

The Norwegian Nobel Committee,
Henrik Ibsens gate 51
0255 Oslo
31 January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION 2016: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

As an Australian parliamentarian I am pleased to submit my nomination of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2015 the former leader of the Australian Greens in the Australian Parliament, Senator Christine Milne nominated WILPF for the Nobel Peace Prize. She has since retired from the Parliament and with her total support I now nominate WILPF for this year's prize. I endorse all her remarks in the attached 2015 nomination and draw your attention to the work of WILPF during the past year, the centenary year of the organization.

One hundred years of public advocacy and action by women around the world to promote sustainable peace and disarmament culminating in the hugely successful 2015 Women's Power to Stop War centenary conference in the Hague, is surely deserving of recognition with this year's Peace Prize.

Over the past year women have worked to connect, strengthen and celebrate the work of women peace makers wherever in the world they live. It built on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 passed in 2000 which recognized the role of women in peace making and the prevention of conflict and the work of WILPF over the last 15 years on the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Finally, the nature of conflict and warfare in contemporary experience means that civilian communities particularly women and girls bear the brunt of violence especially since rape and forced pregnancy has become a weapon of war especially by extremist groups. It remains a fact that women's formal participation in peace negotiations is low such that these agreements often do not even mention violence against women. This must change. Women must be at the table in resolving conflict and determining how their specific needs are addressed in the post conflict recovery. As women and girls disappear at the hands of Boko Haram and Daesh it must be made clear to all decision makers that sexual violence is abhorrent and will never be acceptable.

It is time that the role of women in promoting peace and peace building is recognized with a Nobel Peace Prize. Not only would it recognize a century's dedication to peace, it may well generate a rethink on ensuring women's participation in identifying the root cause of conflict and in its resolution. A peace negotiation anywhere, which fails to give women a voice and which fails to acknowledge the crimes against women will not be sustainable. Please advance women's rightful place at the peace making table by recognizing the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom as 2016 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson
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