

## WILPF Inputs to the UN Secretary General's Report on Youth, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation

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The General Assembly by its [resolution 34/97](#) of 0. December 8689. entitled »Youth? Disarmament and Non-proliferation« requested the Secretary-General »to seek the views of Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations on the issue of the promotion of youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its eightieth session«;

## Executive summary

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has undertaken several initiatives to promote youth engagement in disarmament spaces.

WILPF has facilitated the participation of young WILPF members in disarmament conferences, including the Second and Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the 2025 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee.

WILPF has mainstreamed youth perspectives in our First Committee Briefing Book with a chapter written by Pace University (<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/briefingbook/FCBB-2024-education.pdf>). We also published weekly summaries on discussions regarding youth and disarmament education in our First Committee Monitor (<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga/2024/fcm>).

WILPF's Young Network has campaigned in opposition to nuclear weapons, autonomous weapons systems (<https://www.wilpf.org/digital-activists-youth-advocacy-in-the-age-of-autonomous-weapons/>), among other issues.

WILPF has also spoke at events with young students in universities in Australia, Canada, Brazil, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to raise awareness about weapons and militarism and to mobilise against them.

## Submission

Despite recent efforts to increase diversity in disarmament, there is still a prevalence of men of higher levels (seniority or rank) in such spaces. Increasing diversity in multilateral fora is key to overcoming obstacles to disarmament and demilitarisation. This includes increasing the number of young people participating in disarmament conferences, who can offer fresh and unique perspectives on impacts and solutions.

Considering this, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has undertaken several initiatives to promote youth engagement. WILPF has facilitated the participation of young WILPF members in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the 2025 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee. Some of the participants were sponsored by the Kay Camp Fund, a programme created by WILPF to fund the participation of young members in international conferences. The issue of visas remains a challenge, as many activists from countries that require visas need to go through bureaucratic procedures to attend conferences.

Youth voices and perspectives have been traditionally disregarded or silenced in disarmament policy discussions. In opposition to this practice, WILPF has mainstreamed youth perspectives in our First.Committee.Briefing.Book, particularly in the chapter "Youth and disarmament education" written by Pace University (<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/briefingbook/FCBB-2024-education.pdf>). We also published weekly summaries on discussions regarding youth and disarmament education in our First.Committee.Monitor. (<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga/2024/fcm>).

WILPF has also been the coordinator of civil society statements during the meetings of the NPT and First Committee for many years. In both fora, we coordinated with representatives from civil society on the delivery of joint youth statements.

As a civil society organisation with members in 41 countries, WILPF has undertaken efforts to mobilise younger members through the Young WILPF Network for people under the age of 35. Members from this network have recently created an intergenerational Working Group on Disarmament and Demilitarisation. They have organised education initiatives, social media advocacy, and campaigning in opposition to nuclear weapons, autonomous weapons systems (<https://www.wilpf.org/digital-activists-youth-advocacy-in-the-age-of-autonomous-weapons/>), landmines, cluster munitions, and more.

WILPF has participated in several events to mobilise young people against weapons and militarism. Between July 2023 and June 2025, WILPF has participated as a speaker in over 10 events with young students organised by universities in Australia, Canada, Brazil, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. WILPF also participated in a side event about military expenditure at the ECOSOC Youth Forum.