Dear WILPF Members

**UK WILPF Disarmament Campaign 2016**

Disarmament is a leading campaign in the international WILPF programme.  We work at International, UK and Branch levels with ICAN (Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and with CND, UNA, Stop the War and other local groups to abolish nuclear weapons.

Recently we have circulated reports on the progress on the UN Working Group which has been holding international multilateral discussions on nuclear disarmament in February and May 2016 in Geneva.  WILPF is suggesting that this is our starting point for disarmament campaigning over the next few months. This is what is happening:

1.    We are a sponsoring organisation for a **national lobby of Parliament on July13th** 2016 initiated by CND.

* Below (and attached) is a draft letter you can use to contact your MPs to make an appointment with them on the day of the lobby at Westminster. Branches will be contacting local groups of CND, UNA and Stop the War and any others among your local contact, asking them to meet up with you beforehand and to join in the lobby. If you are not in a branch you can still plan to lobby with friends and contacts in other like-minded organisations. Feel free to use a different approach from our draft letter if your branch or your companion organisations wish.
* If your MP suggests that it is more convenient to meet locally or at another time, please accommodate him or her.
* Try to get a minimum of three people in your group to make it easier for yourselves to maintain a dialogue – especially if your MP does not share your views on nuclear weapons.
* Preparatory meetings will help you to test out your arguments, decide how to share out your roles. Impress upon your colleagues the importance of taking a reasoned approach when you talk with your MP.
* It is good to have a more detailed document to give your MP at the end and we hope to have one for you soon, written by Rebecca Johnson, WILPF and ICAN member, who attended the working group meetings in Geneva.
* Make sure that everyone in your group is a constituent of the MP you are lobbying – they tend to be very particular about that.
* Please feed back to us (ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com) the results of you meetings

Dear XXXXXX MP

I am writing to make an appointment with you to talk about nuclear weapons on 13th July 2016 at the Houses of Parliament.

Last year the General Assembly of the United Nations agreed to set up multilateral discussions to work towards eliminating nuclear weapons.  This Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the United Nations met in Geneva in February and in May 2016.

I am puzzled as to why the British Government which advocates for multilateral nuclear disarmament has chosen not to take part in the OEWG discussions.  As the current round of talks end some countries have called for “a multilateral diplomatic process for the negotiation of a legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons”.  Others want to convene a negotiating conference in 2017 for a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.

We are all aware of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference process.  But other countries – the majority of the 193 in the United Nations, feel that this process shows no sign of ending the rule of nuclear weapons.  In several recent international conferences they have made themselves aware of the humanitarian effects of a nuclear detonation.

Here, in the UK, against the trend of this anxiety and thinking, our government is approaching a decision to spend a massive amount of money on upgrading the Trident Nuclear Weapons system.

I/we look forward to talking with you about these issues.

2. The second arm of this campaign in to **mobilize to visit the bomb factory at Burghfield on June** **20th.**  This women’s day of action is part of a month of actions to draw people’s attention to what is happening at Burghfield. Find out if any transport is going from your local area, and let us know what you are planning.

3. The third current area of campaign is the **ICAN “Nukes of Hazard” campaign** which is mobilizing along the route of the nuclear convoy from AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield in the South of England to Coulport in Scotland.  You can look out for and report on the movements of these convoys, which take a number of different routes (M40, M6, M1, A1, M74), which you can see on the Nukewatch website  ([www.nukewatch.org.uk](http://www.nukewatch.org.uk)) . On the ICAN UK websites. [www.uk.icanw.org/action/](http://www.uk.icanw.org/action/) you can see Scottish WILPF’s submission to the Geneva talks on a nuclear weapons ban.

4. Finally **The Parliamentary vote on Trident renewal** is likely to come the Autumn 2016.  Plans are underway in London and Scotland (Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh), to be ready for public mass assemblies on the day of the vote.  We shall not have much notice and members in other areas are encouraged identify in advance a public place to assemble on the Saturday prior to the Parliamentary debate.