment period that lasts for 45 days — administration officials are touting the policy as breakthrough for U.S. manufacturing and stress that key restrictions on exports to unsavory international buyers will remain in place.*

*"What will change once the Commerce Department fully takes over as the point agency for licensing on small arms exports is that the "regulatory burden on the U.S. commercial firearms and ammunition industry" will be "significantly reduce[d]," says Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Tina Kaidanow.*

*"The shift will "promote American exports," Ms. Kaidanow told The Washington Times, asserting that officials are also "prioritizing national security controls and continuing our ability to restrict exports where human rights, illicit trafficking, and related issues may be of concern."*

[<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/14/trump-administration-moves-shift-small-arms-gun-ex/>]

**WILPF calls on civil society, all WILPF sections and other kindred organizations in destination and transit nations to:**

- **Challenge hostility and fear** against refugees of the populations in potentially recipient nations through use of positive images of migrants to dispel feelings of fear or greed and highlight the root causes of a global situation that forces people to migrate, by initiating positive campaigns involving art, literature, and cultural exchanges;
- **Strengthen political knowledge** and electoral monitoring in the spirit of "Women Vote Peace";
- **Open new social media channels**, cooperate with alternative media to promote and distribute positive stories of migration; begin positive campaigns, together with others in civil society, to support integration measures and positive media reports;
- **Oppose extremist political development**, exclusion and stereotyping where they occur, and encourage solidarity between women in crisis using new ways to create positive images and new ways for interaction (not just political advocacy and mandates) that establish and maintain welcoming climates for refugees and respect human rights;
- **Involve migrating and refugee women** in peace talks and support the refugee communities' taking active roles in decision-making and having the capacity to strategize safe, dignified and voluntary return to countries and areas of origin, if appropriate and safe to do so;
- **Build networks with women** in all destination and transit countries against poverty, new claims of "patriotism" (with strong tendencies of exclusion and growing fascism), and new walls, while fighting against economic imperialism as a root cause of the economic crisis, using feminist economy and care policies as the basis;
- **Support legal advocacy** to accompany refugees in actions to stop, and demand accountability for, rights violations.

**WILPF calls on governments to:**

- **Honor** systems of asylum for those seeking protection at their borders;
- **Resist** government practices of *privatizing the establishment, expansion, and administration of immigrant detention centers*, end all government or privately based detention of minors and families, and investigate and monitor all activities of detention center management and staff to include methods for reporting and recording of staff behaviors;
- **"Move the Money"** from war to peace, investing in public and private infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, roads, water supply and other basic essential resources.

§ *"The last few decades have witnessed the rising involvement and influence of the private prison industry in U.S. immigration enforcement, alongside the expansion of the immigration detention system. During fiscal year (FY) 2016, approximately 353,000 immigrants identified for detention or removal by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) passed through one of more than 200 immigration detention facilities, up from 209,000 in 2001. As of August 2016, nearly three-quarters of the average daily immigration detainee population was held in facilities operated by private prison companies—a sharp contrast from a decade ago, when the majority were held in ICE-contracted bedspace in local jails and state prisons.*

*"The largest private prison contractors reap sizeable annual profits from detaining immigrants, including those identified for removal, asylum seekers and others awaiting a hearing in immigration court, and those in the process of being deported. CoreCivic, Inc. and GEO Group, Inc.—which collectively manage more than half of private prison contracts in the country (including immigration and nonimmigration detention)—earned combined revenue exceeding \$4 billion in FY 2017. They have spent millions of dollars on lobbying and campaign contributions, seeking to sway the political process toward detention-focused policies that favor their interests—a tactic that appears to be paying off in the Trump era."*

[<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/profitting-enforcement-role-private-prisons-us-immigration-detention>]

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## REPORT FROM THE OCTOBER WILPF CAPE COD MEETING

A superb potluck array welcomed all to the October meeting of the Cape Cod branch of WILPF. Thank you to all the creative chefs!

- The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,946 in our account, which does not include funds we hold for other organizations.
- Jan Hively sent us the following report on the October OneWILPF call, which focused on reports from the Triennial Congress:

*The WILPF Call was well-done. The primary agenda was to have women who attended the August International WILPF Conference in Accra, Ghana report on their experience.*

*Day One of the conference was the African Council Peace Conference. In partnership with WILPF, women from Sierra Leone and the Congo created clothing for the conference --- a stunning display of pageantry. "Nothing without women" was the theme. The status of women is directly related to the peacefulness of a country. All women must raise their boys and girls to honor and accept the equal status of men and women. Peace is more probable where women are included. An article in "Peace and Freedom" shows that the change of government in Cameroon to be able to elect women is essential to peace. WILPF financial support has been given for children's books that celebrate Peace, Social Justice and Environmental Justice. WILPF International has a grant to observe elections in Cameroon.*

*Joanna Edzeg Petra (sp?) from Ghana spoke about a 2010 analysis of the root causes of violence and the importance of developing a strategy to make peace happen. WILPF also needs a cohesive peace strategy.*

*In Sierra Leone, women who had been starved and/or raped if they complained are raising kids to learn both male and female jobs. You see women leading safaris as park guides, for example.*

*Across the Commonwealth, women mediators are being trained to advocate for women's participation in peace activities. Nancy Ramston (sp?) and Mary Hanson Harrison spoke about the Mediation Workshop at the Ghana conference. The mediator listens carefully to what is wanted. They are trained in conflict resolution. Dr. Nancy Love, from the PULSE Institute in Canada does this training. The UN tends to want to dictate compulsory arbitration which is different. Katia Confortini from MA said that the less educated don't have good representation and don't get justice. She spoke about MA Restorative and Peer Justice program. French countries have mediators appointed by the government.*

*Mary Hanson Harrison spoke about a workshop titled, "Keep the Seeds in Your Hands." Women in agriculture protect seeds and exchange seeds rather than using seeds treated with bad stuff from the global corporations. In Africa 80% of the seeds are passed on in the traditional*

*way but the commercial seeds are attacking this system. There is a land and water struggle throughout Africa. Industrial organizations are using and abusing power with petrochemicals from the "Green Revolution" and destroying the land. The threats are real and imminent, but WILPF is continuing the grassroots organizing that began in Costa Rica. Earth Democracy and cooperatives are urged to partner.*

*Barbara Nielsen and Barbara Taft spoke about the Conference Resolutions. There were two omnibus resolutions, one addressing migration and the other militarism.... including issues of the environment. Seventeen countries, led by Chad, developed the resolution on Migration and Displacement.*

*In future plans, the US Section's Disarm Committee is planning WILPF's partnership in a Veterans Day March in Washington.*

- Margy Mardht led us in a training session on how to do phone-banking. Moms Demand Gun Sense is using this training for election calls. They sent a questionnaire to all candidates asking for their position on guns -- sadly, the response was small. Margy reviewed how the phone-bank calling process works. It's led by an on-line program that does the dialing for you. All you have to do is sign up for an hour when it's convenient for you. Then you get an email with calling information and the script for the calls. After a demonstration by Margy and Noreen, we all paired up and practiced making a call.

The program used is the Voter Activation Network. Margy says it's important to practice with the script, maybe using a mirror to remind you to smile! She also said it's very important to introduce yourself as a volunteer, so the person you're calling won't think you are a paid caller. Margy talked about how to handle different situations -- for instance, if the person you're calling isn't familiar with the candidate or wants more information. She said you can also do this via texting, if that's more comfortable for you.

Noreen asked about doing this work in a group, for moral support and feedback. She also suggested asking the person you're calling if they have an opinion on guns, to establish rapport.

Finally, Margy pointed out that the calling app goes onto your phone and takes a lot of room, so you want to delete the program once you have done your calling

- We then talked about Elenita Muñiz's suggestion that we show some of the films the branch owns that have been compiled by WILPF to illustrate women's response to war around the world. This could be the branch program, with a discussion to follow. The films we have are *Pray the Devil Back to Hell (Liberia)*, *I Came to Testify (Bosnia)*, *The War We Are Living (Colombia)*, *Peace Unveiled (Afghanistan)*, and *War Defined (an overview)*. Noreen offered to do the film on Bosnia, which she has visited. Laurie, meanwhile, offered to do a program for the April meeting on the environment. We thought about alternating between a film presentation and a live program.

- Noreen Thomsen presented a review of the Tree of Life program that WILPF co-sponsored. Turnout was smaller than hoped, in a new location, but the talks were amazing and full of content. Ruba Adwallah spoke about the effects of violence on children, saying that any Palestinian family doing any kind of peace work is targeted by the Israelis. Children have PTSD from nighttime raids by the IDF. Lara Kisiani, from San

Francisco, spoke very powerfully about anti-Arab racism in the US. Eran Efrati, an investigating researcher, spoke about the Israeli military and defense industry. And Jeff Klein spoke about the Massachusetts Peace Action's work on the Palestine/Israel conflict.

Eran recommended a site called [palestinishere.org](http://palestinishere.org), which illustrates the multiple connections between Israeli defense forces and the US police, border patrol, and other groups, with these American groups traveling to Israel for training. The website shows these *free* trips, designed to influence Americans who take part. The map on the website shows from where in the US these trips are originating.

- Diane Turco spoke about the work of military recruiters in our local schools. They make promises which are then ignored by the military, once the student has enlisted. They can talk to the kids without their parents' permission. The American Friends Service Committee still has a "Recruiters out of Schools" campaign ongoing. Margy said she will investigate this campaign. Per Diane, the "vocational tests" (ASFAB test) being given in local high schools are a cover for military targeting.

- Diane also spoke about Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant: the NRC says only Entergy can shut down the plant in case of a weather emergency, not the NRC! Diane's group is calling for an investigation of why there was no shut down during the recent storms when Entergy wrote a notice that they would be *unable to implement emergency plans during storms!* Pilgrim is now rated the worst nuclear plant in the US. They continue to protest the sale of Pilgrim to Holtec, which has a reputation of installing "crappy" dry cask storage tanks that break down over time.

- We also discussed the government's new effort to identify gender at birth and negate all transgender or untraditional identification. We agreed to check with our elected officials to see what their positions are on this proposed policy. Here are their reports sent in after the meeting:

- Sen. Warren -- Margy reported that the senator had posted on her Facebook page an article from Teen Vogue, "What Parents want the Trump Administration to know about their Trans Kids," with the message *I want every single transgender child to know this: You are valued. You are equal. You are not alone – we are in this fight with you. Trans people #WontBeErased.*

- Sen. Markey -- Jan Kubiak called the senator's Boston office and the aide read a very brief statement from Markey that said he was in full support of the Transgender community and that he thought the President's remarks disempowered them.

- Rep. Keating -- Sherrie sent the following report:  
*I called Keating's local office per our discussion last night about the hateful rule change on gender identity. The person answering the phone said he didn't see that Rep. Keating had made any statements about it. I asked to speak to Andrew Nelson who said that the Rep. was definitely supportive of trans rights but that Andrew wasn't up to speed on this particular issue. When I asked Andrew Nelson what we could do, he suggested writing letters to the Secretary of HHS, etc. He said it might not change minds but they would at least have to open the envelope, note the subject, and we would be on record as opposing it.*

*When I called the DC office the intern said he didn't know where Keating was on this issue but he'd pass along the message. Not a particularly satisfying response to the issue at this point so let's hope Markey or Warren's responses will be more helpful.*

So apparently our representatives in Washington are not very active on this issue. Perhaps if each one of us were to write to them with our opinion, mentioning your membership in WILPF, they might decide to put more energy into opposing this decision.

*[p.s. This is written on November 7, the day after the elections. All the above representatives are continuing to serve, Keating in a Democratically controlled House of Representatives. Rep. Keating is not very visibly active on much of anything -- perhaps this is our opportunity to get on his case to make him take some leadership role in the House on an issue that is important to us... just a thought.]*

**§ Our website address is [wilpfcapecod.org](http://wilpfcapecod.org)  
§ Our listserve for members is [capecodwilpf@googlegroups.com](mailto:capecodwilpf@googlegroups.com)**

**Please bring your own table setting to our meetings!**

If we all bring our own plate, utensils, cup and napkin for the potluck, we can lighten our basket considerably! Thank you....

## WILPF INTERNATIONAL'S ADJUNCT PROGRAMMES

△ **Reaching Critical Will** [[www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)] offers a report on

# Women and Explosive Weapons



Concern with the use of explosive weapons in populated areas has increased over the last few years, due to the severe harm caused to civilians and the wider community. However, the debate has so far not sufficiently highlighted the specific impact that explosive weapons have on women.

This publication seeks to draw attention to some of the unique impacts on women that explosive weapons have when used in populated areas. The publication argues that it is important to ensure that women affected by the use of explosive weapons receive the same assistance and legal protection as men, and that they are seen as active agents of change rather than only as victims.

The [report](#) is part of Reaching Critical Will's attempt to highlight the impact of weapons on women and the importance of strengthening a gender perspective in disarmament and arms control in order to ensure inclusive security and prevent all human suffering.

The [report](#) briefly describes explosive weapons and the legal tools available to assess their use, focusing in particular on legal documents that support greater inclusion of gender analysis and women's participation. The second part of this paper gives an overview on how explosive weapons specifically affect women and why a gendered analysis of the impact of explosive weapons use in populated areas is needed.

Download the full report [here](#). The report is also available in [Arabic](#).

We are delighted to offer the online version for free, but please consider making a [donation](#) to Reaching Critical Will to help us continue producing the research, materials and information services that we provide.

*Remember that as a member of WILPF, you are also a member of Reaching Critical Will and of PeaceWomen. RCW website offers several reports related to arms and gender. Check it out!*

**▲ PeaceWomen** [[www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org)]

Through [PeaceWomen's] context analysis, WILPF has identified five critical issues relevant to peace and security. These resonate with WILPF's mandate, and underline the areas of change which WILPF aims to address. The issues identified are complex, interlinked and are not exhaustive of current and emerging threats to peace. They play out differently in different contexts and therefore have varying implications for local, national and international levels of response.

Those critical issues are:

- Patriarchy, Inequalities, and Violent Masculinities
- Militarization
- Social, economic, and ecological injustice
- Fear, Polarization, and Fragmentation
- Lack of Effective Implementation and Accountability Mechanisms

*Here is their explication for issue #3:*

Unequal access to and distribution of social, economic and ecological resources results in injustice which in turn has direct and indirect links to the causes and consequences of violence and conflict, all of which are gendered. The realities play out differently in different contexts and **are particularly severe for those facing discrimination on intersecting grounds such as gender, race, socioeconomic status and disability**. Governments are struggling to meet human

rights obligations including those derived from economic, social and cultural rights. They are also struggling to remove barriers to economic and political equality.

Economic injustices include various factors. Trends show how genderbiased macroeconomic policies, supply-chains, labour markets and political economic norms can negatively impact women and girls. **Privatisation and private control over basic services have, in many countries, had a huge impact on affordability of services for women, especially with regard to health, jobs and education.** Policies of international financial institutions, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, multilateral corporations and private finance institutions often adversely affect marginalised communities and individuals. These policies can facilitate or contribute to increased violence, inequality and injustice. Moreover, financial and development institutions, policies and structures are poorly connected and lack a comprehensive conflict and gender perspective. Furthermore, corporations can be complicit in human rights abuses in situations of instability or armed conflict. Corporations can benefit from increased militarisation of society that can repress protests against human rights violations or demands for due consultation of the people affected by corporate projects. **Companies can also benefit from conflict when such conflicts cause internal displacement, thus facilitating land-grabbing schemes.** Moreover, many states are currently committing themselves to trade agreements that do not guarantee the prevention of human rights abuses.

Ecological injustices, linked to economic and social factors, show an increasing trend of global instability caused by an unsustainable relationship with the environment. **This pattern can be seen in many conflicts where access to natural resources such as oil, water, food and minerals is an underlying cause of conflict.** International dependence on production, research and development of weapons and other military requirements exacerbates war and inequality worldwide. *Military spending globally exceeds the total combined spending on developing technologies for new energy sources, improving human health, raising agricultural productivity, and controlling pollution.* Worldwide, military activities use large tracts of land and airspace. In its ongoing work, global militarism has at its disposal a significant portion of the world's human and financial resources. The development of the military sector of the economy takes place at the expense of the civilian sector.

A feminist political economy lens is required to uncover these power and conflict drivers and dynamics that often are invisible in political and security discourses. **WILPF has a legacy of taking on economic issues at global and local levels most notably with respect to the arms trade and both state and corporate responsibility.** Recent and continuing emphasis on feminist political economy includes a focus on 'moving the money' from war to peace in terms of global spending and identifying and engaging with the daily realities and gendered impacts of financing for post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding in specific conflict settings (e.g. Bosnia). We also integrate environmental concerns and factors into analyzing root causes and shaping responses for just peace.

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## SEEDS OF CHANGE: A CALENDAR OF THINGS TO DO!

§ November 16-18: **First International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases, Dublin, Ireland.**  
For more info, go to [wilpfus.org/news/updates](http://wilpfus.org/news/updates).

§ November 22: **46th National Day of Mourning**, organized by United American Indians of New England, held every year since 1970 on the US "thanksgiving day." Noon - 5:00 p.m., Cole's Hill, Carver Street, downtown Plymouth, MA. An opportunity to support those who were displaced by the arrival of Europeans on these shores. Drumming, music, speeches, dancing, and more.

§ November 25: **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Orange Your Day!** See below!

§ Monday, November 26: **WILPF Cape Cod monthly meeting.** Program: *Harwich Community Center, Oak Street, Harwich Center. 6:00 p.m., potluck supper; 6:30-8:30 p.m., WILPF "backgrounders" followed by business meeting.* To be on the business meeting agenda, contact Elenita at [elenita@meganet.net](mailto:elenita@meganet.net).

§ December 10: **International Human Rights Day.** Usually the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission sponsors a breakfast on this day. Attending this breakfast takes the place of WILPF Cape Cod's December meeting, so mark your calendars now! Details will follow as soon as they're known.



UNiTE Campaign's global advocacy theme this year is: **Orange the World: #HearMeToo**

In recent years, the voices of survivors and activists, through campaigns such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, #Niunamenos, #NotOneMore, #BalanceTonPorc and others, have reached a crescendo that cannot be silenced any more. Advocates understand that while the names and contexts may differ across geographic locations, women and girls everywhere are experiencing extensive abuse and their stories need to be brought to light.

Under the theme Orange the World: #HearMeToo, the UNiTE partners are encouraged to host events with local, national, regional and global women's movements, survivor advocates and women human rights defenders and create opportunities for dialogue between activists, policy-makers and the public. As in previous years, the colour orange will be a key theme unifying all activities, with buildings and landmarks lit and decorated in orange to bring global attention to the initiative.



## BECOME A DANGEROUS WOMAN! JOIN WILPF TODAY...

Help make peace, freedom, and justice a reality for all. You can use this form to join WILPF or to renew your membership.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(You will be added to the Cape Cod WILPF email list to receive notices and news about the branch. You may remove your name from that list at any time.)*

**WILPF membership fee:** **\$35.00** (not a sliding scale)

*Your membership includes WILPF International, WILPF US Section, and the Cape Cod Branch. This fee is split between International (\$17) and the US Section (\$18).*

**Contribution to WILPF Cape Cod:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Supports the work of the Cape Cod branch, including programming, news gathering, and educational activism*

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your check, payable to WILPF Cape Cod, to  
Sherrie Burson, 52 Dusty Miller Lane, South Chatham, MA 02659.**

*“Women rarely manufacture, sell, buy, or use weapons, yet they are disproportionately affected by the arms trade and in particular, by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. While men are the majority of those killed by small arms, women suffer in more invisible ways. High death and injury rates of men are the most obvious and visible effects of gun violence, yet what fails to appear in statistics is when guns are not used to kill but to exert power; when guns are used behind closed doors to subjugate family members; when guns are used to threaten adolescent girls with sexual violence, forcing entire families to flee. What we fail to talk about, when we talk about the arms trade, are the rapes of tens of thousands of women at gunpoint.”*  
*([Rebecca Gerome, ATT Monitor 5.8, 2012, p. 3](#)).*

*[We have published this poem before, but it is good to revisit it occasionally... -ed.]*

## **To be of use**

The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,  
the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.

*-Marge Piercy*