

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No TTIP! WILPF demands fair trade based on human rights, democratic principles and social, economic, gender and climate justice

As a member of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Stop TTIP," UK WILPF is helping gather a record-breaking number of signatures ahead of a critical vote on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in the European Parliament. At the time of this publication, the ECI "Stop TTIP" campaign has two million signatories, the largest ECI since the instrument's introduction in 2012.

In order for an ECI to be successful, half this number would suffice. Moreover, Stop TTIP has collected the required minimum number of signatures in 14 EU Member States, double the amount needed to receive an official response from the European Commission and a hearing in the European Parliament.

On 10 June 2015, the European Parliament will vote on a resolution concerning TTIP.

Anne Scott, Secretary of UK WILPF, said, "We call on the European Parliament to reject TTIP because it is a threat to our democracy as well as to protection standards for labour rights, the environment and public health. WILPF is concerned that women will suffer disproportionately both as users and as employees of public services if TTIP is accepted.

In April 2015, WILPF International passed a resolution on protecting democracy and the public interest from secret trade agreements. As well as rejecting the investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS) aspect of TTIP, WILPF believes the agreement will exacerbate global warming and extreme weather events by increasing long-distance transport of goods through the moving of jobs and manufacturing to countries with low labour standards and environmental laws.

WILPF calls for the immediate public release of the complete text of TTIP; the rejection of the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions; and fair trade based on human rights, democratic principles and social, economic, gender and climate justice.

Michael Efler, a member of the Stop TTIP's Citizens' Committee said, "The European Parliament should take a clear stance against the investor-state-dispute-settlement (ISDS) part of TTIP. Allowing corporations to sue governments in private courts for practically any state action that interferes with investments and lowers their expected profit is a practice that would undermine the rule of law and democratic principles.

"All the improvements to ISDS that have been proposed by the European Commission and European Social Democrats are insufficient. The problem remains that ISDS would constitute a parallel justice system for investors that would be unnecessary, dangerous for democracy and could prove very costly for taxpayers. If no

clear statement against ISDS is included in the resolution, the European Parliament would do better to reject it all together.”

Last autumn, the European Commission rejected Stop TTIP as an official ECI. The alliance is currently challenging this decision in the European Court of Justice and is meanwhile carrying out the ECI signature collection on a self-organised basis.

Stop TTIP is currently an alliance of more than 470 civil society organisations across Europe, and signature collection will continue until 6 October 2015.

The full text of WILPF’s resolution is available online here:

http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wilpf_statements/resolution-on-protecting-democracy-and-the-public-interest-from-secret-trade-agreements/

ENDS

Notes for editors:

- **About WILPF:** The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international non-profit, non-governmental (NGO) peace organisation with National Sections spanning every continent. We have Branches and groups across the UK. *Brighton and Hove; Leicester; London; Orpington; Scotland; Sheffield; Cornwall*
- **An International Secretariat** works out of New York and Geneva and focuses on the work of the United Nations (UN). In 1948, WILPF was part of the first group of NGOs to receive consultative status with the UN through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We also have consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- **WILPF’s mission** is to end and prevent war, ensure that women are represented at all levels in the peace-building process, defend the human rights of women, and promote social, economic and political justice.
- To achieve this mission, **WILPF conducts programs** in three areas:
 - Disarmament; www.reachingcriticalwill.org
 - Gender, Peace and Security; www.peacewomen.org
 - Human Rights
- **Crisis Response:** During periods of transition or conflict, WILPF reacts by developing responsive projects. In 2014, WILPF has two active projects.
 - *MENA Agenda 1325:* This project advocates for women’s rights in the Middle East and North African region by building the capacity of women to participate in peace and security issues and emphasises the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325.
 - *Women Organising for Change in Bosnia and Syria:* This project focuses on sharing and learning from the different experiences of women living in conflict-affected societies in order to better understand how to organise and participate in change.
- **Women’s Power to Stop War** is WILPF’s global movement in the year prior to our centenary in April 2015. The movement’s goal is to strengthen, connect and celebrate the past 100 years of peace-building from a gender perspective. In April 2015, we returned to The Hague to host an international conference on Disarmament, Gender and Security and forge a new peace agenda for the 21st century. www.womenstopwar.org
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