

WILPF 2/12

# Women's International League

(British Section of the Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom).



## TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH, 1942—FEBRUARY, 1943.

*Address:*

FLAT 8, 144 SOUTHAMPTON ROW,  
LONDON, W.C.1.

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## THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects:—

**I. The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.**

**II. The Emancipation of Women.**

Before the war we had National Sections or Correspondents in

Argentine	Denmark	Hungary	Palestine
Australia :	Egypt	India	Panama
Victoria	El Salvador	Ireland	Poland
Tasmania	Esthonia	Italy	South Africa
New South Wales	Finland	Japan	Spain
Western Australia	France	Jugo-Slavia	Sweden
Belgium	Germany	Lithuania	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Great Britain	Mexico	Tunis
Canada	Greece	New Zealand	Ukraine
China	Holland	Nicaragua	U.S.A.
Costa Rica	Honduras	Norway	Venezuela
Czecho-Slovakia			

*The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as*  
**THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE**

*Address :*

Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1943 :

*Chairman*—Mrs. Duncan Harris.

*Vice-Chairmen*—Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs. McGregor Ross,  
Mrs. Mignon Castle.

*Hon. Secretary*—Mrs. K. E. Innes.

*Hon. Treasurer*—Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Miss Mosa Anderson, Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Burton,  
Mrs. Brayshaw, Miss Maud Dickinson, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Amy Haughton,  
Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. Malcomson, Miss Edith Pye,  
Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Dr. Richenda Scott.

*Vice-Presidents*—

Miss Vera Brittain, Mrs. de Bunsen, The Hon. Mrs. Franklin,  
Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Catherine Marshall, Lady Unwin.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above objects. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality. Minimum Subscription to Headquarters, 2s. 6d. per annum. Monthly News Sheet, 1d.; 2s. od. per annum, post free.

## TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

**March, 1942—February, 1943.**

Grateful acknowledgments are offered to Miss M. S. Smith for her kind assistance this year in compiling the Annual Report.

K. E. INNES,

*Hon. Secretary.*

War conditions are more stringent than last year, so our Report must be curtailed still further. Although the war has spread over the world, some signs are more hopeful, and there is widespread realisation that the world as a whole must be organised for peace and for the welfare and happiness of the individual.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

For the first months of the year the Executive met at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, through the continued kindness of the London Regional Federation of the L.N.U., but from September onwards it was able to meet at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1. Difficulties of travel and other war-time difficulties still affected the attendance at Committees. In October, an extended Executive Meeting was held, attended by representatives from the following Branches:—*Birmingham*: Mrs. Bayes, Mrs. Ballinger, Miss Hicks; *Brighton*: Miss Pickworth and Miss B. Briault; *Glasgow*: Miss Low; *North Wales*: Mrs. James, Miss Marie O. Smith; *Manchester*: Mrs. Bolt, Mrs. Coppock, Mrs. Paine, Mrs. Phillips; *Reading*: Mrs. Barber. This meeting proved both interesting and helpful. As so often happens, the representatives reporting had found, when they came to put things together, that their record of work amounted to something quite encouraging, and this encouragement was conveyed to all those who heard the reports. Written reports by Branches not able to send, came from Leicester, Liverpool and Worthing. All had been asked to show how, in their work, they were carrying out the objects of the Women's International League.

We have been glad to welcome as visitors on several occasions Frau Hertzka; Mrs. Bedford, acting as Liaison Officer for the newly formed London Group; Mrs. Bagnall and Mrs. Ballinger from our Birmingham Branches.

### AFFILIATIONS, &c.

We are affiliated to the British Commonwealth League, the Liaison Committee of British Women's Organisations interested in Indian Affairs, and the National Peace Council. Miss Dickinson has continued to serve, as our representative, on the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, and has attended, on our behalf, meetings of the Associated Country Women of the World.

### DIVERSE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE.

The following letters were sent at various times during the year:—

(1) To Lord Cranborne, expressing the great sorrow of the Executive Committee over the tragedy of the S.S. *Struma*. A reply received stated that Lord Cranborne too "was deeply grieved" to hear of the tragic loss of the S.S. *Struma*, but nothing was said of any steps being taken to avoid a recurrence of such a tragedy.

At a later date, in reply to a further letter, Lord Cranborne's Private Secretary wrote: "Lord Cranborne asks me to explain that the Palestine Government have agreed to admit to Palestine the children of certain Jews in Roumania and Hungary, to whom immigration certificates were allocated but not issued before the withdrawal of the British Mission. It is also hoped to arrange for an extension of this particular arrangement to cover Jewish children in other parts of enemy and enemy-occupied territory in Europe."

(2) To Mr. Gandhi, when difficulties in India were being discussed, sending "a message of respect and sympathy at this difficult time."

(3) To the Prime Minister, suggesting an appeal to the German Government to honour the pledge against Gas Warfare. A formal acknowledgment was received.

(4) To the British Council of Christians and Jews, welcoming the formation of the Council and assuring it that both the British Section and the International Sections have endeavoured to counteract the spread of anti-Semitism and sought the co-operation of Jewish friends. The Council expressed its gratitude for the support given and supplied an article for the News Sheet.

(5) To the Prime Minister, regretting that the British Government should have adopted a policy of retaliation in the chaining of prisoners of war.

(6) To Miss McGeachy, following up a cable, congratulating her on being the first woman appointed to Diplomatic Service by Great Britain, and expressing the hope "that she may have opportunities in diplomatic channels of emphasising those trends in the conduct of international relations which make for the preservation of life in its fullest sense, and not for its destruction." A reply of thanks and appreciation was received.

(7) To Dr. Harold Moody, to congratulate him on his appointment as Deputy Chairman of the General Board of the London Missionary Society.

(8) To Mr. Amery, India Office, begging him to take advantage of the offer of Mr. Rajagopalachari to come to this country in order to establish contact which would create an atmosphere in which the issues at stake could be discussed.

(9) To Mrs. Roosevelt, welcoming her and expressing appreciation of her visit to this country, and telling her of our constant endeavour to try to find a way out of the Indian deadlock.

(10) To the B.B.C., asking for the inclusion of a regular Indian News Service. The B.B.C. replied that it was unable to add to its programmes at the present time, but Indian news would always be given.

(11) A *cable* was sent to Madame Chiang Kai Shek asking her to appeal to Indian women to work for conciliation.

(12) A *message* of sympathy was sent to the Princess Tnagne Work Haile Sellassie on the death of her sister, H.I.H. Princess Tsahai of Ethiopia. Princess Tnagne Work was asked to convey the expression of our sympathy to her mother, the Empress.

### LUNCH MEETINGS.

At Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, lunch meetings were held during the year. The subjects and speakers were:—

"A Declaration of the Rights of Man" drawn up by the Sankey Committee. Mr. Kingsley Martin.

"A Soviet Woman's Views on the Freedom of Women." Mrs. Moore-Palateewa

Under the general heading "Steps towards a New World," the following lunch meetings were held under Miss Edith Pye's chairmanship:—

"Preparing the ground through relief of starvation and despair in Occupied Europe." Mrs. Bliss.

"Laying foundations in the armistice period through urgency plans for freedom from want." Mr. Kenneth Brooks.

"Building up the new freedoms." Miss M. Digby.

Other lunch meetings were:—

"Livelihood in Shanghai in 1942." Miss Eleanor Hinder.

"The Changing Situation in the Far East." Prof. N. Gangulee.

"Present-day Japan." Bishop S. Heaslett.

"Germany in the Reconstruction of Europe." Mrs. Liba Ambrosova.

"Trends in Post-War Thinking." Miss Ruth Woodsmall.

"Conditions in Sweden." Dr. Greta Hedin.

Dr. Hedin consented to be the bearer of messages of greetings and hope from our Chairman to the Sections and individuals she could reach. The text of the messages was as follows:—

"We send to our colleagues in Finland greetings, in the knowledge that, however hard the way, we are very sure they are holding fast to our common faith."

"To our colleagues in Norway we send our admiration for their courageous stand for principle."

"To our Danish Section, our greetings and thanks for what they did in living a pacifist faith."

And to our Swedish colleagues, "We learn with gratitude of the work they are doing, and look to them to be strong to hold and to revive the belief and the work of the W.I.L.P.F. both now and in the vital and difficult days of reconstruction."

#### LONDON GROUP.

An informal group of London members was formed in July, with Miss G. D. L. Mann as Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Bedford was appointed Liaison Officer to attend meetings of the Executive Committee. Their first piece of work was a meeting at which Miss Vera Brittain spoke on "To-day's Challenge to Women: The Answer of the Women's International League." In September,

Mr. J. Hoffman of Czecho-Slovakia spoke on "Europe plans the Future." Owing to difficulties of attendance, it was decided not to arrange further meetings for a time, but the group can be called upon when it seems a suitable moment.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Chairman, Mrs. Duncan Harris, represented the W.I.L. on a deputation organised by Mrs. Mavis Tate, M.P., on "Equal Compensation for War Injury." The Minister listened sympathetically, but did not commit himself.

On behalf of the W.I.L., Miss Dickinson attended two meetings, one organised by the L.N.U., London Regional Federation, at which Lord Cecil spoke on "Our Part in To-morrow's Peace," and the other of the L.N.U. Women's Advisory Council, when Dr. Gilbert Murray spoke on "Minorities."

Miss Dickinson also attended for us the Conference of the India League in May.

The W.I.L. was represented by Miss Anderson at a Conference on "The Colonies in the Post-War World," and at the Peace Aims Conference on the "Economic Aspects of Peace Aims." Miss Harrison talked with Jamaican technicians who were on a week-end visit to London from Liverpool. She found that despite their welcome by a joint meeting of the W.I.L. and the League of Coloured Peoples, they were feeling the presence of a colour bar. These 200 coloured men came from Jamaica to do skilled work in factories during the war. They earn good wages, and hope to return to Jamaica when the war is over. The Liverpool Branch of the W.I.L. have taken steps to try to remove their feeling of isolation.

The W.I.L. was represented on the National Peace Council by Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Amy Haughton and Mrs. Lord. Mrs. Harris, Miss Harrison and Miss Anderson attended the N.P.C. Peace Aims Conference at Oxford.

In September, on behalf of the W.I.L., Miss Harrison attended the moving and simple memorial service to Miss Alison Neilans, for many years the able Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

#### FOOD CONDITIONS IN EUROPE.

Both Headquarters and Branches have approached the Minister of Economic Warfare and local Members of Parliament, asking for the necessary permits and arrangements for the sending of the

minimum requirements in milk and vitamins to starving mothers and children in Belgium. A reply received by Headquarters from the Ministry repeated arguments to justify inaction, which we believe the facts do not uphold, but no further steps to send dried milk or vitamins have been agreed to for that country. Our Executive Committee member, Miss Edith Pye, is Hon. Secretary of a Committee that is trying to crystallise Christian thought in this country on the necessity of giving immediate help to the children in occupied countries. She has also been appointed by the Government on an Allied Advisory Committee that is considering necessary measures for the care of mothers and infants in occupied countries when hostilities cease.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

#### W.I.L.P.F. Sections.

*Australia.*—Miss Eleanor Moore continues as Hon. Secretary. Owing to the death of the Editor and the closing down of "Peacewards," which was sent us for many years with news of our Section, we have had less news recently.

*Canada.*—International House-at Toronto is an active centre for all kinds of gatherings. There have been meetings at which discussions have been held on India, Race Prejudice, Problems of "War Guests," problems existing to-day in which the W.I.L. should take a special interest. Three members from Vancouver, including our old friend, Mrs. Jamieson, gave an account one afternoon of the work done by the members of the Vancouver Branch. The W.I.L. Refugee Committee has done much to help the refugees in their country.

Mrs. Sissons remains the Hon. President of the Section, and Mrs. Loeb the Chairman of the Toronto Branch.

The Branch finds our News Sheet of "great interest and an inspiration to older and new members."

*Sweden.*—We have been glad to hear both directly and indirectly from the Swedish Section, which is still active. Sweden bravely keeps her independent position while trying to retrieve what is possible from the disaster surrounding her. Over 6,000 Finnish children have been received in Sweden in an effort to help the growing generation, and the children of Belgium have also been helped. In the December issue of the News Sheet there appeared

an interesting résumé of the activities being carried on by the Swedish Section.

*Switzerland.*—Up till November, when the whole of France was occupied by the Germans, we heard at intervals from our Swiss friends. The Swiss Section is carrying on its work in various fields of study and action. Like the Swedish Section, it is making plans for post-war relief and reconstruction, and many of its members are engaged in relief among the numbers of refugees who have managed to escape to Switzerland. A pleasing incident in the year was a party in the Maison Internationale at Geneva to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Louisa Jaques' coming to work for the W.I.L.P.F. A message of congratulations and thanks from the British Section for her long and loyal co-operation was read, among many received.

All who knew her and admired her ability and her devotion heard with deep regret that Miss Lotti Birch, our former Secretary in the office at Geneva, died at the end of June, never recovering consciousness after a bicycle accident. The cause we fight for can ill spare the young energies of such keen workers, and her friends in many lands learned of the loss with sorrow.

*United States of America.*—We sent greetings to our International President, Miss Emily Balch, when the U.S.A. Section gave a Birthday Lunch in her honour, and we reprinted in the News Sheet the speech she made on that occasion.

We have been glad to receive regularly the interesting International News Letter, which our International Chairman, Gertrude Baer, prepares and issues, now that the publication of "Pax" is temporarily suspended.

Our Section in U.S.A. is issuing a News Sheet entitled "Four Lights," which keeps us in touch with their activities.

#### Our Czech Members.

There is little fresh to say about our Czech colleagues in this country, other than to record that they are now so much part of the community that the changes are only those within any normal group. We have to record several marriages and two new babies. The big boys of the group have all been called up into either the Czech Army or Air Force, except Konrad, deferred for reasons of health. The girl who has been so much hindered on grounds of health has now got on to her feet, and after a two-term course in English given by the British Council is hoping to start work.

### News from other Countries.

*Ethiopia.*—The W.I.L. was represented at the Westminster Abbey Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of Independence to the Ethiopian people, and the return of their Emperor, and at a celebration meeting at the Central Hall, attended by representatives of the Allied Governments, and individuals.

Miss Dickinson was authorised to express to the Abyssinian Association the appreciation of the W.I.L. for the work done in keeping the needs of Abyssinia before the people.

*U.S.S.R.*—We are glad to have received communications from women in Russia about women's meetings "against Fascist barbarism," and to act on the request of Lydia Kislova, Chief of the English Department of the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, in Moscow, to get literature on women's activities sent to the Society.

### LIAISON COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

The W.I.L.P.F. is still a member of the Liaison Committee, but for some months it has not been possible to be represented at the meetings. Through the minutes and reports, Mrs. Innes, as International Chairman, is kept in touch with activities, and it is hoped a representative may be found to attend the meetings again when things are more normal.

### INDIA.

The year has been the most serious one in Indo-British relations, probably unequalled in our generation. The chief landmarks have been the Cripps Mission to India (when high hopes were entertained that a solution would be found, and profound reaction caused when the proposals were rejected), and the drastic action taken in August last against the Congress Party. The rapidly deteriorating situation is summed up by a thoughtful Indian in these words: "In the last five months the mind of India has travelled thousands of miles away from England."

Through every means in its power, the W.I.L. has sought, in co-operation with other organisations concerned, to urge the Government to take the initiative in re-opening negotiations with Indian leaders. Frequent representations have been made to the India Office; pressure brought on the B.B.C. to supply more information; there has been much activity on the part of the Branches—the

Indian Petition of the North Wales Branch is a case in point. We supported the cable sent by our U.S.A. Section to Mrs. Pandit asking whether American and British women could help in the re-opening of negotiations. The cable was also sent to Madame Chiang Kai Shek.

Our contact with the All India Women's Conference, though difficult, has been maintained through our membership on the Liaison Group. We are glad to report that Miss Maud Dickinson has undertaken the editorship of the Liaison Group's Bulletin. By letter and cable we keep in touch with those of our Indian colleagues who are not interned or in prison, and Mrs. Duncan Harris sent a cable of greetings on behalf of the W.I.L. to the meeting of the Standing Committee of the A.I.W.C.

At the moment of writing this Annual Report, the situation is at deadlock and acute, fraught with untold consequences to the peace of the world. It presents a challenge to every member of the W.I.L. to persist in their efforts until some way of peace be found.

### BRANCHES.

The past year has been one of good steady work among the Branches, several of which report increased membership and renewed vitality. This is particularly marked in Cambridge and Worthing.

Study Groups have been a feature of the work during the year, the main topics chosen being "The Rights of Man," "Monetary Reform," "The Beveridge Report," and the varying aspects of Reconstruction after the War.

The food situation in Europe has been a matter of great concern throughout the League, and some very fine work has been done in this connection by Brighton, North Wales, Manchester and others according to their opportunities.

Branches have been specially active about the situation in India—notably Birmingham, North Wales, Manchester, Reading, Welwyn Garden City and Worthing. The fine work for refugees being done by the North Wales Branch is much appreciated by us all.

It is impossible in a short report to mention the work being done in each separate Branch, but that much valuable work has been undertaken throughout the past year is without question.

We are very grateful to our Birmingham Branches for all the help they gave us in connection with the Annual Meetings at Westhill Training College, and the "Bring and Buy" Sale held during the meetings.

The drawing together of Branches in regional conferences, as was done in December, when North Wales held a two-day Conference on Post-War Reconstruction, and delegates from Manchester, Liverpool, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay attended, is an idea that might be profitably developed.

That the W.I.L. is a family united in working for "a world of peace, justice and friendliness" is clearly evident from the reports received from the Branches.

In the coming year we must increase our membership—there is much to be done, and more workers are needed. In this connection we welcome the formation of a new Group at Childwall, near Liverpool.

To those Branches which are finding their work particularly difficult at this time we extend our sympathy and understanding. Hold on and let us help you wherever we can.

We have Branches at Acock's Green, Birmingham, Brighton, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Croydon, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Marazion, North Wales, Reading, Stockport, Warrington, Welwyn Garden City, Worthing.

#### THE OFFICE.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Innes for their very kind hospitality for 2½ years, which enabled the work of the Office to be carried on without interruption in their home, and we realise, with much appreciation, the many calls that were made on Mrs. Innes's time.

Owing to the steadily increasing work, it was deemed advisable by the Executive for the Office to return to London, which it did during Christmas week.

Our thanks are due to Miss Horscroft for all the work she has carried out so loyally during the evacuated period, and in the various changes. Now the Office is re-established in London, it is hoped that voluntary helpers will be found to assist in the carrying out and developing of the growing activities.

#### CONFERENCES.

Two Conferences of Women's Organisations and individuals, initiated by the W.I.L., were held on October 3rd and 31st, at Friends House, Euston Road, London, to consider the separate points of "A Declaration of the Rights of Man." The Openers were:—Mrs. Ridealgh (Women's Co-operative Guild): *Clauses 1 and 2*, "The Right to Live" and "The Protection of Minors."

Mrs. Brayshaw (W.I.L.): *Clause 3*, "Duty to the Community." Miss V. M. King (Association of Assistant Mistresses): *Clause 4*, "The Right to Knowledge." The Rev. Joyce Rutherford: *Clause 5*, "Freedom of Thought and Worship." Mrs. Ethel Wood: *Clause 6*, "The Right to Work." Miss Constance Colwill: *Clause 7*, "The Right to Personal Property." Mrs. Bentwich: *Clause 8*, "Freedom of Movement." Mrs. Beatrice Pollard: *Clause 9*, "Personal Liberty." Mrs. Grindley: *Clause 10*, "Freedom from Violence." Mrs. Beatrice Pollard: *Clause 11*, "Right of Law-making."

Mrs. Duncan Harris presided at both meetings.

The following resolution was adopted:—

"This Conference of Women, believing that the right ordering of the community must rest on respect for human personality, irrespective of race, class, creed or sex,

"And having examined the principles of the Charter of the Rights of Man drawn up by a Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Sankey,

"Urges women everywhere, whether within organisations or as individuals, to work for the progressive acceptance of those principles in the social and political institutions of their country;

"And further, it declares its conviction that the principles embodied in the Charter should be incorporated in the agreements on which any international and supra-national organisation shall be based in the post-war era."

A covering note was to be sent to the Sankey Committee and to Mr. H. G. Wells saying that, in principle, the Conference accepted the Declaration, and explaining a number of points in it which the Conference considered might be modified. Mr. Wells welcomed the support being given to the Declaration.

A Conference on "Forced Labour" was held on October 6th at Livingstone House, Westminster, S.W.1. Representatives of the Church Missionary Society, the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, the Friends Slavery Committee, the Peace Pledge Union, the Fabian Colonial Bureau, all made valuable points in the discussion. Speakers were Mrs. McGregor Ross and Mr. Creech Jones, M.P., and Dr. Harold Moody presided.

The following resolution was adopted:—

"This Conference, called by the Women's International League, deplores H.M. Government's utilisation of the loophole in the Forced Labour Convention whereby its provisions could be disregarded on the claim of war necessity.



"In particular, the Conference has been perturbed by the abandonment by H.M. Government of this country's vote on Forced Labour for private enterprises.

"The Conference would point to the fact that the Africans have no voice in the political and industrial enactments in their country. It fears that the economic, social and political consequences of the withdrawal of men from the Reserves may be serious, that native agriculture will suffer and native life be dislocated.

"In general, the Conference believes that policy is being dictated by expediency, sometimes running counter to principle, and that long-term hopes of development are being unjustifiably sacrificed to the call of immediate and short-viewed interests."

#### NEWS SHEET AND LITERATURE.

Mrs. Innes has continued as Editor of the News Sheet, which appears as punctually as printing difficulties will allow. It has appeared monthly, except that there was one issue only for August and September. Canada has asked for more News Sheets and a number of W.I.L. members in the U.S.A. subscribe to it.

A reprint in leaflet form was taken from an article by the International President, Miss Emily Balch, in the August-September News Sheet on "Towards a Planetary Civilisation."

In December a "Message to Women," sent out by the Executive on the initiative of one of our younger members, was printed in the News Sheet and reprinted as a leaflet, which was widely distributed, and met with an encouraging response from many Societies and national groups. The Message is as follows:—

#### "A Message to Women."

"To the Women of the World from the Women's International League in Great Britain:—

"Women and mothers all over the world are suffering as never before. Bereaved and sorrowing, they share in spirit not only the agonies of their loved ones on the battlefields, but the sufferings of the countless victims of violence and hatred, of those millions who have lost freedom or are dying in defence of all their ideals.

"Misery and starvation are everywhere, yet women still show dauntless courage and faith in their efforts to preserve life, to alleviate suffering and to keep alive the spirit of freedom and a belief in the future.

"We, who are living in a country still free, send our sympathy, gratitude and love to all those whose sufferings are greater than ours, who have lost liberty, loved ones and all security of life. We feel with you in your pain and sorrow, whatever nation or race you may belong to, and we look forward to, and mean to work for, a world in which the well-being of each individual shall be the supreme and dominant motive for all the actions of States.

"United by our common sorrows, we can take courage and inspiration from the bravery and devotion of other women. Yet we must not forget that humanity is going through this present agony partly because so many of us, though believing in ideals of peace, did not do enough to make them realities. In this dark hour we must show our strength, courage and reconstructive ability in every sphere of life, and hold to our conviction that the peoples of the world can live together in free co-operation, renouncing dominance and exploitation.

"We, in the Women's International League, desire no advantage which is gained at the cost of the suffering and degradation of millions of innocent people, who could not choose their nation, or race, and we pledge ourselves to work as never before to ensure that humanity will never again have to suffer what millions are suffering now. We pledge ourselves to use our freedom to work for freedom for all, to liberate the world from the evils of war, exploitation and oppression, and to work for a new life for mankind.

"Across land and sea, we send our greetings with this message to **the women of all countries.**"

A new four-page leaflet dealing historically with W.I.L. work, and with a Membership Form attached, was printed in January, the shorter one, printed last year, being kept in print also. The latter has proved most useful and brought us many new members.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Our first word must be one of good cheer because we closed the year with a balance, a tiny one it is true—£19 to be exact—but for a society with our aims, in the circumstances of war, and of a war that means the moving of members here, there and everywhere, I consider that this is without doubt a gratifying state of affairs. Activities in Branches (now greatly helped by Mrs. Lord's work for increasing mutual aid and interest) and meetings in London, for which Miss Agatha Harrison and Mrs. Duncan Harris have been

largely responsible, have strangely but evidently multiplied, and to judge by letters, our stalwart Headquarters members, by whom financially we are largely kept going, have lost no interest in, or admiration for, the League. They mostly have no W.I.L. meetings to attend and it is to the News Sheet, so ably edited by Mrs. Innes, that they look for information and encouragement; and, I must add, to Miss Horscroft's letters. Perhaps you are not acquainted with these, but I see a lot of them in the good cause of saving stamps.

You will see from the balance sheet that meetings have almost paid for themselves. This is good because "meetings" include Conferences, with no bait of food except the unrationed mental and spiritual varieties. The News Sheet, too, is almost self-supporting. As the Executive approved, small sums have been taken from our nest-egg for pieces of special work.

On the other hand we have not failed to save our £1 per month for the first International Congress after the war, and this little fund has now reached £63. This was about the first thing I ventured as Treasurer to suggest, and the £63 tells me and you that that was more than five years ago. Moreover, living in Cambridge does not make things easier, and I want you to feel no awkwardness in considering whether a woman residing nearer London might not be able to serve you better.

The Penny-a-Week Fund, for the idea of which we thank Miss Dickinson, reached by the end of the year over £105, so she has the satisfaction (and we share it) of being on the way to her second hundred.

Most of the Branches have had special money-raising efforts for Headquarters, and these we are very grateful for. If I may say a word about Branch Secretaries—here becoming Jekyll or Hyde, according to where you are looking from—you know, or feel you know, the League from A to Z; will you try to imagine how lost new members feel? Try to nurse them a little at first. One Branch has had a new members' tea-party, inviting the members who had introduced the new ones too; the President and Secretary—no star speakers, you observe—just told them what they felt the W.I.L. stood for and the exciting story of its beginning. The "Calling All Women" leaflet will be of help in this work of informing and interesting recruits.

This is a report of the year that is past from a financial-cum-work point of view. The future plans we shall adopt will spring partly from facts in it that need not be unduly stressed. Our receipts are going down; special appeals only just save the situation,

and our big subscribers cannot continue to support us as substantially as they did. Each year, alas! some pass away. But all this is to be discussed at the Council meetings seriously and with no sense of hurry.

To conclude with a little incident from the "Life of J. M. Barrie" by Denis Mackail. There was a tea-party at Glamis, and Barrie was there sitting next to Princess Margaret Rose, who was three that day. Some of her presents were on the table, and in Barrie's own words, "they seemed to me as simple things that might have come from sixpenny shops, but she was in a frenzy of glee about them, especially about one to which she had given the place of honour by her plate. I said to her: "Is that your very own?" She immediately placed it between us, with the words: 'It is yours and mine.' Afterwards she was heard to say, 'I know that man. He is my greatest friend and I am his greatest friend.'"

So we shall solve our difficulties because they *are yours* and mine and because working in the Women's International League is working in an atmosphere of Freedom (to go along new ways) and of Peace (because we are friends).

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#### IN MEMORIAM.

We regret the loss of the following Headquarters members by death during the year:—

Miss M. M. Billinger.	Miss MacQuellan.
Miss Violet Causton.	Mrs. Roger Parker.
Miss Harlock.	Mrs. Alfred Salter.
Mrs. Harrod.	Mrs. Hugh Thompson.
Mrs. Hawkin.	Mrs. Westoby.

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## RESOLUTIONS

Passed at the Annual Council Meetings of the Women's International League, held at Westhill, Selly Oak, Birmingham, April 14th to 16th, 1943.

## 1. THE PUBLICATION OF PEACE TERMS.

"Believing that the violence of war can never create the factors of a stable and peaceful order, this Annual Council of the Women's International League declares itself in favour of an immediate effort being made by the British Government to secure the publication by the United Nations of such Peace Terms as will be a preliminary step towards the cessation of hostilities."

## 2. AVIATION.

"This Council of the Women's International League believes that, in the interests of future peace, the former unrestricted rivalry in the air, supported, as it was, by unlimited sovereign rights, must be replaced by world air services organised through international co-operation.

"It therefore urges the Government, in preparation for international action at the end of the war, to initiate at once the investigations necessary for the formulation of proposals designed to achieve:—

- (1) The setting up of an international body for the development of air transport in such a way that it shall give an expanding service unhampered by political considerations;
- (2) The abolition of national air forces by international agreement;
- (3) Adequate international control of all aviation to prevent either its misuse for military purposes or its diversion to serve private or sectional interests."

## 3. JEWISH PERSECUTION.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League urges H.M. Government to relax the immigration regulations in Britain and in all Territories under British Administration on behalf of Jewish victims of persecution in Occupied Europe, and also to facilitate and expedite their transport to Palestine and elsewhere.

"This gathering is of opinion that those who desire it and have shared with us the work and experiences of war should be granted citizenship.

"It deplures demonstrations of anti-Semitism in this country, and asks H.M. Government to deal with such speedily, in the interests of humanity and democracy."

## 4. POST-WAR PLANNING (1).

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League believes that, in any post-war planning, the political grouping of countries either as Federations or Leagues will not maintain peace unless preceded by:—

- (1) A changed economic system whereby co-operation takes the place of competition in international trade;
- (2) The education of all peoples in world citizenship;
- (3) The establishment of various semi-official International Organisations to consider standards and principles in many aspects of life, and to work towards international co-operation and understanding.

"As temporary measures until world organisation is possible, it advocates the immediate establishment by the Allied Nations of:—

- (1) An International Reconstruction Commission to deal with relief and all economic matters arising in the transition from war to peace; and
- (2) An International Education Commission to correlate schemes for the re-organisation of child and adult education in the various countries."

## 5. POST-WAR PLANNING (2).

"This Annual Council urges that the Women's International League should pay especial attention during the next year to educating the average citizen to realise his individual responsibility in world affairs, stressing particularly the fact that the rebuilding of Europe and the planning of a new international order will demand the same willingness to sacrifice as is so readily shown in war time."

## 6. FAMINE RELIEF.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League, although fully aware of the difficulties of attempting to combat the famine diseases arising in Occupied Europe, particularly among the child population, nevertheless prays H.M. Government to admit—at least into Greece, Belgium and France—dried milk and vitamin concentrates to provide children under sixteen, and expectant and nursing mothers, with a daily ration sufficient to enable them to ward off the worst deficiency diseases. This Council understands that the money, supplies and shipping have already been guaranteed and that the only thing lacking is permission from the British and American Governments; it therefore urges H.M. Government to provide the necessary permission without delay."

## 7. INDIA.

" This Annual Council of the Women's International League places on record its belief that the recent publication of the White Paper violates the traditional sense of British Justice, unless the Congress Leaders are given the opportunity of replying to the grave charges made.

" The presentation of this document, the recent debates in both Houses of Parliament, the abandonment of talks between the Viceroy and Moderate Leaders and the refusal of permission to allow them to talk with Mr. Gandhi, create a situation that calls for immediate attention.

" We are aware of a growing anxiety throughout the country for a more constructive policy to be initiated, for consultation and negotiation to take the place of deadlock.

" This Annual Council urges H.M. Government, on whom the responsibility ultimately rests, not to allow the matter to remain in the present position and that, as a first step towards ending the impasse, facilities be granted to Indian Leaders for consultation with Mr. Gandhi."

## 8. CURRENCY.

" This Annual Council of the Women's International League believes that :—

- (1) The State should create its currency and its credit, and that there should be a national ownership and control of the Banks;
- (2) The Gold Standard System, as it has existed, has proved to be a barrier to healthy international trade and should never again be restored in that form;
- (3) Adequate control of foreign exchanges should be exercised by the Government."

## 9. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S FOUR FREEDOMS.

" This Annual Council of the Women's International League recommends to H.M. Government consideration of President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, with special reference to the Freedom from Want and from Fear, and begs for their translation into active practice as quickly as possible, appreciating that universal disarmament and social ownership and control of natural resources are the issues that will ultimately be raised.

"As an immediate step towards Freedom from Want, it urges that H.M. Government put into effect the proposals contained in the Beveridge Report."

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

## I. TITLE.

" Women's International League " (British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).

## II. OBJECT.

- (1) To work for that peace between nations, races, and classes which is based on justice and goodwill.
- (2) To work for the acceptance of the belief that war is a crime.
- (3) To substitute Conference and Law for Coercive Force.
- (4) To secure full rights of citizenship to women.
- (5) To co-operate with women in other countries who are working for the same ends.

## III. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) *Members.*—Membership shall be open to all women who are British subjects, who accept the above object, whose purpose it is to work for its accomplishment, and who pay an annual subscription either to a local Branch or direct to the national headquarters.

(b) *National Headquarters Members* shall pay a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. in January each year.

(c) *Associate Members.*—Women resident in Great Britain, other than British subjects, who accept the above object shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Men resident in Great Britain who desire to become associated with the work of the League shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Associate Members shall pay an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. and shall be entitled to all privileges of members except the right of election to Council or Executive Committee and the right to nominate and vote.

## IV. BRANCHES.

(a) *Formation.*—Branches shall be formed in consultation with the Executive Committee. They shall consist of not less than ten

members who support the Object of the League, and shall pay an affiliation fee of 3d. per member annually to Headquarters. Branches may make their own rules and by-laws, subject to the general rules and constitution of the League.

(b) *Affiliation to other Organisations.*—Branches of the League are free to co-operate with other societies in their neighbourhood, but before affiliating to any other organisation, they shall obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee.

(c) *Affiliation of other Organisations.*—Branches of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation any local organisation of women in their district which supports the Object of the League and pays an annual subscription of the same amount as the annual subscription of two individual Branch members. Such an affiliated organisation shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to general meetings of the Branch, such delegates to have the same power as members of the Branch.

## V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

### A.—*Constitution of Executive Committee.*

(a) *Committee.* The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. Officers and twenty-three members, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Each Branch shall be entitled to send one representative to the Executive Committee meetings with power to speak, but not to vote, the Executive not being responsible for such representatives' expenses.

(b) *Officers.*—The Officers shall be a President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries. The President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries shall be elected by the Council at its Annual Meeting. The Chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its members. An Assistant Treasurer shall be appointed when necessary by the Executive Committee.

(c) *Co-option to fill Vacancies.*—The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to fill vacancies that occur during the year.

(d) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for one year, and at the end of that term shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.

Members of the Executive who have not attended 50 per cent. of the meetings during the year shall not be eligible for re-election unless some specific reason for absence can be offered, such as illness or absence from the country, and there is good reason to suppose that they will be able to attend in the future.

### B.—*Powers and Duties of Executive Committee.*

(a) The Executive Committee shall meet, if possible, once a month.

(b) The railway fares of country members shall be paid so long as funds are available for this purpose.

(c) The Executive Committee shall carry on the business of the League between the meetings of the Council in accordance with the policy agreed to thereat.

(d) It shall administer the funds of the League and direct the organising work.

(e) It shall have power to appoint special Committees for carrying out of the work of the League.

(f) It shall have power to appoint and dismiss all paid officials.

(g) In all things on which the rules are silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to decide, subject to appeal to the Council.

## VI. AFFILIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

(a) *Central Executives.*—The Executive of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation the Central Executive of any national women's organisation which supports the Object of the League and pays an affiliation fee of 5s. a year. Affiliated Central Executives shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to the Council Meetings of the League, such delegates to have the same powers as Branch delegates.

(b) *Branches.*—Headquarters shall have power to accept for affiliation any branch of women's organisations or women's groups within mixed organisations in districts where no Branch of the Women's International League exists. Such Branches shall pay an affiliation fee of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to Council Meetings. Such delegates shall have the right to vote on all resolutions other than those dealing with the Constitution, with the election of the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee.

## VII. GENERAL COUNCIL.

(a) The Council of the League shall consist of the Executive Committee, Delegates from Branches and Affiliated Bodies, and the Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by Branches or by the Executive Committee members, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(b) Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate and one card vote for every twenty-five or part of twenty-five members for whom the affiliation fee for the previous year has been paid. This must be paid not less than a month before the date of the Council in the case of new Branches or increased membership. If the appointed delegate be unable to attend all sessions of the Council she may transfer her card to a proxy delegate duly accredited by the Branch or Affiliated Society.

(c) The Council shall meet at least once a year to transact the usual business of an Annual Meeting. The travelling expenses of one delegate from each Branch to the Annual Council Meeting shall be pooled, but no Branch shall be obliged to contribute to the expenses or benefit by the pool for the first Council Meeting after its foundation.

(d) A meeting of the Council can be called at any time by the Executive Committee or on demand of one-tenth of the total number of Branches.

### VIII. RULES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.

#### A.—*Ordinary Council Meetings.*

(a) Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

(b) The General Secretary shall notify the Executive, Vice-Presidents, Branches, Headquarters members, and Affiliated Bodies two months before the Council Meeting, and all resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Meeting.

(c) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches four weeks before the Meeting.

(d) All amendments to Resolutions must reach the office not later than twenty-one days before the Meeting.

(e) The Final Agenda will be issued to Branches one week before the Meeting.

(f) Resolutions shall be placed upon the Agenda in the name of a Branch or affiliated organisation, or of the Executive Committee, or of any member of the Executive Committee, or of any of the Vice-Presidents.

(g) No business which is not on the Agenda may be taken at a Council Meeting, unless urgency is voted on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee.

(h) Delegates shall be admitted to Council Meetings on presentation of the official delegate's ticket signed by the Secretary of the Branch which she represents, or by the General Secretary.

#### B.—*Annual Council Meetings.*

(a) At the Annual Meeting of the Council, which shall be held in February or March, in addition to the ordinary business the Council shall:—

(1) Receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Balance Sheet for the year;

(2) Elect by ballot the President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and twenty-three members of the Executive Committee;

(3) Elect Vice-Presidents;

(4) Consider any alterations of the rules that may be proposed.

(b) Nominations for the offices of President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and for the Executive Committee Members may be sent in by Branches, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the Executive Committee, and must reach the Secretary two weeks before the Council Meeting. The consent of the nominees must be obtained in writing before nominations are sent in.

(c) Resolutions to be placed on the Agenda and proposed alterations of the Rules must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Council Meeting.

(d) The financial year shall end on 31st of December, and all affiliation fees must be paid before that date. Members' subscriptions shall be due in January each year.

(e) Branches which have not paid their affiliation fees before the end of the financial year will not be entitled to send delegates to Council Meetings.

(f) The Final Agenda and draft Annual Report shall be issued to the Branches one week before the Annual Meeting.

#### C.—*Special Council Meetings.*

(a) The Secretary shall give the Branches at least three weeks' notice of a Special Council Meeting, except in case of national emergency. Resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Council Meeting.

(b) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches at least one week before the Meeting, and a Final Agenda, including amendments, shall be issued before the Meeting if time allows.

(c) At Special Meetings of the Council no other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice calling the Meeting.

(d) Rules may be altered at Special Council Meetings, provided that notice of such alterations be given in the summons to the Council.

*D.—Agenda at Council Meetings.*

(a) The first business to be taken at a Council Meeting shall be:—

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| (1) Appointment of Tellers for the votes in Council;   | } At<br>Annual<br>Meeting<br>only. |
| (2) Appointment of Standing Orders Committee;  |                                    |
| (3) Appointment of Members of the Council<br>as Returning Officers and Tellers for the ballot<br>voting; |                                    |
| (4) Appointment of Auditor;  |                                    |
| (5) Adoption of Annual Report and audited<br>Statement of Accounts.                                      |                                    |

(b) Otherwise the order of business shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee, and shall include the following:—

- (1) Report of the Executive Committee;
- (2) Election of President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, Executive Committee, and Vice-Presidents (at Annual Meeting only);
- (3) Correspondence;
- (4) Amendment to Rules and Standing Orders (if any);
- (5) Resolutions, of which due notice has been given to the Secretary and by her to each Branch, and Amendments relevant to the motions before the Meeting;
- (6) Other business.

# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
TO BALANCES ON JANUARY 1st, 1942 ...				By Salaries ... ..	234	0	0	
„ Subscriptions ... ..	258	0	1½	„ Meetings ... ..	79	9	0½	
„ Donations ... ..	164	3	7	„ News Sheets ... ..	51	4	5	
„ "Bring and Buy" Sale ... ..	15	0	0	„ Postage ... ..	53	1	10	
„ News Sheets ... ..	44	6	4	„ Literature ... ..	27	9	2	
„ Literature ... ..	20	9	9	„ Travelling Expenses ... ..	39	9	3	
„ War Damage Rebate ... ..	8	12	8	„ Rent ... ..	46	12	6	
„ Affiliation Fees ... ..	20	3	8	„ Stationery ... ..	19	11	7½	
„ Geneva Subscriptions ... ..	5	3	6	„ Office Expenses ... ..	17	18	3½	
„ Meetings ... ..	74	17	6	„ Lighting and Heating ... ..	8	9	6½	
„ "Penny a Week" Fund ... ..	57	17	6	„ Insurances:				
„ Interest on Deposit at Co-operative Permanent Building Society, Ltd. ...	11	8	4	Workmen's Compensation ... ..	2	18	9	
				Less rebate ... ..	2	0	9	
			680					
					18	0		
				State Insurances... ..	3	16	8	
				„ War Damage (Board of Trade) ... ..	2	5	0	
				„ Affiliation Fees ... ..	2	7	0	
				„ Telephone ... ..	15	5		
				„ Audit Fee ... ..	2	12	6	
					590	0	3	
				„ BALANCES, DECEMBER 31st, 1942:				
				At MIDLAND BANK LTD.	£	s.	d.	
				"Penny a Week" Fund ... ..	18	5	4	
				Geneva Subscriptions ... ..	5	3	6	
				London Group ... ..	1	15	10	
				General Funds ... ..	19	2	1	
				PETTY CASH IN HAND ... ..	44	6	9	
				At CO-OPERATIVE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY LTD.	9	4	8½	
				"Penny a Week" Fund ... ..	87	1	4	
				Reserve Fund ... ..	379	18	3	
				Congress Fund ... ..	63	0	0	
					529	19	7	
						583	11	0½
			<u>£1,173</u>				<u>11</u>	<u>3½</u>

I have examined the above Statement with the Books and Papers relating thereto and certify same to be in accordance therewith.

W. A. SELBY,

8th March, 1943.





