



May 20, 2016

Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) May 2016 e-newsletter:

WiLL in the News



Rep. Nickie Antonio (OH), Rep. Gael Tarleton (WA), and Rep. Bobbi Beavers (ME)

Ohio House Minority Whip **Nickie Antonio** urged the [presidential candidates to carefully consider budget priorities](#) and to not continue the trend of an oversize Pentagon budget and nuclear weapons arsenal. **Representative Gael Tarleton** (WA) co-authored an op-ed with Ploughshares Fund President Joseph Cirincione about the need to [scale back U.S. nuclear weapons](#). Maine **Representative Bobbi Beavers** called on her U.S. Senators to [invest in education and human needs](#) rather than nuclear weapons.

We want to assist you with op-eds and letters-to-the-editor! Media placement ramps up your profile and educates your voters, with multiple chances share your message online. For assistance, please contact WiLL Vice President Senator Sandy Pappas (sandy@wand.org).

Congratulations!

Arkansas **Representative Vivian Flowers**, along with her colleagues Ken Ferguson and Charles Blake, became the first state representatives in the country to publicly [support a National Whistleblower's Appreciation Day](#). The Arkansas state representatives announced their proclamation at a news conference at the Clinton Presidential Library.

Capitol Hill Update

Historic Visit to Hiroshima Planned

At the end of May, President Obama will make history by becoming the first sitting president to visit Hiroshima. "By making this trip, the President will shine a light on the devastation and suffering that nuclear weapons cause, commemorate the legacy of the hibakusha (the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing survivors), and reinforce the imperative that nuclear weapons are never again used in war," said Susan Shaer, WAND's retiring Executive Director. We expect pushback from perennial opponents of diplomacy so we will need the support of our friends, partners, and members.

WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock** (GA) explains, "It is vital to support President Obama's historic decision and face down the predictable naysayers. The President's visit to Hiroshima demonstrates American leadership and strength, with a commitment to take steps leading toward a safer world, a world without nuclear weapons." Read our [full statement](#).

On Wednesday, May 18, WAND's Nuclear Weapons Policy Director Erica Fein joined colleagues from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Peace Action, Global Zero, Win Without War, and Physicians for Social Responsibility to deliver over 50,000 signatures supporting the President's historic visit to Hiroshima to White House officials.

We also reminded the officials that reducing the risk of nuclear war means taking concrete action, like reversing plans to spend \$1 trillion to rebuild the entire nuclear arsenal. There is still time left to make change. You can support the President's visit and urge further action by [signing our petition](#) hosted by MoveOn.

Women, Peace, and Security

In May, we honor the contributions that women make as mothers in every part of our lives, especially mothers building peace. Mothers have a unique role in society that often allows them to mobilize under very repressive governments and a unique vantage point that can help them counter violent extremism. Their voices resonate with us because their pain is universal. The United States has committed to including women in peace and security efforts overseas, and partnering with mothers' groups is an excellent way to do that. But if we only focus on women as mothers, and not women in roles of public power, we risk limiting women to traditional roles and barring them from the tables of power. [Women, Peace, and Security Fellow Lila O'Brien-Milne wrote a blog post](#) reflecting on the delicate balance between supporting mothers in peacebuilding and empowering all women.

In April, the city council of Eugene, Oregon passed a local CEDAW ordinance, adding another success story to the Cities for CEDAW campaign! Oregon WAND leader and WAND Education Fund Vice Chair Susan Cundiff wrote a [blog](#) encouraging other cities to jump on the CEDAW band wagon. Check it out to learn more and find out how to get involved in a Cities for CEDAW campaign in your city.

WAND continues to be involved in the progress of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act in Congress, working with other civil society organizations and legislators on both sides of the aisle. We hope to see the WPS Act introduced in the House this summer!

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Advancing Women's Rights, Peace, and Political Participation Globally

Despite comprising over 50 percent of the world's population, women continue to be notably underrepresented in politics, and gender inequality remains prevalent in all sectors of society worldwide. Yet, research shows that when women are empowered as political leaders, more laws are passed to protect women's rights and countries experience higher standards of living and more sustainable peace.

In 2014, [Tanya Henderson](#), an international human rights and gender lawyer focused on advancing the rights of women and women's role in peace-building, founded Mina's List: *Empowering women's political leadership globally* to realize women's equal and substantive representation in national governments around the world.

In this webinar, learn more about the current state of women's political representation in national governments globally, the barriers to women's political representation, why we need more women in politics, and what organizations like WAND and Mina's List are doing to help women overcome the barriers to women's increased political representation. [Click here to register for this free webinar!](#)

Recent Events

On May 4, WAND held a [webinar](#) featuring Daryl Kimball, Executive Director of the Arms Control Association, and WAND Nuclear Weapons Policy Director Erica Fein. The webinar provided an overview of President Obama's trillion dollar nuclear weapons buildup, what's happening on Capitol Hill with the nuclear weapons budget, and what this means for President Obama's vision for a world without nuclear weapons.

Connect with WiLL

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow [@WomenLegisLobby](#) on [Twitter](#) and friend WiLL on [Facebook](#).