



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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:
 MARCH 8**

International Women's Day is a radical holiday, with its roots in socialist and communist movements. In the United States, the first Women's Day was organized by the Socialist Party in 1909.

In 1910, German women's rights activist and Marxist Clara Zetkin proposed an annual Women's Day at the International Socialist Women's Conference.

In March 1911, more than a million women demonstrated and marched in several countries in Europe, demanding voting rights and protesting discrimination.

The UN declared March 8 International Women's Day in 1970.

In 1994, Rep. Maxine Waters (and 79 co-sponsors) introduced a bill to recognize International Women's Day. This bill was deliberately bottled up in committee to avoid a vote, therefore it's not an official holiday in the United States.

**WORLD WATER
 DAY—ACTION ON
 MARCH 22; FILM
 ON MARCH 17**

Each year, WILPF Fresno's Earth Democracy issues group works with Dr. Mary Husain, who heads Fresno State's CineCulture, to choose a film about water in honor of World Water Day, March 22. This year's water film will be shown on March 17 and promises to be informative and entertaining. Visit either Fresno State CineCulture's website or WILPF Fresno's Facebook page for more details about which film will be shown.

Another activity for March 22, World Water Day, will be a silent river walk along the San Joaquin River. Other environmental organizations will be involved, including the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. The walk is open to the public. Visit WILPF Fresno's Facebook page for more details or contact the Earth Democracy co-chair, Kyla Mitchell, at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

Our Earth Democracy group will visit several classrooms on or close to World Water Day to do various student water activities and increase awareness of the importance of water in our lives.

According to the United Nations, this year's theme for World Water Day will be Accelerating Change. The UN states that all of us can make a difference by changing the way we use, consume and manage water in our lives. Our commitments will be added to the Water Action Agenda, to be launched at the UN 2023 Water Conference—the first event of its kind in nearly 50 years!

—Jean Hays



**WILPF US SAYS PASS THE GEORGE
 FLOYD JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT**

WILPF US joins the National Call for Action to reintroduce the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021. As WILPF members, take the time to let your voice be heard. Call President Biden and your Congressional Representative to express your support of legislative or executive action to combat police misconduct.

In the wake of Tyre Nichols's death at the hands of abusive police in Memphis, the time to act is now. We cannot let abusive, deadly police practices continue in cities across the nation. National action is needed now. No more deaths at the hands of abusive law enforcement officers nationwide.

All people in America should be able to trust the police to be fair and just, not fear for their lives whenever their paths cross! The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, HR 1280, passed in the House, but Republican opposition stopped it in the Senate a year ago.

Join the Black Congressional Caucus, lawmakers and other activists in their demand that HR 1280 be reintroduced and passed. Demand an end to police impunity and to racist, abusive police actions.

Call President Biden at 202-456-1111, the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and your Representative directly.

—Teresa Castillo

**"LET MY PEOPLE
 GO": SENATOR
 WARNOCK ON
 ENDING MASS
 INCARCERATION**

In January 2023, I had the pleasure of attending the second national "Let My People Go" Ending Mass Incarceration Conference in Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

This conference was a multifaith initiative to End Mass Incarceration. According to the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist and U.S. Senator for Georgia, this is to be a "national movement committed to harnessing the moral and people power of our faith communities to eliminate the pipeline of men and women to prison."

The Senator reminded us that dismantling the systemic injustice of mass incarceration has long been his prophetic passion. So the launching of this second annual conference to End Mass Incarceration is to remind faith communities of this pressing issue.

Warnock challenged congregational engagement to change the public narrative surrounding the criminal legal system and urged us to support policy changes that keep people out of prison and to find ways to make sure those who have been incarcerated do not return to the prisons.

"The United States of America, the land of the free, is warehousing nearly 25% of the world's prison population and is the incarceration capital of the world. Our jail and prison population has increased 500% in the past 40 years" according to the Senator, even while crime was decreasing in some areas. Warehousing bodies, Black and Brown in particular, is big business in the United States.

Moreover, those who have served their time and paid their debt are part of a "caste system" that routinely imposes voting discrimination, job discrimination and housing discrimination, the very reasons for the Civil Rights movement.

The Senator reminded us that the so-called war on drugs has been a "tragic war on communities of color and the poor. It has been the chief tool of the racial politics of backlash and it is the terrain upon which those of us who believe in Dr. King's vision must fight."

As for me (Dr. Jean), I am making plans to be back next year for the third national "Let My People Go" Ending Mass Incarceration Conference taking place again in Atlanta, and I'm hoping to take another picture with my dear friend and pastor, Sen. Warnock.

—Dr. Jean Kennedy, PsyD.OB/OD

Dr. Kennedy is the Co-Facilitator for the Unpacking Racism and Understanding Our Blind Spots online discussion group, which meets on the last Sunday of each month. E-mail Dr. Kennedy at drjeankennedy@yahoo.com to be included.



Dr. Jean Kennedy and Sen. Raphael Warnock of Georgia at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta for the second national "Let My People Go" Ending Mass Incarceration Conference. Photo by Dr. Jean Kennedy

**IN HONOR AND
 MEMORY OF
 DAVID HARRIS
 AND ELLIE
 BLUESTEIN**

David Harris (1946–2023). The anti-draft and anti-war movement has lost one of its most influential voices with the passing of Fresno High School graduate David Harris. He attained national prominence, yet retained his connection with Fresno WILPF.

In 1972, he contributed a pocket of the pants he wore for 20 months in prison for refusing induction into the draft. That fabric was included with many other anti-Vietnam war activists' contributions in a WILPF Peace Quilt.

In 1980, he was the guest speaker at our commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of WILPF/15 Years of the Fresno Branch, speaking on "Stopping War Then and Now." In 2019, he attended the local event, 50 Years of Resistance, where he and Fresno WILPF branch founder Ellie Bluestein were reunited.

—Sandra Iyall



Ellie Bluestein and David Harris at the 50 Years of Resistance event in Fresno in 2019. Photo by Howard Watkins

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YES! 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 and information updates, e-mail Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF MEETING

March 9, Thursday, 7 p.m., online and in person, at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

March 22, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

UNPACKING RACISM

March 26, Sunday, 6:30 p.m. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

March 1, noon, Courthouse (first Wednesday of each month). Check first with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.