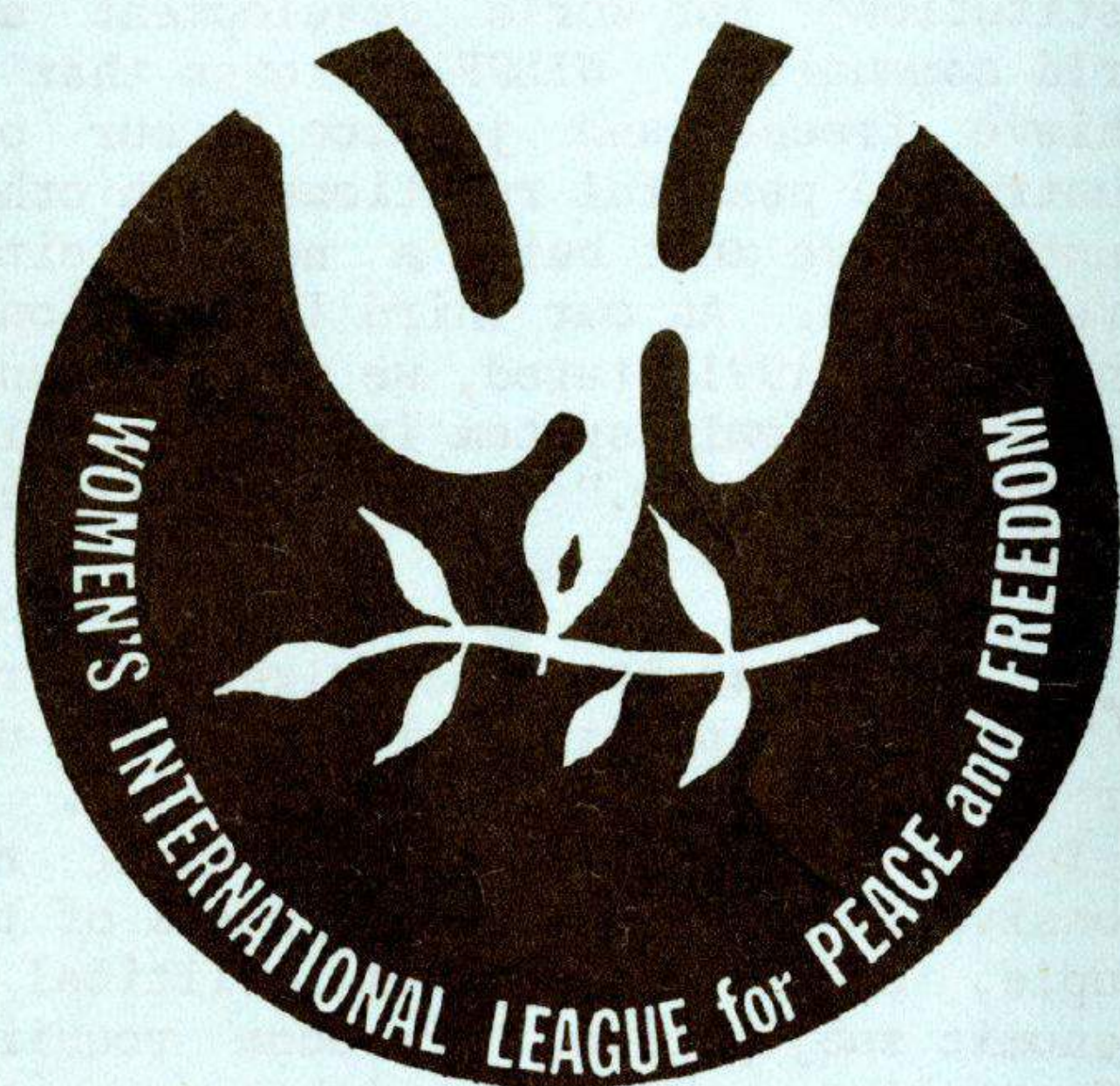


# **PRINCIPLES and POLICIES**



**United States Section**

**June 1973**



# **The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

was founded in 1915 during World War I, with Jane Addams as its first president. Throughout its history its purpose has been to work for the achievement by peaceful means of those political, economic, social, and psychological conditions throughout the world which can assure peace, freedom, and justice for all.

**Peace** is more than the absence of war or the maintenance of order through force. Peace requires the dedication to nonviolent means for the resolution of conflict and the building of institutions for world development and world community. WILPF believes that to achieve freedom and justice in our own country and peaceful relations with other countries we must build a non-exploitative society. As our Third International Congress of 1921 stated, we must "transform the economic system in the direction of social justice." Peace and freedom are indivisible.

**Freedom** means equal rights and responsibilities for all under a system of law based on justice. It includes the right to a government responsive to the will and the needs of the people, and freedom from political or economic subjugation. Freedom requires safeguarding minority rights and the right of dissent.

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## ***The United Nations***

A world organization for world peace, world development, and human rights, in which all nations are represented, can succeed only if all members respect its authority. Major powers must cooperate and provision must be made for participation of small states and all parts of divided nations.



## ● UN Role in Assuring Peace and Freedom

1. All nations must agree to accept UN mediation whenever direct negotiations fail. Disagreements arising from international treaties must be referred to the International Court of Justice, and all nations must abide by its decisions.
2. UN machinery for the peaceful settlement of international disputes must be established, so that nations may achieve the total and universal disarmament which offers their only hope of solvency and survival in the nuclear age.
3. Aid to refugees made homeless by war must be carried out by the UN.
4. The UN covenants and conventions relating to human rights must be ratified and implemented by all nations.
5. The status of non-self-governing territories must be regularly reviewed by the UN Trusteeship Council, in order to end exploitation such as that exemplified by U.S. military bases in Micronesia.

## ● UN Role in Protection and Development of World Resources

1. To forestall international military and economic rivalry, the UN should assume jurisdiction over unclaimed areas such as the seabed, outer space, and the polar regions, as well as over international waterways. The resources of the seabed should be developed for the benefit of all mankind, with a share of the revenue allocated to the United Nations for expansion of its social and economic programs.
2. The UN should have authority to regulate trade and access to resources to prevent the exploitation of under-developed countries.

## ***U.S. Foreign Policy***

The U.S. government, especially the Pentagon, is increasingly subservient to large corporations which use legal and illegal means to maintain and extend



their economic and political power. Resulting economic and military policies represent the greatest threat to the welfare of the peoples of the world.

### ● Self-Determination

The United States must respect the right of peoples to choose their own political and economic systems, and must cease attempts to control the governments of other nations, whether by military intervention or subversive manipulation by the CIA or other agency.

### ● World Disarmament

The United States must take the lead in efforts to achieve world disarmament through the United Nations.

1. To prevent the unleashing of nuclear forces capable of destroying all life and to free our resources for peaceful pursuits, it is imperative that the U.S. halt research, stockpiling, and use of chemical, biological, nuclear, and meteorological weapons, and destroy all existing stockpiles.

2. It is imperative that U.S. foreign bases which provide launching sites for nuclear missiles be closed and U.S. military alliances terminated.

### ● World Development

The United States has a responsibility to support through the UN the economic and social progress of the developing nations, with technical--not military--assistance, increased flow of capital, and improved terms of trade.

1. In order to permit adequate planning, the U.S. should make long-term financial commitments to the UN of at least 1% of its Gross National Product.

2. The U.S. must cooperate with other nations in long-range planning to protect against pollution and depletion of irreplaceable natural resources.



# **Domestic Policy**

WILPF is committed to an open society in which each individual is respected and all groups have the opportunity to cultivate their traditions, cultures, and institutions while working together for the benefit of all. Racism, growing in intensity throughout our nation, is moving us toward two societies, separate and unequal. All-out efforts must be made--governmental, organizational, and individual--to combat this evil.

## ● Civil Rights

1. Laws must be enacted and enforced, with adequate financing, to ensure open housing, quality education, protection of voting rights, and equal employment opportunity.

2. Workers must have the right to organize; opportunities in the skilled trades must be opened to all minorities.

## ● Rights of Women

Legal restrictions and sexist attitudes have kept women from full participation and a rightful share of power in our society. // WILPF calls for: //

1. Elimination of all laws which discriminate between the sexes.

2. Equal opportunity for education at all levels.

3. Equal opportunity for all jobs, and equal pay for equal work.

4. Full participation by women at decision-making levels in public and private institutions.

5. Comprehensive programs of family planning and aid.

6. Repeal of abortion laws.

7. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.



## ● Civil Liberties

Freedom of speech, press, association, and assembly, due process of law, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, are basic to a free society. Repressive legislation and unequal treatment before the law of minorities and dissenters are threats to freedom.

WILPF supports:

1. Constitutional rights for all people, including those in the armed forces, hospitals, jails, prisons, schools, and for children, aliens, the mentally ill and retarded.
2. Abolition of capital punishment.
3. Reform of the penal system with the ultimate goal of abolition of prisons.
4. The principle and practice of separation of church and state.

WILPF views as contrary to constitutional rights:

1. Inquiries into ideas, opinions, or association of individuals.
2. All forms of invasion of privacy, including wiretapping, eavesdropping, compilation of data banks of personal information, government surveillance, government infiltration of dissenting groups, and government entrapment by *agents provocateurs*.
3. Censorship of all kinds and suppression and manipulation of news.
4. Restrictions on travel.
5. Preventive detention and undue delay in judicial process.
6. All laws regulating sexual conduct among consenting adults.

WILPF supports the principle of obedience to conscience, and the right to nonviolent civil disobedience, if necessary to oppose unjust laws and conditions. WILPF supports full amnesty for all those whose refusal to participate in war has brought them punishment or threat of punishment by civil or military authorities.



## ● Economic and Social Development

The paradox of enormous wealth in the United States combined with widespread poverty, starvation, and urban blight, demands restructuring of our economic system. An equitable distribution of wealth can be achieved by the cooperative ownership of the sources of wealth, and the participation of workers in the control of industry. Comprehensive, democratic, regional planning and adequate financing are needed to provide maximum benefits to the people, consistent with protection of the environment.

WILPF advocates:

1. An adequate guaranteed annual income.
2. Jobs for all who wish to work.
3. A comprehensive national health care and maintenance program for everyone.
4. A fair and progressive tax structure, with elimination of loopholes and preferential subsidies.
5. An immediate halt to nuclear projects with undesirable and unpredictable hazards; stringent control of disposal of radioactive wastes; financing for research and development of new safe sources of energy.

## **Education**

All children must have equal access to quality public education which encourages free inquiry and full creative development. Busing may be necessary to guarantee this right. WILPF upholds the principle of community control of schools, and tax-supported programs where needed for bi-lingual or compensatory education. WILPF seeks an end to the militarism, racism, and demands for sexual, social, and political conformity which undermine our entire educational system.

WILPF advocates teaching:

1. Appreciation of human differences, the history and contributions of women, and of all cultural, racial, and national groups.



2. Nonviolent conflict resolution, and the stupidity, rather than the glorification, of war.
3. The inseparable connection of bread and peace.
4. Principles of ecology and respect for life.
5. Human sexuality and family planning.
6. The United Nations Charter, the Declaration of Human Rights, and the contributions of the UN and its specialized agencies.
7. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, with special emphasis on the Bill of Rights.

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