



Peace is the victory we need – stop the war in Ukraine – intensify negotiations and diplomacy

About WILPF

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a feminist peace movement founded in 1915 to stop wars and prevent future wars by dismantling the causes of war and armed conflict. We work through solidarity in global networks of women and feminist activists, with old, new, and creative methods and organize for peace, equality, and justice for all.

The undersigned members and sections of WILPF in Europe express our support for all people and actors struggling to bring about an end to the brutal and illegal war of Russia against Ukraine.

Soon, on February 24, it is one year since Russia started this war (being conscious that conflict already started in 2014- if not before). We are aware that the human community failed to prevent the war – despite great civil society dialogue and peace initiatives in the region, international networks and multilateral commitment. We therefore have to invest more to stop the Russian aggression and the war now!

So much harm has happened – as in every war: thousands of killed people, destroyed and mined infrastructure, forced conscription, terrible losses and existential threats for many who had to flee or organize their survival in the country. Many women and children are haunted and traumatised by continuous alarms and exposed to violence, including SGBV. Some of our partners and friends feel misunderstood and/or persecuted expressing dissident pacifist voices.

Ending the war is and must be our highest priority! The solution cannot be a permanent increase of weapons delivery and militarisation - also affecting the whole “western” world. Militarisation of societies, through extreme high level of military spending (SIPRI data!), exploding profits of the war industry and at the same underfunding social and environmental costs, belong to the root causes of war and violence that WILPF has denounced since our foundation in 1915. We all, as members of a global society, need to learn more about building peace and intersectional understanding of our security as human security. We need to get out of the spiral of violence and killing. We insist on intensifying and promoting actively negotiations and diplomacy on all levels – including meaningfully women and youth.

- We strongly appreciate and support the important documentation of war crimes and crimes against humanity – done by civil society organisations, such as the Peace Nobel Prize winners and others. We need to get out of the spiral of violence and killing.
- We appeal to the OSCE, the chairpersonship, the OSCE secretary general, the missions, the diplomats, to use any occasion to talk about potential cease-fires and negotiations.
- We appeal to the upcoming OSCE parliamentary assembly in Vienna to invite a Russian delegation to revitalize OSCE as East-West bridge and keep doors open for dialogue with a clear message of open and respectful negotiations starting with cease-fires to come to stop the war.
- We appeal to our national states, governments, MEPs, MPs and politicians globally to support explicitly negotiations and dialogue - not just issue talks about enemy and victory. People want and need PEACE.

- We as members of civil society organisations support all possible bridges and peace building initiatives based on our long-term intergenerational relationship with women, people in the war regions and through our networks.

WILPF was founded to bring about an end to the horrors of World War I and we have seen throughout our history how the continued militarism in our societies has led countries to the next war and the next. Training only soldiers and leaving civilians with no resources creates a country that only knows how to fight a war, not how to build peace. We have seen that investments in human security, people, and fair and equal societies are the best ways to prevent armed conflict. This is true even during an ongoing war, and we call on everyone to remember this in all their actions, for the sake of every human being.