

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Lega Internazionale di Donne per la Pace e la Libertà

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNOTAD and UNESCO

Special consultative relations with FAO, ILO and UNICEF

Roma, 2 settembre 2015

To Wilpf Finland

Wilpf European Sections

Dear friends,

in view of the conference "NATO and Russia in the Baltic Sea Area" to be held in Helsinki on 4-6 September 2015, as we are unable to attend it, but fully sharing its goals and targets, we want to submit some considerations and inform you about the ongoing activities against war in our section.

As WILPF Italian Section we are very concerned about the escalation of violence and armed conflicts in Europe and the Middle East (see Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Libya, etc).and some of us are very active especially in the Italian No war, no NATO Committee, which launched a campaign for the withdrawal of Italy from NATO and for the dismantling of US and NATO bases in the Italian territory.

The campaign started on 11 October 2014 during a conference sponsored by several Italian peace associations (Nowar, Peacelink, IALANA, US citizen for peace and justice living in Italy, No MUOS Committee, Alternativa) included WILPF Italy.

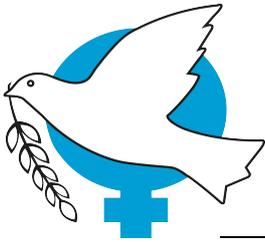
As some experts emphasized at that conference, the strategic concept of NATO has changed since the end of the Cold War from defensive alliance to aggressive, according to the agreement signed by the Member States in Washington on 4 April 1999.

Furthermore, the agreement authorizes NATO to engage in military interventions for purposes global, economic, energy and migration in any country to protect the interests of Us and other Member States.

Therefore the Alliance has given a boost to the overall increase in the production and deployment of armaments, the dissemination of nuclear weapons and instruments of mass destruction, and is guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan , Libya, Syria, Yemen, etc.

This year, from September to November, NATO is planning the most extensive military manoeuvres by the end of the Second World War, the so-called Trident Juncture, to be held in Italy,

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Spain, Portugal, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, with the participation of US troops and the majority of European countries. In fact, 22 of the 28 EU Countries are members of NATO and the EU Treaty states that the "North Atlantic Treaty Organization is entitled to the defence of the European Union".

Against such exercises the Italian No War No NATO Committee is planning several activities, the most important in Rome and Naples.

We also hope that other WILPF European sections join the activities to be held in their respective countries.

In view of the Helsinki Conference we presented to our government and EU the following requests:

Remove the embargo on Syria

Do not sell weapons to the Saudis that are bombing Yemen

Hitting the Isis, but not to bomb the Kurds and the Alawites

Distribute migrants in all European countries and not only in Italy, Greece, Spain

Block any military intervention against Libya

Refusing to hold nuclear weapons on the Italian territory (usually stored on US and NATO bases)

Finally we want to point out another event which the Italian Committee No war no NATO (and also Wipf Italy) will join : the conference for the establishment of a "Peoples' Permanent Court against the Imperialist Wars and NATO" to be held in Madrid on 16-18 October 2015, coinciding with the NATO exercises in Gibraltar.

We would like to conclude this brief note reminding all of us that in 1928 our founder Jane Addams was among the sponsors of the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact signed by 57 nations in Paris, in which they declared illegal all wars. Today, 90 years later, war is still being used to destroy countries and to affirm the domination of one country or one group over the other.

Best regards

Antonia Sani

Wipf Italy president

More details on www.no-nato.org ; www.forocontralaguerra.wordpress.com

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