

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF supports the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence 2011 visit: wilpfinternational.org



CHALLENGE MILITARISM INVEST IN PEACE

With countries spending enormous amounts of money every year on militarism, it is clear that a shift in priorities is necessary in order to achieve sustainable development, gender equality and peace.

(WILPF, 16 Day Statement 2010)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, WILPF

WILPF is an international NGO with national sections all over the world, an international secretariat based in Geneva and a New York office focused on the work of the UN with two projects *PeaceWomen* (Women, Peace and Security) and *Reaching Critical Will* (Disarmament).

Since its establishment in 1915, WILPF has brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by nonviolent means. WILPF has led a movement for 96 years that emphasizes the links between military expenditure, the arms trade, violent conflict, and the reduction of available resources for social and economic development and the promotion of gender equality.

THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN & WILPF

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is a global campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University in 1991. Since then, the campaign has run annually from November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, through December 10, International Human Rights Day, to symbolically state that violence against women is a human rights violation. The campaign's recent focus has been on the intersections of militarism and violence against women.

In 2010, WILPF focused on militarism as a structure that creates a climate of violence, prevents economic justice and the realization of basic social and economic rights, and facilitates impunity for gender-based violence. WILPF gathered information about the military expenditures of countries from our member sections to highlight the enormity of the allocations given for security when looked at from a purely military perspective.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR! WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?



1 Year of the world's
military expenditures
(USD \$1,630,000,000,000
in 2010)

OR



700 Years
of UN
regular budget

OR



2,928 Years
of budget for
UN Women

ACTION PLAN FOR COMPARING MILITARY SPENDING:

STEP 1: Review the 16 Days Campaign website and Take Action Kit

<http://16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu>

STEP 2: Form a Project Team & Planning Committee

STEP 3: Research SIPRI Data

<http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/production/Top100>

STEP 4: Read WILPF's "You Get What You Pay For"

http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=528

STEP 5: Start your own country or global analysis on Military spending & gender violence

STEP 6: Report your findings to WILPF and the Center for Women's Global Leadership (16 Day Campaign)

GET INVOLVED IN WILPF:

- Join a WILPF Section in your country (or start a section)
- Attend a WILPF Event
- Read WILPF's "Challenge Militarism" and "Invest in Peace" to be found under resources on <http://peacewomen.org/>
- Collaborate with WILPF as an NGO partner
- Sign Up to WILPF & PeaceWomen E-News
- Donate to WILPF and/or projects
- Translate Women, Peace & Security Resolutions into your languages (1325, 1820)



The UK is the fourth largest military spender in the world and devoted \$65 billion to military expenditures in 2009. At the same time, the UK has recently adopted a new budget with cut-backs that disproportionately impact women through changes to taxes, benefits, and pensions. An estimated 72% of the £8 billion worth of changes come out of women's pockets, while only 28% from men's.

Argentina allocates 8% of its GDP for military spending, roughly 27 billion USD. This is the equivalent cost of public health for half a year. The cost of Argentina's arms imports could send 48 thousand children to primary school or fund the primary educations of the 30 thousand girls, currently not going to primary school, for one and a half years. Argentina last spent \$54.8 billion dollars on arms imports (in 2010 constant USD).

In 2008, Nigeria spent 1.7 billion dollars - 0.8% of its GDP - on military expenditures, but spent only marginally more on education; 0.9%. In 2006, male literacy was estimated to 71% and female 62%.

MORE RESOURCES:

WILPF Analysis Page

<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/peace/16days.html>

PeaceWomen (Women, Peace and Security)

<http://peacewomen.org/>

Reaching Critical Will (Disarmament)

www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Center for Women's Global Leadership

<http://16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu/>

Cost of War Calculator

<http://www.stwr.org/special-features/cost-of-war-calculator.html>