



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
 WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WHY WON'T JIM COSTA MEET WITH CONSTITUENTS?

When Rep. Jim Costa spoke on Aug. 6 at the Hiroshima remembrance program at Fresno State's Peace Garden, several of us turned our backs to him, holding a sign stating "From Hiroshima to Palestine Stop the Bombs." Lori Garcia made a sign based on signs in Japan marking 79 years since the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Costa made remarks about remembering the atrocities we caused in Hiroshima and spoke of coming together, but he has not shown that sentiment with regard to the Palestinians suffering 10 months of bombardment by Israel using mostly U.S. bombs. He has refused to personally speak to any Palestinians or the Fresno peace groups regarding a ceasefire, an end to military aid to Israel and a weapons embargo on Israel. Costa sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He ignores his constituents, so we showed him our disdain.

—Peace ~ Teresa Castillo



Gloria Hernandez, Lori Garcia, Gerry Bill, Nancy Waidtlow and Ken Hudson protest Rep. Jim Costa's refusal to meet with constituents to discuss Israel's war on Palestine. Photos by Teresa Castillo



Jean Hays from WILPF and Ken Hudson from Peace Fresno met with Senator Laphonza Butler's field representative and intern to discuss the abolition of nuclear weapons and disappointment over the approval of NDAA 2024. Photo by Carol Goiburn, who was also present at the meeting

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE IN ACTION

In the August 2024 WILPF page, a question was brought up in the article entitled "We need to talk about nuclear war—and this time it's worse" about what prompted both California senators to approve the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 while the majority of U.S. representatives voted no. As a result, the Legislative Committee of WILPF, along with VFP180, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and Peace Fresno, composed a letter expressing our disapproval of that "Yes" vote as well as urging both senators to consider the ramifications of their actions. Pictured are activists meeting with field representatives of both senators on July 17.

Jean Hays from WILPF and Ken Hudson from Peace Fresno, with Margaret Arechiga, Senator Alex Padilla's field representative. Photo by Carol Goiburn, who was also present at the meeting



STATEMENT SUPPORTING NUCLEAR ABOLITION

We teeter on a precipice no human has ever experienced before. It is a precipice of great evil. We say evil because with one detonation of one thermonuclear warhead, millions of lives will be gone. We say evil because with one warhead will come more warheads and billions of lives will be gone. We say evil because a general exchange of nuclear weapons would end most life on Earth.

We align ourselves with the thinking of those who are concerned that the world is on a downward spiral toward climate catastrophe and our nation increasingly wastes its scarce resources on weapons that are ultimately useless except to line the pockets of the Military-Industrial-Congressional-Intelligence-Media-Academic-Think-Tank (MICIMATT) complex. International security would best be served by committing a world war level of effort to address the climate crisis rather than preparing for every conceivable military threat.

With an accelerated global reduction and rapid elimination of nuclear weapons, the risk of nuclear confrontation will be greatly reduced, will bring us back from the precipice and will ensure future generations will be born. Currently, 14,000 nuclear bombs exist; 13,000 of them are controlled by the United States and Russia. With a U.S. proposed budget of nearly \$2 trillion in the next 30 years for two new bomb factories, new missiles, planes, submarines and redesigned warheads, it is clear that the United States is not acting in "good faith" for a "cessation of the arms race at an early date" as required by the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to which it is a signatory.

The "Veterans for Peace Nuclear Posture Review" contains various proposals to bring the United States back to a place of acting in good faith and they include the following:

- ✓ The United States immediately cease its "modernization" program and redirect funds to implement non-carbon, non-nuclear energy systems, reduce the impact of climate change and provide for societal needs;
- ✓ The United States immediately separate all the warheads from their delivery systems and make the world safer from unintended nuclear catastrophe;
- ✓ U.S. nuclear weapons be removed from other countries;
- ✓ Re-implement the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and eliminate all missile "defense" systems;
- ✓ Ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty;
- ✓ Re-implement the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty; and
- ✓ Negotiate with Russia to reduce our nuclear arsenals to 1,000 nuclear weapons each and call all the other parties to the table to negotiate for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons.

Many more proposals exist that the United States could implement, but that would require the will to do so. The world is a much more dangerous place with nuclear weapons, particularly given the current confrontations among nuclear-armed nations.

Activist efforts to restrain U.S. militarism and intervention around the globe, to cut the military budget and to encourage mutual respect and diplomacy among nations must therefore go hand-in-hand with efforts to reduce and eliminate all nuclear weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which went into effect on January 22, 2021, is a historic and extremely important event. It expresses the clear desire of the peoples of the world to be free from nuclear weapons and the threat of a nuclear war that could end human civilization.

We thank Veterans for Peace for their work on the "Nuclear Posture Review," from which many ideas expressed here were taken. Together, we can step away from the precipice threatening our very existence. Together, we can ignite that which is needed now more than ever and that is a notable and profound transformation in the way the United States thinks about its posture toward the rest of the world. We say, "let's give peace a chance." We say, "abolish nuclear weapons."

—Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
 —Veterans for Peace—Chapter 180
 —Fresno Center for Nonviolence

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW:

Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20.

For questions or information updates, e-mail Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF MEETING

Sept. 12 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., on Zoom and usually also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. This meeting is open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an announcement. For info

on the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

Sept. 25 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

UNPACKING RACISM

With Dr. Jean Kennedy. Moving toward community event participation. To join, RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

On heat hiatus.