

Reflection on the National Section

It was quite a frustrating experience, because everybody seemed very set in their ways. Although I tried to push for innovation, it was very, very slow to happen and maybe it hasn't even happened. I did run several workshops about a future for WILPF and what happened was that everyone agreed and then reverted to what they had previously been doing.

Over the years, I can see that the problems have been a lack of focus, a lack of big picture vision, and a failure to see how we properly link with international, although that has become easier with the internet over the last few years. People don't seem to understand about planning. So basically, we can only seem to plan from one AGM to the other, with a few stalls or events in-between.

I think it's important we put WILPF on the map out there in terms of an organisation in the 21st century, alongside all the others, but I think some other people on the Executive fail to see this.

One more thing I wanted to say was that I also feel that over the years I've been in WILPF UK, the Section has missed out on quite a number of opportunities. For example, around Greenham and this reticence to get involved, we missed that wave of women.

Of course more recently, there has been quite a resurgence in feminism amongst younger women, and we could be making more opportunity of that. Over the last decade, Britain has instigated a number of wars. Although we've often got involved on the tail end of somebody else's campaign, we've never been WILPF about it. So I think that hasn't helped any potential growth at all.