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 conflicts 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 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 of the people, and freedom from political or economic subjugation. Freedom requires safeguarding minority rights and the right of dissent.

THE UNITED NATIONS

A world organization for world peace, world development, and human rights, in which all nations are represented, can succeed only if full 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. The primary goal of the United Nations should be general and complete disarmament, which offers our only hope for human survival in the nuclear age.
2. UN machinery for peaceful settlement of international disputes must be established.
3. All nations must agree to UN mediation.
4. Aid to refugees from war and oppression must be carried out by the UN.
5. The UN covenants and conventions relating to human rights must be ratified and implemented by all nations.
6. The status of non-self-governing territories must be reviewed, and deadlines for ending such status established. National sovereignty must replace the status, except in the case of Antarctica.

UN Role in Protection and Development of World Resources
1. 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 people, 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 developing counties by international corporations not regulated by the UN.
3. The UN must be given authority for long-range planning to protect against pollution and depletion of irreplaceable natural resources.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Pressures from the military establishments and the arms industries for increased military budgets are even more sophisticated weapons escalate a runaway arms race which threatens the future of all 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 actively promote world disarmament through the UN.
1. To prevent the utilization of nuclear forces capable of destroying all life, and to free our resources for peaceful purposes, it is imperative that the U.S. halt research, testing, and use of chemical, biological, nuclear, and meteorological weapons, and destroy all existing stockpiles.
2. It is imperative that foreign U.S. 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 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.

Civil Rights

Civil Rights: "WLPF opposes discrimination based upon race, color, gender, sexual or affectional orientation, religion, disability, age, national origin, marital status, or receipt of public assistance. Laws must be enforced with adequate financing to ensure open housing, quality education, protection of voting rights, equal employment opportunity, and equal access to public services, child custody, public accommodations, and federally funded programs for all.
2. Workers must have the right to organize; opportunities in the skilled trades and professions must be open 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. WLPF calls for:
1. Elimination of all laws which discriminate between the sexes.
2. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
3. Equal opportunity for education at all levels.
4. Equal opportunity for all jobs, and equal pay for equal work.
5. Full opportunity for participation by women in decision-making levels in public and private institutions.
6. Freedom of choice concerning abortion and an end to enforced sterilization.

Domestic Policy

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 in the law of minorities and dissenters are threats to freedom.

Civil Liberties

ECONOMICS

Reform of the penal system, with the ultimate goal of abolition of prisons.
4. The principle and practice of separation of church and state.
WLPF opposes:
1. Inquisitions into ideas, opinions, or association of individuals.
2. All forms of invasion of privacy, including wiretapping, housewrecking, compilation of data banks of personal information, government surveillance, government infiltration of dissenting groups, and government employment by agencies of government.
3. Censorship of all kinds and suppression and manipulation of news.
4. Conscription including registration, and any other involuntary service.
5. Restrictions on travel.
6. Preventive detention and undue delay in judicial process.
WLPF supports the principle of obedience to conscience, and the right to nonviolent civil disobedience, if necessary to oppose unjust laws and conditions. WLPF 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.

EcoLogy

People have the right not to have their person properties, environment, food, air, and water contaminated with radiation and toxic chemicals.
WLPF advocates:
1. An immediate halt to hazardous nuclear products, stringent control of radioactive waste disposal, funding research and development of new, safer sources of energy.
2. An end to the poisoning of cities and countryside by toxic chemicals, and the development of alternatives to their use.

EDUCATION

Second...