

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF supports the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence 2012 visit: wilpfinternational.org



CHALLENGE MILITARISM INVEST IN PEACE

“War is an international business based on profits and the proliferation of weapons.”

Annie Matundu-Mbambi, President of the WILPF Section in the Democratic Republic of Congo

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, WILPF

WILPF is the oldest international, women's peace organization, with national sections around the world, and international offices in Geneva and New York with several projects including: PeaceWomen (Women, Peace and Security) and Reaching Critical Will (Disarmament).

WILPF has challenged militarism for 97 years! Since our establishment in 1915, WILPF has brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by nonviolent means. WILPF leads a movement 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 an annual global campaign from November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, through December 10, International Human Rights Day. The campaign's recent focus has been on the intersections of militarism and violence against women, reflecting WILPF's mission.

In 2011 the WILPF 16 Days Campaign centered around the slogan: “Blow the Whistle to Redefine Security”, with 17 national sections around the world taking part in the campaign. It was an incredibly powerful campaign, from Kinshasa to Geneva to Bogotá, WILPF sections successfully organized and participated in a variety of inspiring and strategic activities, all uniting to “challenge militarism and violence against women at home and during conflict.”

We have an ongoing campaign in WILPF called “You get what you pay for” which calls for the reduction of military spending.

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



1 Year of the world's
military expenditures
(USD \$1,738,000,000,000
in 2011)

OR



800 Years
of UN
regular budget

OR



3000 Years
of budget for
UN Women



ACTION PLAN FOR COMPARING MILITARY SPENDING:

STEP 1: Review the 16 Days Campaign website and Take Action Kit
www.16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu

STEP 2: Form a Project Team & Planning Committee

STEP 3: Research SIPRI Data
<http://www.sipri.org/research/>

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)

Email: inforequest@wilpf.ch

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 & Reaching Critical Will E-News
- Donate to WILPF and/or projects
- Translate Women, Peace & Security Resolutions into your languages

In 2011 world military spending is estimated to have been \$1.738 trillion. Each year, global arms sales amount to 45-60 billion dollars.

Just six countries export 74% of the world's weapons: US, Russia, Germany, China, and France. The US alone sells 35% of the global total.

At least 60% of human rights violations documented by Amnesty International have involved the use of small arms and light weapons. Around 200 million small arms are in circulation in the Great Lakes region, with a high concentration in the DRC, where it is estimated that some 420,000 women a year are subject to sexual violence.

For the 5th consecutive year, the number of people forcibly displaced due to armed conflict exceeded 42 million. The cost of 1 single Multi-Role Armed Vehicle could build 1,070 houses or provide 428,571 blankets for refugees.

MORE RESOURCES:

WILPF

www.wilpfinternational.org

PeaceWomen (Women, Peace and Security)

www.peacewomen.org

Reaching Critical Will (Disarmament)

www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Center for Women's Global Leadership

www.16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu

Cost of War Calculator

www.stwr.org/special-features/cost-of-war-calculator.html

