Fresno WILPF

Womxn's International League for Peace & Freedom

The People's Tribunal: What is International Law? How does it apply in Gaza?

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US, with the American Friends Service Committee and Veterans For Peace, held an October 10 event online and in Seattle, with a People's Tribunal holding the US government accountable for its complicity in the genocide in Gaza. Modeled after a grand jury hearing, the tribunal asked a jury of community members to determine whether there is sufficient evidence of complicity to warrant the indictment of government officials and state actors. The event aimed to deepen public understanding through facts, testimony, and dialogue; to hold elected officials accountable for complicity in the genocide; and to mobilize people across the US to use their voices, consumer choices, and civic participation to advance accountability and human rights.

For me, one of the most telling moments was the testimony of Jonathon Kuttab, an international human rights lawyer, who explained some of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the UN in 1948, the same year in which the Nakba, or forcible displacement of over half the Palestinian population, occurred. The United States signed this in 1948 and (finally) ratified it on November 25 1988. Israel is a signatory also. UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Article I: The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.

The Tribunal and the facts of the matter left no doubt of the complicity and guilt of US officials under this Convention. In Fresno, there were two watch events where we shared the information with each other and the community. WILPF members met at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and at the home of one of our members. The event at the FCNV had two screens, one inside and one outside with displays that extended to the sidewalk attracting community interest and participation. This included food and crafts as well as displays of solidarity with the people of Gaza made personal by recent Fresno WILPF chair Cam Fanning's Gaza stay with International Solidarity Movement. ISM is a Palestinian-led movement committed to resisting the long- entrenched and systematic oppression and dispossession of the Palestinian population, using non-violent, direct-action methods and principles. ISM supports the Palestinian popular resistance by being present immediately alongside Palestinians wherever Palestinians are subject to consistent harassment or attacks from soldiers and "settlers."

-----Leni Villagomez Reeves



Watch event in Clovis. Photo credit: Sandra Iyall



Watch event at the FCNV. Photo credit: Cam Fanning

Planning for Human Rights Day 2026

Members of our Fresno Branch are encouraged to join the efforts of the Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley as they host the annual commemoration of Human Rights Day on December 10, 2026 at Fresno State's Satellite Student Union. The program will highlight current policies and practices which violate human rights, such as our current wars, ICE raids and detention centers and voting rights. The planning meetings are held monthly at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Sandra Iyall or Bernadette D. Vazquez, Co-Chair of HRCCV 559-270-7041.

Join us st our next WILPF meeting! 2nd Thursday of the month (Nov. 12th) at 6:30 at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N Van Ness Ave and on Zoom. This meeting is open to all. Watch your email for announcements. To be added to the listserv, email kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW:
Send dues to WILPF Fresno P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755
***WILPF-US membership is $40/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of $20. ***
For membership questions, email nhatcher46@gmail.com

Stir It Up on KFCF: Wed. Nov. 25 at 3 PM
(4th Wednesday of each month) We miss Jean Hays! Dr Jean Kennedy and Janet Slagter highlight people and events important to our WILPF community.

WOMEN IN BLACK
For Justice. Against War.

Women in Black is a worldwide network of women committed to peace, justice, and active opposition to war, militarism, and violence. Wearing black in some cultures signifies mourning, and feminist actions dressed in black convert women's traditional passive mourning for the dead in war into a powerful refusal of the logic of war.
Join us on Nov. 4th from 11:30am-1pm at the Federal Courthouse at 2500 Tulare St.

A Peace Pole is Unveiled

On September 21, 2026, the International Day of Peace, our Fresno Branch co-sponsored, along with Back from the Brink, Brady Greater Fresno, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Peace Fresno, the Unitarian Universalist Church and Veterans for Peace, the installation of a Peace Pole at the Big Red Church. Peace Poles are an international project to display the message, "May Peace Prevail On Earth." The Fresno Pole included eight different languages: English, ASL, Arabic, Armenian, Hmong, Punjabi, Spanish, and Hebrew. We share the goal of reminding all to "cultivate peace in thought, word and action. . ."



Fresno Branch members Gerry Bill, Dr. Su Kapoor, Joan Poss, Carol Goiburn, Silvia Ybarra, Sandra Iyall and Dr. Jean Kennedy were present for the unveiling

Retreat News!

WILPF Fresno held a Retreat, meeting, and election all in one on October 3. After a performance by the Raging Grannies who are still going strong despite the loss of keyboard player Jean Hays - we all miss her so much - each committee gave or sent a report, we elected new officers, discussed fundraising, created an advisory Budget Committee, and worked on a calendar of events. Sounds like a lot for one day? We even had time to eat, do a raffle and "little-known facts about people you know" competition, and hear about the difficult situation in Cuba for mothers and babies under the tightened US blockade, and how we can help. (Check the Global Health Partners Global Health Partners Neonatal-MaternalHealth Campaign (https://ghpartners.org) We ended up with our sources of optimism.

New officers are Sandra Iyall, Chair; Kyla Mitchell, Co-chair; Rich Rollin & Jan Slagter, Treasurers; Carol Goiburn, Recording Secretary; Nancy Hatcher, Corresponding Secretary. Membership chairs elected were Dr Jean Kennedy for outreach; Nancy Hatcher for events; and Sandra Iyall for directory. The volunteers for Budget Committee were Silvia Ybarra, Jan Slagter, & Rich Rollin. Also volunteering were Kyla Mitchell, Aline Reed and Leni Villagomez Reeves for the WILPF Page in the Community Alliance newspaper, and Patty Bennett and Dr Jean Kennedy for Stir It Up WILPF on KFCF 88.1 at 3 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Tune In!



WILPF members at the retreat. Photo by Rosemarie Guglielmino

New Member Impressions: Retreat

I am a new WILPF member. A dear sister friend of mine was nice enough to pay my dues. I appreciate her so much. Now, the retreat was an experience. I saw quite a few women, powerful, interesting women and one remarkable man. There were two young women there. Good, I thought. Then, I learned the average age of a WILPF member is sixty-one. 61!? Wowser!

I watched the Raging Grannies perform and that was cool. My kind of crowd. Then, I listened to report after report after report. Especially, sobering was that the local chapter's funding is freestanding from the National and International chapters AND that those chapters are in trouble financially. Whoa. The most worrying thing for me was the absence of CF. After spending several weeks on the ground in Gaza, she returned with a fire about Palestine. The old guarding Fresno WILPF shut her down and shut her out. She left the chapter. I am confused. Again, as a new member, I hope things stabilize and that younger women who hate war and desire peace will sign on to Fresno WILPF. I also hope those Legacy WILPF members will step aside and let the young lead. How else will they learn!?

Respectfully Submitted, Aline Reed

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