



PeaceWomen Across the Globe  
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT  
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم  
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde  
Женщины мира за мир на земле  
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO  
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo  
DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO  
ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち  
全球和平妇女



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR  
**PEACE & FREEDOM**

## Care for peace instead of profit with weapons

**"Violence is everywhere, including in our minds. Fear is spreading and the culture of fear is creeping in everywhere. In order to have peace, we have to overcome this 'culture of fear', because we can only be manipulated by fear!"**

*(Participant in south-eastern Ukraine at a Women's Peace Table 2021)*

## "Demilitarisation – Disarmament: Feminist Perspectives on Peace Cultures and Genuine Security"

*Third event of the thematic series*

23-24 June 2022 in Bern

### Introduction

The assumption that security is to be achieved through rearmament, and therefore security demands more weapons, is not new, and still wrong, even if it experiences an upswing in times of war. This recurring motif of nation-state representation and geostrategic power politics is what we are questioning at this symposium. For we are not giving up, but rather searching together for ways to achieve human security in its comprehensive understanding.

For more than 100 years, women engaged in peace politics have been pointing out that peace is never achieved with weapons and war and that armament does not create security. Women point out that armament and war waste valuable money that is urgently needed for care work, for an inclusive education system and for climate protection. Effective peace processes are closely linked to the growth-driven economy and the profit motive.

Peacebuilding is a lengthy process that requires a lot of time, perseverance, reflection and willingness to learn. Thus, at a time when armed conflicts and wars are taking place in at least 35 other places around the world in addition to the war in Ukraine, we are once again asking ourselves why our voices against rearmament are hardly heard or suppressed. How can we make our voices heard?



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## **Motivation, background, idea**

With this two-day event, PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG) and WILPF are opening a space for reflection. Thematic starting points are, on the one hand, the entanglements of economy, climate and war. On the other hand, the significance of emotions and fear as war capital will be questioned. Finally, we will jointly develop approaches, formulate actions and projects for a more effective prevention of violence and war.

War makes the spiral of rearmament and militarisation turn further and faster. Based on our different experiences in peace work and peace politics, we will look for new ways for a society of peace.

We understand the event as a space for reflection on the dominant discourses and policies and take the moment as an occasion for discussion and feminist counter-designs.

## **Thematic foci**

### **1. War, economy and climate**

Scarce resources, especially raw materials, which are traded in a market-like way and with a lot of profit for a few, are the driving force of the war machinery; wars as a result of conflicts of interest, claims to power and property are lucrative, especially because of the production and trade of war material. We see the war economies, the corresponding financial flows and the state distribution policies at the centre of this issue.

### **2. Feelings, fears, narratives as war capital**

Today, fear is stirred up and instrumentalised as an efficient means of implementing power-political strategies. Violence in everyday life, permeated by fear, is becoming normal. We do not accept this, because this fear is an expression of a toxic masculinity anchored in patriarchally structured societies, which runs counter to human security.

We want to disentangle warmongering and emotions, we want to understand how the culture of violence affects people's everyday lives.



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## **Programme**

### **Thursday, 23 June 2022**

Main building of the University of Bern, Hochschulstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Room 033

13.00-13.30 Welcome, introduction and "ice breaker"  
13.30-14.30 Discussion of theses in plenary

### **Feminist hearings with thematic focus**

15.00 - 15.15: Thematic introduction:  
- Psychological aspects of war  
- Economics of war  
15.15 - 16.30: Hearings in two groups  
16.30 - 16.45: Coffee break  
16.45 - 17.45: Plenary discussion  
Insights, challenges, additional questions  
17.45 Invitation to public panel in Audimax

### ***Public Panel***

#### **The Ugly Faces of Conflict and War: A Gender Perspective**

University of Bern, Hochschulstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Audimax 110  
18.15 – 20.30 (followed by an aperitif)

Welcome by **Ruth-Gaby Vermot**, president of PeaceWomen Across the Globe.

### **Panelists**

**Olena Zinenko**, Public Alternative Kharkiv, coordinator of PWAG's project Women's Peace Tables in Eastern Ukraine

**Shirin Jurdi**, member of the WILPF international board and MENA coordinator, Lebanon

**Shukrije Gashi & Hilmije Ramabaja**, Partners Kosova Center for Conflict Management, co-ordinators of the PWAG-supported project "Women Breaking Silence, Changing Narratives", Kosovo,

Moderation: **Annemarie Sancar** (PWAG) and **Heidi Meinzolt** (WILPF)

After the panel, all guests and panellists are invited to an aperitif.



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## **Friday, 24 June 2022**

Stube im Progr, PROGR Foundation, Waisenhausplatz 30, 3011 Bern

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|---------------|---|
| 09.30 - 09.45 | Introduction (summary of main points of Thursday's discussions)   |
| 09.45 – 10.00 | Observations/reflections by <b>Gulnara Shahinian</b> , women's rights activist, director of Democracy Today, UN-expert on modern slavery and trafficking, Armenia |
| 10.00-10.45:  | Small discussion groups: on insights<br>Plenary: mapping achievements and challenges ahead, an overview   |
| 10.45-11.00   | Short break   |
| 11.00-12.30   | Plenary: feminist ideas, creative strategies, proved and new alliances, critical methods  |
| 12.30-14.00   | "To make nails with heads"<br>Informal exchange, forging common plans, concretizing actions   |

May 2022