



Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) August 2013 e-newsletter:

## 2013 WiLL/WAND National Women's Leadership Conference

Join us for our biennial, 3-day conference “[Women at the Tables of Power](#)” September 29-October 1 in Washington, DC at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel! Our 2013 national conference provides a unique opportunity to meet with state legislators from across the country and women parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa. Confirmed speakers include **Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9)**, **Ambassador Melanne Vermeer**, former Marine Corps **Capt. Anu Bhagwati** of Service Women's Action Network, **Jo Comerford** of National Priorities Project, pollster **Celinda Lake**, **State Rep. Stacey Newman (MO)**, and blogger **Emily Spangler** of Progress Women.

Our rooftop Torchbearer Awards Reception will honor **Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD-4)** as our 2013 Torchbearer, as well as 11 Pacesetter state legislators from across the nation who are leading in the fields of peace, justice, and the advancement of women. Our day on the Hill will feature a Congressional luncheon where we'll hear from some of the 48 women members of Congress that came through our ranks!

Early-bird registration ends August 27! Contact Adzi Vokhiwa ( [avokhiwa@wand.org](mailto:avokhiwa@wand.org), 202-544-5055 ext. 2603 for more information or to register).



### Past Events

#### WiLL Reception at NCSL

More than 100 guests attended our WiLL reception on August 14 when Atlanta hosted the annual summit of the National Conference of State Legislators. This great networking opportunity included WAND and WAND Education Fund Board members: NV State **Asm. Maggie Carlton**, WV **Delegate Barbara Fleischauer**, MD **Delegate Ana Sol Gutiérrez**, UT **State Rep. Jennifer Seelig**, OH **State Sen. Charleta Tavares**, and WI **State Sen. Lena Taylor**. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our hosts, Georgia Link!



#### Webinar: The Essential Role of Women in Building Sustainable Peace and Security

On Wednesday, July 24, WAND hosted a webinar called “The Essential Role of Women in Building Peace and Security,” featuring a presentation from Tanya Henderson, WAND Public Policy Director, and remarks from **Dr. Donya Aziz**, former member of Pakistan National Assembly, and **CO State Rep. Angela Williams**. This webinar highlighted the importance of promoting the role of women as agents of change in political life, conflict prevention, and peace-building. A recording of the presentation is also available [here](#), and presentation slides are available [here](#).

## WiLL in the News

WiLL President **State Sen. Nan Orrock** (GA) was published in *Creative Loafing* Atlanta. The article, "[The Crucial Role of Women in Public Service](#)", details how women, both here and internationally, make a huge difference when they win seats at the tables of power, and particularly their important role as peacemakers in conflict resolution.

**Sen. Orrock** was also recently interviewed by TIME magazine for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the March on Washington. Sen. Orrock, a college student at the time, participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and went on to fulltime civil rights work with SNCC in the Deep South. The complete TIME magazine interview of Sen. Orrock appears [here](#).



## Take Action!

U.S. **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** (NY) is a known champion for ending military sexual violence (MSV) and improving protection and rights for victims of MSV. Earlier this month, Senator Gillibrand made an appearance on "The Daily Show" where she announced that she needs 5 more supporters to reach the 51 votes necessary to pass the Military Justice Improvement Act (S. 967) in the Senate! If the Military Justice Improvement Act (MJI) passes, an independent military lawyer will determine which cases of sexual assault are tried, and victims will have less reason to fear acts of retaliation. Currently Gillibrand has 38 co-sponsors and an additional 8 senators who have committed their support when the bill comes to the floor for a total of 46 allies. Click here to [take action and ask your U.S. Senator to support the MJI!](#)

## Afghanistan

Since the beginning of the Afghanistan war more than a decade ago, WAND and WiLL have called for a swift resolution to the war and urged Congress to support long-term, sustainable investment in aid that empowers Afghan women. Now that the withdrawal of troops and the end of the war is nearing, the WAND and WAND Education Fund Boards have released a statement outlining our goals and recommendations for protecting Afghan women and making them equal participants in negotiating any and all peace agreements. Read the statement [here](#).

## Connect with WiLL

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow @WomenLegisLobby on [Twitter](#), friend WiLL on [Facebook](#), and visit our website [www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org)

WiLL is a program of [Women's Action for New Directions](#)