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1 Introduction

Full five years have passed since the WRI network last met for an Assembly, in Cape Town in July 2014. This is a long break (the longest in living memory), during which a lot has changed in the world, not always for the better. The importance of the antimilitarist nonviolent resistance and peacebuilding work WRI has always been engaged in becomes ever clearer at difficult times. On the other hand, this long period was a time of relative stability and slow change in the work (often focusing more on behind-the-scenes support and empowerment than on the more flashy and visible aspects of activism) in which WRI’s office programmes have been engaged. This work is the focus of the report before you.

In this report, you will read about what our three office programmes – Right to Refuse to Kill, Nonviolence, and the new Countering the Militarisation of Youth programme – have been up to, about the meetings and work of WRI’s Council and Executive Committee, and about regional networking initiatives between WRI affiliates, members and active contacts around the world. You will read about our achievements over this time, and about the challenges we face. It will contain few, if any, references to current affairs, but it will reveal the stable ongoing work of an International committed to a long-haul struggle against war and the causes of war, a struggle soon to enter its second century.

The report itself is a collective work. Different sections were written by different authors, with different styles and outlooks, contributors included Christine Schweitzer, Hülya Üçpinar, Jungmin Choi, Sergeiy Sandler (who also edited the full report), Igor Seke, Matt Meyer, and of course, Semih Sapmaz, Andrew Methven and Natalia Garcia Cortés. Each of us has relied on information provided by many other members of the WRI network.

2 A general introduction to WRI structure

War Resisters’ International is a network consisting of affiliate groups (plus some individuals from places where there are no groups or who for some reason have not joined an existing group in their country). There are two categories of affiliates: sections and associate organizations. The sections may be considered full members with all rights and duties and an explicit commitment to pacifism, associates also share WRI’s goals and values, but are linked to WRI in a less firm manner. (For details, please see our Constitution and Rules).

All affiliates meet every four years in what we nowadays call the WRI’s International Assembly. There, all representatives of Sections and Associate Organisations have the right to attend, speak and vote. However, like all WRI bodies, the Assembly makes decisions by consensus and only resorts to a formal vote if the consensus decision-making process fails (which is in practice extremely rare). Individual Members who are not representatives of affiliates may also attend and speak but shall not have a vote. The chief task of the Assembly is to determine the main policy of the International. The Assembly also elects 12 individual Council members (see below; this is, in practice, the only formal vote likely to be held at an Assembly).

Once a year, the WRI affiliates come together in a Council meeting. The Council consists of one representative of each section, 12 individually elected Council members plus the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the other members of the Executive Committee of the International ex officio. One member of each Associate Organisation has the right to attend.
and speak, as a non-voting observer, at Council meetings. The WRI Council also makes its decisions by consensus as a default. The Council elects the Executive Committee. The Executive currently consists of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and not more than four other Council members (i.e., section representatives or individually elected Council members). The Chair is being chosen by consensus before International Assemblies (though there is a motion to abolish this position in the coming Assembly). The Treasurer is appointed by Council. The Executive is responsible for the legal business of the WRI, including the hiring of staff.

3 The Right to Refuse to Kill Programme

WRI’s Right to Refuse to Kill Programme continues to work to support conscientious objectors (COs) and CO movements resisting conscription – especially those facing repression – all over the world.

3.1 Country-specific work

A large part of the RRtK Programme’s work involves cooperation with CO movements in particular countries. For 2014–2019, the main highlights of this work included the following.

3.1.1 Colombia

In the last 5 years, Colombian conscientious objectors have achieved significant improvements in law and practice of conscientious objection. However, there are still ongoing problems and WRI continues to work closely with Colombian conscientious objectors to support them.

In July 2019, WRI is organising its International Assembly and a major conference in Bogotá, Colombia in cooperation with several Colombian CO, peace and human rights organisations and of the Antimilitarist Network in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAMALC). The gathering, including the public conference ‘Antimilitarism in Movement’, will convene conscientious objectors from across Colombia, as well as other countries from
Latin America and rest of the world. It will help Colombian conscientious objectors to strengthen their existing networks, build new links among COs from across Colombia, as well as bringing international solidarity to support them.

Colombia was the focus of WRI actions on International Conscientious Objection Day (15th May) in 2019. We circulated a statement by Colombian conscientious objectors, which informs the international peace movement about the situation of COs in Colombia and urges the Colombian government to ensure the rights of conscientious objectors.

In September 2018, WRI was joined by a new staff person, Natalia Garcia, based in Colombia. Natalia has been working closely with Colombian conscientious objectors, as well as others from across Latin America. We are hopeful that a long-term strengthening of ties with the Colombian CO movement will be one of the results of having one of our programme workers based in the country.

In addition, in 2019, WRI had an intern from Colombia, Martin Rodriguez. As well as his contributions to WRI's World Survey of Conscription and Conscientious Objection, Martin also held a speaking tour in Germany – co-organised by German groups Connection e.V. And DFG-VK – informing German peace activists about the situation of conscientious objectors in Colombia.

3.1.2 Eritrea

Continuing our work with members of the Eritrean diaspora (also shared with the Nonviolence Programme), we worked with a group of organisations across Europe (The Eritrean Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (EMDHR), Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA), Förderverein Pro Asyl e.V., Connection e.V., and the Stop Slavery in Eritrea Campaign) that support Eritreans fleeing indefinite conscription.

On 19–20 October 2017 we co-hosted a gathering in Brussels. This work was a response to growing pressure on Eritrean asylum seekers in the context of the perceived migration “crisis” in Europe.

The event brought together representatives of various European governments, was used to develop recommendations for European and international bodies and gave space to the voices of Eritrean COs.

One of the results of the meeting was the establishment of a new website – eritreahub.org, sharing up-to-date information on the situation in Eritrea. Another result of the event was the publication of the booklet, *Eritrea – A Country Under the Sway of a Dictatorship*, in July 2018 (also see below). The booklet includes presentations from the event and provides a comprehensive overview of the situation in the country and the situation of Eritrean refugees in Europe and elsewhere.

Finally, in June 2017 WRI signed up to a joint call for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation on Eritrea to be extended. This letter was published on the WRI website. Her mandate was extended in June.

3.1.3 South Korea

In 2018, we finally received long-awaited positive news for South Korean COs: the right to
conscientious objection was recognised by the high courts of the country (the Constitutional Court decision in June 2018, and the Supreme Court decision in November 2018). While South Korea had long been the country with the highest number of reported imprisoned COs each year, there are no conscientious objectors reported to be behind bars as of May 2019. This inspiring success story has been due to long-term campaigning of conscientious objectors, peace and human rights groups, including WRI's affiliate World Without War. During these years, WRI has actively supported South Korean conscientious objectors. This included:

- An Amicus Curiae opinion, which WRI has submitted to the Constitutional Court of Korea in September 2014 jointly with Amnesty International, Friends World Committee for Consultation, the International Commission of Jurists and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

- A joint petition in June 2015, co-organised with Amnesty International, Connection e.V. and World Without War, addressing the South Korean Government.

- Arranging meetings between British peace groups and a South Korean conscientious objector visiting London in May 2015.

- In October 2015, WRI has held its council meeting in Seoul, and co-organised a public seminar, Stopping the War Business, with World Without War. As part of our visit, WRI activists organised a solidarity visit to imprisoned conscientious objectors in Seoul.

- Both in 2015 and 2018, CO Day events were organised with a focus on South Korea. In 2015, we were part of an international campaign calling for the South Korean government to release all COs in prison and recognise the right to conscientious objection to military service.

- On International CO Day in 2018, we focused on South Korea and worked in collaboration with World Without War. As a result of our campaign, hundreds of people have completed our CO-Alert directed at the South Korean President, and/or sent a postcard to their local South Korean embassy. Some groups also planned actions outside their local South Korean embassy. On the day, we shared World Without War's powerful statement calling for conscientious objection to be seen as a key ingredient for peace on the Korean peninsula.

- Meanwhile, the Korean edition of WRI's *Conscientious Objection: A Practical Companion for Movements* was published in May 2018.

- The WRI office continues to work together with World Without War to support their ongoing campaign for a civilian and non-punitive alternative service law. In December 2018, the South Korean government proposed a law requiring COs to perform alternative service which is punitive in length and character and is far from meeting international standards. World Without War's current campaign is urging the South Korean government to amend its proposal and pass legislation in accordance with international standards.

### 3.1.4 Thailand

In September 2014, the WRI office was first contacted by Netiwit Chotiphatphaisal, who is, to the best of our knowledge, the first ever person to declare CO on non-religious grounds in Thailand. We have since remained in regular contact with Netiwit and with the budding Thai CO movement.
In November 2017, the WRI Office and World Without War (South Korea) organised a visit to Thailand in support of anti-conscription activists in the country. It was a great opportunity for reciprocal learning. World without War activists were able to share some of their strategies for building resistance in a very uniform, militarised context, and make plans for supporting Thai activists across Asia. Various steps have been taken as a result of these exchanges, including COs in Bangkok making contact with local Jehovah's Witnesses objectors (who have been avoiding conscription for many years). Read a report of the trip at http://www.wri-irg.org/military-and-monarchy.

Following our visit in 2017, we have continued working with a number of activists in Thailand, including CO Apinan Issarakura Na Ayutthaya, and, of course, Netiwit Chotiphaphaisal. Netiwit was charged with sedition for his involvement in organising peaceful protests against the military junta, but the charges against him were dropped.

3.1.5 Rwanda
Working with a Rwandan activist in our network, in 2017 we co-published a report, together with Connection e.V., based on the testimonies of Rwandan ex-combatants in diaspora. It can be found on the WRI website and focuses on barriers to leaving the armed forces.

3.1.6 Greece
WRI has been in close contact with conscientious objectors in Greece for many years. In Greece alternative civilian service is punitive and its application is far from meeting international standards. Our most recent collaboration with Greek COs has been a call issued to the Greek government about a new proposed bill on conscientious objection, which falls short of ensuring the rights of conscientious objectors.

Unfortunately the bill has passed without needed amendments. However, Greek COs continued to pressure the Government to amend the law. In June 2019, we received a positive update: The Greek Government has finally passed a law reducing the length of alternative service significantly. That was a very important positive step, the outcome of years of campaigning by Greek COs and in solidarity with them.

Despite these recent positive developments, the alternative civilian service continues to be longer than the military service and be punitive in terms of its location and conditions. WRI has been in touch with Greek COs to provide further support and solidarity in the coming months and years.

In May 2018, we published a joint statement with the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection in support of Greek conscientious objectors' boycott of the 'Conscience Examination Committee' – the committee which decides applications for conscientious objection.

3.1.7 Cyprus
Starting from January 2019, there was an ongoing legislative process on conscientious objection in the self-declared state of Northern Cyprus.

Conscientious objectors in Northern Cyprus have been campaigning for the recognition of the right for many years. In December 2018 and January 2019, there was an unprecedented mobilisation linked to the imprisonment of the CO Halil Karapasaoglu. In January 2019, the government of Northern Cyprus announced their plans to initiate a law recognising the right to conscientious objection. Following a public consultation process, the bill waited to be voted in parliament for more than 2 months. During this time, in response to the call of the Initiative for Conscientious Objection in Cyprus, WRI joined one of the parliamentary committee meetings to inform the MPs about the international standards on conscientious
In May 2019, following the resignation of the coalition government (which introduced conscientious objection into the parliament agenda), a new coalition government was formed. The new government has unfortunately removed the bill from their agenda. We continue our communication with the Initiative for Conscientious Objection in Cyprus for any further international support in the coming months.

3.1.8 Israel

During the last 5 years, WRI has continued its support for Israeli conscientious objectors. We've published multiple CO-alerts calling for support for imprisoned COs from Israel. We've developed close ties with Mesarvot, a solidarity network of political COs from Israel, as well as continuing our regular communication with our affiliate in Israel, New Profile.

3.2 Challenging Governments

In addition to our work with CO and antimilitarist movements around the world, we also gave support to individual COs. In March 2018, along with the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, WRI submitted a letter to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding the case of Osman Murat Ülke (a historically significant figure in the Turkish CO movement, and a one-time Vice-Chair of WRI), who was summoned to his local police station over two decades since his first imprisonment.

In February 2018, in collaboration with Connection e.V. From Germany, we issued a call for support for Ukrainian CO Ruslan Kotsaba.

More recently we received worrying updates from countries including Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan (where COs were imprisoned and convicted in criminal courts) and Morocco (where conscription was reintroduced in January 2019) and we are seeking to develop connections with conscientious objectors and human rights activists from these countries.

3.3 OHCHR Report

Since 2014, WRI has submitted two reports to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In February 2017, we responded to OHCHR's call for submissions for their Quadrennial Analytic Report on conscientious objection to military service. Our report, covering the situation of conscientious objectors internationally with examples from various countries, was referenced a number of times in OHCHR's report which was published in May 2017.

In December 2018, WRI has submitted another report to the OHCHR, covering information on the application procedures for conscientious objection to military service across different countries. OHCHR published their report – to be submitted to the Human Rights Council – in June 2019. WRI's submission was referenced a number of times in the report. You can find OHCHR's 2019 report here: https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/23.

3.4 European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

WRI has been actively participating in meetings of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO) for many years. In May 2016, WRI hosted an EBCO meeting, linked to the International CO Day events in London. As part of the gathering, we also co-hosted a
public event with members of the British peace movement. In November 2019, we will be hosting another EBCO meeting in London.

3.5 Publications
(See also under Publications and Outreach below)

3.5.1 E-mail-based publications
The CO-Update newsletter (wri-irg.org/en/publications/co-update) is published every three-to-four months. It remains the only wholly international newsletter covering conscientious objection to military service and military recruitment that includes COs acting from religious, political, and other motivations. One of the highlights from 2018 was an article written by Hannah Brock on conscription trends (wri-irg.org/en/story/2018/return-conscription).

The CO-Alert provided updates and calls for action on COs facing imprisonment and other forms of repression. CO alerts over the period covered by this report included a number of Israeli COs who were repeatedly imprisoned, as well as the cases of Netiwit Chotiphatphaisal, Ruslan Kotsaba, and Osman Murat Ülke, mentioned above. See wri-irg.org/en/programmes/co_alerts.

It’s very easy to subscribe to receive these updates and alerts, and it directly helps COs at risk. Please sign up at wri-irg.org/WRI-mailing-lists-and-publications if you can.

3.5.2 Conscientious Objection: A Practical Companion for Movements
In October 2016 we published the book Conscientious Objection: A Practical Companion for Movements. It includes contributions by activists from many different movements and countries across the WRI network. Much of the work on editing and compiling the book was done by Elisa Haf, who was a QPSW peaceworker in the WRI office for a year in 2014–15.

The book is on sale in our webshop and is also available for free online: https://www.wri-irg.org/en/cobook-online.

The book articulates different CO strategies and motivations, with gender and militarism as a main theme. Through a crowdfunding campaign, we were able to send books for free to many COs around the world. We have received very positive feedback from many activist readers, commenting on the breadth and depth of material, the intersectional understanding of the analysis, and the diversity of experiences explored.

A Korean version was published in 2018 (through World Without War). Currently we’re working on the publication of its Spanish version, which we hope will be ready for our conference in Colombia.

3.5.3 Eritrea – A Country Under the Sway of a Dictatorship
As discussed above, in July 2018, we co-published (together with the co-organisers of the Eritrea conference we held in Brussels in October 2017) the booklet Eritrea – A Country Under the Sway of a Dictatorship, dealing with the situation in that country, especially in the context of its exceptionally oppressive conscription system.
3.6 The World Survey of Conscientious Objection and Conscription
We've been working with volunteers and RRTK interns to update our World Survey of Conscientious Objection and Conscription (CONCODOC) on a rolling basis. The updates from previous years included Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Germany, Portugal, Venezuela, Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Singapore, Greece and Sudan. All of the reports can be found at wri-irg.org/es/programmes/world_survey. If you would like to update the report relating to your own country (or one that you are knowledgeable about) – that would be great! Please get in touch with us at info@wri-irg.org.

3.7 Events

3.7.1 International CO Day
Since 1985, 15th May – International Conscientious Objection day – has been used to celebrate those who have resisted and continue to resist war, especially by refusing to be part of military structures. Members of our network organise events in their locales on this day to celebrate resistance and show solidarity with COs in other countries. For actions in 2016 (in Germany, Republic of Korea, Britain, Turkey and Venezuela, amongst other places), see here: www.wri-irg.org/en/co-day-2016-report. For actions in 2017, see here: www.wri-irg.org/en/story/2017/co-day-2017-showing-solidarity-war-refusers-everywhere. As noted earlier, in 2015, 2018 and 2019, CO-Day events were organised with a focus on the situation in one particular country (South Korea in 2015 and 2018 and Colombia in 2019).

3.7.2 Prisoners for Peace Day
December 1st is Prisoners for Peace Day. For over 60 years, WRI has used this date to publicise the names and stories of those imprisoned because of their actions for peace. During the last 5 years, we continued to update our permanent Prisoners for Peace list and encouraged our network to write to those who are behind bars for their nonviolent actions for peace. Every November, we send out a paper version of the Prisoners for Peace list and circulate news and updates on social media.
One of the highlights for Prisoners for Peace Day was in 2016, together with Mesarvot – an Israeli network supporting political refusers – and a range of international partners, including Jewish Voice for Peace, Connection e.V. and Europalestine, we coordinated an international day of action in support of imprisoned Israeli COs. Find more information here: www.wri-irg.org/refuse2occupy-photos.

Also, in 2015, Finnish CO Visa Savolainen wrote a blog post reflecting on the importance of receiving many cards of solidarity on Prisoners for Peace Day whilst he is under home detention in Finland. You can read it here: https://www.wri-irg.org/en/PfP-day-cards.

3.8 RRtK Programme Committee
The Right to Refuse to Kill programme committee continues to meet regularly to discuss the Programme’s work and potentials for its future development.
The RRtK committee currently consists of Rachel Brett (UK), Igor Seke (from Serbia, now living in Mexico), Sergei Sandler (Israel), as well as Semih Sapmaz and Natalia Garcia Cortés. We usually meet via conference call every four-to-six weeks, and in person once a year.
Members of affiliates working on CO issues have also joined RRtK committee calls and updated us about the situation in their countries. Recently, these have included activists from South Korea, Turkey and Finland.

3.9 Funding
Having reapplied to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, we currently have funding for the programme until April 2020. We seek funding for specific projects in addition to this main grant.

3.10 Evaluation

3.10.1 Achievements

- We have seen more people use our CO-Alerts within the last 5 years, most likely as a result of improvements to the usability of the website and a larger social media following.

- We are working closely with affiliates and grassroots CO groups to respond to their needs. For example, World Without War, with whom we planned CO Day 2015 and 2018, and Mesarvot, with whom we organised a day of action on Prisoners for Peace Day 2016 in support of imprisoned Israeli COs.

- We continued to produce resources for the network, including our book *Conscientious Objection: A Practical Companion for Movements* and our newsletter CO-Update continued to be published regularly.

- We continue to make contact with new conscientious objectors in different countries. Examples include COs from Thailand and Russia. Many of them find us, through our website or through word of mouth.

- Our work to update World Survey (CONCODOC) reports ensures that we continue to be effective in our aim to provide information to activists to facilitate their campaigning.
3.10.2 Challenges

- CONCODOC was first published in 1998 (as a new edition of an even older book, from 1968); some of the reports have not been updated since (although many have). On the one hand, this is an important resource which has been used by many people since it was created. On the other hand, keeping it updated fully would require a significant investment of time and other resources, which stretches the limits of our capacity.

- Balancing programme work with general WRI work is a constant challenge facing staff, especially when approaching a major WRI event, such as an International Assembly.

4 The Nonviolence Programme

The Nonviolence Programme sustains a number of projects, focused on supporting activists and movements with resources, training, and information to help strengthen and sustain their activism. Since the last report was written a number of key resources have been developed (see also under Publications and Outreach below), and events have taken place.

War Profiteers

Our work on war profiteers continues with its two key focuses: organising international events, and publishing a regular electronic magazine called War Profiteers News. In the last few years we have had a particular focus on the arms trade related to police militarisation (see below), and on arms fair events like DSEI, ADEX, Eurosatory, and others. We have supported movements in the UK, France, and South Korea in resisting these events by using their actions as opportunities to hold WRI’s network meetings and public seminars (thus adding international participants to these actions), and by publishing information on some of the key companies present.

4.1.1 War Profiteers News

War Profiteers News, previously a quarterly newsletter, has been published on a monthly basis since late 2017, and this has allowed us to produce a newsletter that is more timely and relevant – we have covered developing stories and current campaigns. We cover stories about the arms trade and other forms of war profiteering, providing updates on key developments and changes in the industries, and on different campaigns and actions by WRI affiliates and our wider network of antimilitarist movements. Each issue now includes between four and six articles, written either by WRI staff, or by members of our affiliates, or occasionally republishing material from other movements’ blogs and websites. Each edition is published in English and Spanish. Each edition also features a “War Profiteer of the Month” article, a profile on a specific arms company.
4.1.2 Seoul and London events
Our Council meetings in Seoul (in 2015) and London (in 2017) were accompanied by public events focusing on the arms trade, and on the skills and experiences of activists from around the world. Both events were well attended by both WRI members internationally, and by local activists. Members of WRI also took part in actions against the ADEX and DSEI arms fairs alongside local activists.

4.1.3 Who profits?
As part of our involvement in the actions to counter the DSEI arms fair in London in 2017, we published a booklet called *Who Profits at DSEI?* which included profiles of around a dozen companies who were present at DSEI – what they produce, who they sell it to, the impact the weapons have, and the international campaigns that are resisting different companies. Over 500 copies were printed at the time, and distributed to activists, journalists, and to members of the public. In early 2019 we also published a second edition to support activists preparing to take action against DSEI in 2019. In 2018 we worked alongside activists from a network taking action against the Eurosatory arms fair in Paris. Volunteers from WRI’s network of translators translated all of the material, and a number of French and Belgian company profiles were also included. Several hundred copies were printed, and distributed to activists, journalists and the general public.

Police militarisation
The concept of “police militarisation” is not new – you could argue that all policing is and always will be in some way “militarised” – but in recent years WRI has taken a more focused interest in this topic, with clear overlaps with issues from the arms trade, through gender, recruitment, to border militarisation. As a response we have developed a new online resource, an edition of our Broken Rifle newsletter, and featured a number of key companies engaged in activities related to police militarisation in our “war profiteer of the month” series.

4.1.4 Online resource on police militarisation
Our online resource is available at [www.wri-irg.org/police](http://www.wri-irg.org/police) and attempts to illustrate police militarisation on a global scale. Users are able to read about different countries, browsing relevant content on the WRI website and from other media sources. There are also a number of key themes (such as gender, race, protest, equipment) which again have detailed introductions followed by onsite and offsite content. We have also featured examples of resistance to militarised policing.
The project was developed by Sarah Robinson, who spent a year working with WRI as part of the Quaker Peacemaker scheme, and we continue to sustain the project, mainly by developing new content and linking offsite content (such as media outlets).

4.1.5 A Broken Rifle issue
We have also used WRI’s *Broken Rifle* newsletter as an opportunity to explore these themes
in more detail, from an international perspective. The full issue can be found online here: https://www.wri-irg.org/en/rundbrief/broken-rifle/108/broken-rifle and illustrates the experiences of activists encountering and resisting militarised policing around the world.

Nonviolence resources

4.1.6  **Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns**

The second edition of the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns was launched at our conference in Cape Town in 2014, and we have since sold hundreds of copies. It is also, of course, available in full and for free online. Since then, the Handbook has also been translated into Spanish and Turkish, funded by crowdfunding campaigns run by WRI and by our affiliates. We have also worked with our friends in the Union pacifiste de France to publish the first edition of the Handbook in French.

4.1.7  **New Worlds in Old Shells**

The Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns heavily focuses on the strategy of nonviolent action. WRI staff and members of our nonviolence committee are developing a new publication, focusing on communities around the world taking some form of “constructive programme” nonviolent action – developing new societies that are equitable and just. This is the core idea behind our forthcoming new book, *New Worlds in Old Shells*. The concept of constructive programme is rooted in Gandhi’s approach to nonviolence, but the book attempts to understand and locate such approaches in a modern, international context. The process began in 2017, and we have now made significant progress – most of the case studies have been completed, as well as more theoretical content. We hope to finish the section on training in the coming months, and have the book published during 2019. We have worked with writers and activists from across the world to share their stories of building cooperative businesses, community agriculture schemes, alternative currencies, and a wide range of other examples, including where campaigns to resist specific injustices extended into reshaping the structures of the community involved in the resistance campaign (such as the extension of the military base on the Larzac Plateau in France in the 1980s).

4.1.8  **Empowering Nonviolence**

All of the content of WRIs various publications is published online. In 2017, we built a new website called Empowering Nonviolence, to host all of the content of the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns, New Worlds in Old Shells, and new material to support activists around the world taking nonviolent action. The website is available in all of the languages that the two editions of the Handbook have been published in, and we have also made significant progress on a Portuguese version.

New content is based either on stories and experiences of campaigns from around the world, including the Save Jeju campaign in South Korea and Ende Gelände in Germany. We have also been developing a range of content focused on skills for nonviolent action, including researching the arms trade, preparing for a blockade action, facilitating effective activist meetings, and using theatre in an action. We are publishing this material on the Empowering Nonviolence website, and once we accumulate enough material, intend to publish it as a short book. We hope to also include material on sustaining action, creative protest, making beautiful banners… and a wide range of other material, sourced from activists internationally.
Nonviolence training

The final thread of WRI’s nonviolence programme is training in nonviolent action. Previously this has been a bigger focus than it currently is – organising international trainings is a big commitment of time, energy and resources, and though we have considered organising larger training events, we have struggled to find funding to organise anything large scale. However, we have organised a number of smaller events, for members of the Eritrean diaspora group “Arbi Harnet” in the USA in 2016, and for WRI’s affiliate World Without War in late 2018, which facilitated a network of nonviolence trainers across South Korea. We also worked with the Countering the Militarisation of Youth programme to facilitate a training for activists in Europe taking action to counter youth militarisation.

Committees

Our Nonviolence Programme is supported by two committees. One – formed in 2014 initially to support the whole programme – has decided to focus its energy on the New Worlds in Old Shells publication, and is now acting as an editorial committee for this book. Members of this committee are: Joanne Sheehan, Dorie Wilsnack, Eric Bachman, Stellan Vinthagen, Hülya Üçpinar and Jungmin Choi. Thank you to all of the members of this committee, who have given a huge amount of time and been very committed to making meetings and helping the WRI office develop this new publication.

In 2018 we decided to form a new committee, which would focus on the wider work of the programme – the other resources and publications, the work on war profiteers, and training. This committee is still forming and developing its role, but has already offered plenty of insight into how we can nurture and sustain the programme. Members of this committee are: Sarah Reader, Estefanía Gómez, Hülya Üçpinar, Moses Monday and Subhash Kattel.

Funding

The Nonviolence Programme continues to struggle to find sustainable funding for its core work, though we have in recent years successfully raised funds from a number of trusts that have allowed us to sustain certain elements of the work. In particular, we have been supported on a number of occasions by the Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust, The Network for Social Change, the Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust, and the Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade.

We continue to explore the opportunities for finding funding to sustain our core work, but there are relatively few options available to an organisation like WRI, and of course funding schemes are increasingly competitive.

Outlook

In the coming years, we envisage the programme focusing on developing and sustaining its core work – offering resources and training to nonviolent movements around the world, and providing good quality information on the arms trade and war profiteers. An area of work that we lack the resources to give significant attention to is the work on police militarisation, though we continue to update the mapping resource, and some of our “war profiteers of the month” focus on companies that are profiting from militarised policing. This is a growing trend internationally and one an organisation like WRI is well suited to develop resources, training and campaigns around, if we had resources available to do so.
5 Countering the Militarisation of Youth

5.1 International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth

The International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth has been organised since 2014. Most recently, the week was held for the fifth time in November 2018. Each year during the week, activists from various countries organise actions and events protesting against the militarisation of youth and promoting ways to engage young people in peace and nonviolence. The week was inspired by the international day of action against the militarisation of education and research held in 2013, itself inspired on earlier national-level initiatives by activists in Germany.

Over the last five years, many activists have taken part in the week of action by organising autonomous actions, such as protests in front of military recruitment centres, arms fairs, and job fairs attended by the military. They have organised talks, workshops, panel sessions and movie screenings. Some of them set up information stalls in front of schools, and circulated leaflets informing the public about youth militarisation and how to take action against it. Other activists took online action by posting content jointly on social media, and some published reports and articles on youth militarisation in their countries and how to resist it.

For the events in 2015, see: https://antimili-youth.net/articles/2015/11/report-international-week-action-against-militarisation-youth.
For the events in 2016, see: https://www.antimili-youth.net/articles/2016/12/3rd-international-week-action-held-events-organised-across-world.
For the events in 2017, see: https://www.antimili-youth.net/articles/2017/12/international-week-action-against-militarisation-youth-held-fourth-time.

5.2 Gender and Countering Youth Militarisation

In 2017, we initiated the project Gender and Countering Youth Militarisation. The project included two trainings, in London and Nicosia, with activists from different regions on countering youth militarisation with a focus on its gendered dimensions.

Our first gathering, focusing on the militarisation of youth in Europe, was held in London between 2–4 February 2018. Supported by, a facilitators network in the UK, the gathering hosted activists from Finland (AKL - Union of Conscientious Objectors, and Committee of
100), Czech Republic (Nesehnuti), Germany (DFG-VK and BSV), Italy (Movimento Nonviolent), Catalonia (Centre Delàs), and UK (the Peace Pledge Union and ForcesWatch). Our second gathering, focusing on the militarisation of youth in the eastern Mediterranean region, took place in Nicosia, Cyprus in 26–28 May 2018. The 3-day training was joined by activists from Turkey (Agenda Child Association, Colourful Hopes Association, Istanbul LGBTQI+ Pride Committee), Cyprus (Queer Cyprus Association, as well as youth activists from North and South Cyprus), Greece (Purple Feminist Collective as well as conscientious objectors), Israel/Palestine (Mesarvot, New Profile, Urfod – Refuse, Your People Will Protect You), and also from Russia. During the trainings, activists took part in various activities exploring how military values are promoted to young people, in what ways this militarisation is gendered, and how we can plan effective strategies to counter these forces, both domestically and internationally. Currently, we're working on a publication focusing on the gendered dimensions of youth militarisation and examples of resistance with input from these trainings.

5.3 Events
Following our training in London in February 2018, we hosted a public forum on countering youth militarisation in different countries. The forum, held in Housmans Bookshop in London on 5 February, included activists from the Czech Republic, Finland, Turkey, and the UK. More information about the event can be found on the WRI website (wri-irg.org/en/story/2018/activists-countering-youth-militarisation-gather-london) and at Peace News (peacenews.info/node/8927/no-more-youth-militarisation ). Following the training in Cyprus in May 2018, together with the Queer Cyprus Association we co-hosted a public forum, The 'Other' Military Tales, where international participants could meet conscientious objectors and other peace activists from both north and south Cyprus. Participants, all from countries with conscription, shared their experiences of militarism as well as the effects of conscription on their lives. In September 2016, the WRI office co-organised a screening of a documentary (“Mirar Morir”) screening and a panel session in London, together with London Mexico Solidarity. The event was to commemorate the 43 students from Ayotzinapa college in Mexico in the
third anniversary of their forced disappearance. It was organised as part of a global action to raise awareness of the ongoing human rights crisis of forced disappearances in Mexico, and to call on the Mexican Government to take steps to end this crisis immediately. Our panel session hosted human rights activists and experts, including an activist from Mexico. In addition, we organised webinars focusing on examples of youth militarisation and resistance to it in different countries, including Germany, Israel (in October 2016) and South Korea (in May 2017).

5.4 Website, Social Media and publications

We're currently working on a new publication on counter-recruitment movements across different countries. The publication aims to spread information, inspiration and practical tips on challenging youth militarisation with the examples of resistance from different countries. We hope to get the publication ready by WRI's International Assembly in July 2019. The programme’s website, antimili-youth.net, contains relevant news stories from around the world together with pieces by, and interviews with, activists from different countries. Its up-to-date content also includes visual material, such as videos and image galleries. The website is available in three languages: English, Spanish and German, although due to capacity issues and practical limitations there is more content available in English than in any other language.

The site functions as an online resource centre for activists and members of the public interested in countering the militarisation of youth. With antimili-youth.net, we aim to help visitors act on the issues around youth militarisation worldwide and to share ideas and tactics. The Countering the Militarisation of Youth Programme has its own Facebook page, which links to content from antimili-youth.net and other sources relevant to youth militarisation and resistance to it. We also have a Facebook group, “War is not a Game”, where activists are invited to share content from their work and/or updates from their countries.

5.5 Funding

Since 2015, the CMoY programme was supported at different times by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), the Network for Social Change, and the A.J. Muste Social Justice Fund. The programme was first initiated thanks to the support of JRCT. In 2017, we received funding from Network for Social Change for our project Gender and Youth Militarisation. In 2018, the A.J. Muste Social Justice Fund supported our training in Cyprus. The programme continues to seek funding for its projects in 2019 and 2020.

5.6 Evaluation

5.6.1 Achievements

- The International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth was held successfully with the participation of various groups and individuals across different countries during last 5 years.

- The website antimili-youth.net was further developed in content with up-to-date stories and contributions by the activists within the network.

- Our Gender and Countering Youth Militarisation project brought together activists from different countries, get them connected with each other. We were glad to receive positive
feedbacks following our trainings both in London and Nicosia. We're also glad to see the ongoing communication among the participants about their work. We're motivated to continue these trainings – depending on future fundraising.

- CMoY and its field of work gained greater visibility on social media via the page and the group.

- Overall, with the achievements mentioned above, CMoY – as a relatively new WRI project – was able to develop into an independent WRI programme.

5.6.2 Challenges

Our fundraising successes during the last years have been motivating. However, the programme continues to be run with limited funds at the moment, which stands as a challenge to develop it further. We continue our work to raise funds for our future projects as part of the programme.

6 Turkey Working Group

An ad-hoc working group was initiated in response to demands from activists in Turkey at the beginning of 2016. It is coordinated by a group of WRI members and contacts based in Europe and in Turkey itself. The working group started its work with publishing the appeal “Stop the Cycle of Violence” in Turkey. Subsequent activities included two delegation visits to Southeast Turkey, a petition addressing the EU, and an advocacy trip to Europe by two human rights defenders from Turkey, a strategy meeting and a training in Istanbul, statements and articles on the situation in Turkey in different languages. The working group has been working on a research regarding the protection of activists and other citizens from unlawful persecution in Turkey in order to provide more effective support strategies.

7 WRI’s main network meetings since 2014

7.1 International Assembly in Cape Town 2014

In 2014, the WRI Assembly was held – for the first time in WRI’s history – in Africa. The Assembly was held before and after the Small Actions, Big Movements conference in Cape Town (on 4, 8, and 10 July), which was co-organised by WRI, and was followed by a first meeting of WRI’s newly elected Council (on 11 July). Around sixty people in total attended the Assembly.

At the Assembly, WRI appointed a new Chair: Christine Schweitzer, already a member of the Executive Committee, and section representative for IFGK (Germany). The Assembly after the International Conference is also the space where proposals – mostly, though not exclusively, arising from the conference itself – are brought to WRI as a whole to decide upon. At this Assembly, three statements were proposed and issued, on the Ukraine, Japan and Gaza (see the section on statements under Publications and Outreach). Additionally,
proposals for work with conscientious objectors in Rwanda, with the Eritrean Diaspora and for a nonviolence training with a focus on gender were agreed.

7.2 Council meetings

7.2.1 Council 2014

As usual, there were at the time of the international conference in South Africa two Council meetings: Before the event the outgoing Council at the Assembly met, and after Conference and Assembly the new Council met for the first time.

The new Council welcomed its new individually elected members: Carlos Barranco, State of Spain; Albert Beale, Britain; Jungmin Choi, South Korea; Moses John, South Sudan; Subhash Chandra Kattel, Nepal; Cattis Laska, Sweden; Lexys Rendón, Venezuela; Miles Rutendo Tanhira, Zimbabwe/Sweden; Igor Seke, Serbia/Mexico; Hülya Üçpinar, Turkey; Sergey Sandler, Israel and Stellan Vinthagen, Sweden.

As Executive Committee to work side by side with the Chair, the Council elected: Cattis Laska, Jungmin Choi, Hülya Üçpinar and Sergey Sandler (later appointed Treasurer to replace Dominique Saillard, who retired from this position by the end of 2014).

Other agenda items of the meeting of the new Council included the approval of the budget for 2014 and an evaluation of the conference and network meetings in South Africa. The Council adopted a statement on the Ukraine (referred to it by the Assembly), decided to start a process of revising the WRI Constitution and Rules and discussed venues of future Council meetings.

7.2.2 Council 2015

The 2015 Council took place before the International Seminar on War Profiteering in Seoul, South Korea, from the 13th to 15th of October 2015. There were 15 Council members plus observers and staff present; Treasurer Sergey Sandler joined by skype for part of the meeting. The most important decisions included:

- Until next year's Council, associate members of WRI will be asked if they would wish to apply to become Sections. The 2016 Council will then decide on those applications.

- The next International Assembly would be held in 2017 or early 2018 (a schedule we later had to revise); the Exec was tasked with exploring options for places.

- The hundredth anniversary of WRI is in 2021; the Exec was tasked with exploring if there is enough support in the Netherlands to hold it in that country, where WRI was founded.

- Four new members were accepted to WRI as Associates: Centre of Peace Studies Croatia, Antimilitarist Collective of Medellin (Colombia), Community Self-Reliance Centre and National Land Rights Forum (both from Nepal).
7.2.3 Council 2016
The 2016 Council took place electronically between the 14th and 24th of October 2016. About 50 people registered to participate. The most important issues discussed were the upcoming Assemblies, changes to Constitution and Rules, budget, applications for affiliation and responses to crises. A statement on Syria was drafted and published after the Council itself ended. The Council also included three webinars – on Syria, on constructive programmes for nonviolent action and on countering the militarisation of youth.
Alternatives to Violence Project Nigeria (Nigeria), Organisation for Nonviolence and Development (ONAD, South Sudan) and Women in Black Serbia (Serbia) were accepted as Sections of WRI (having already been Associate members of WRI).
NESEHNUTÍ (Czech Republic), Campaign Against Arms Trade (UK), ŞİDDETŞIZLİK EGİTİM VE ARAŞTIRMA DERNEĞİ (Nonviolent Education and Research Association, Turkey), VD AMOK (Netherlands) were accepted as associate members of WRI.

7.2.4 Council 2017
The 2017 Council meeting took place on the 11th and 12th of September in London. About 30 people participated. The dates were set to coincide with actions against the arms fair DSEI in which many Council members participated. WRI also organized a seminar with the title “War Stops Here. Public Education on the Arms Trade” for the participants in the actions against DSEI, close to the gates of the fair. The Council discussed among other things the different programmes of WRI, finances, proposals for changes of the WRI constitution and future events, in particular the International Assembly, now rescheduled to 2019, and the centennial in 2021.

7.2.5 Council 2018
In 2018, we held another eCouncil, between the 5th and 13th of May. About 32 people participated, with significant over-representation for Europe.
The Council accepted four new organizations as associates: La Tulpa from Colombia, SEDI from Burundi, P.E.A.C.E from the US and Samtök Hernaðarandstæðinga (CAM) from Iceland. It also continued the discussion about the Constitution and Rules of WRI, and discussed the upcoming conference in Colombia.

7.3 WRI Thematic Working Groups
The Working Groups of WRI have more or less existed only on paper in the reporting period. Neither the Women’s Working Group nor the Queer Working Group (now: Queer Network) has met, and while WRI has done significant work with groups in Colombia (culminating with the Assembly and Conference in Bogotá in 2019), the once-active Colombia and Working Group has not been part of that. Finally, the Africa Working Group was superseded and replaced by the Pan-African Nonviolence and Peacebuilding Network (PANPN).

8 Executive Committee and staff
8.1 Executive Committee
The Exec elected in 2014 consisted of Jungmin Choi, Cattis Laska, Hülya Üçpinar, the treasurers Dominique Saillard (Treasurer until end of 2014) and Sergeiy Sandler (Treasurer since 2015) and Christine Schweitzer (Chair).
The Executive has met two to three times each year in person for a weekend together with staff. The meeting place was usually the office in London, but the Exec has also met twice in Istanbul, Turkey, and once in Sweden. Additionally, the Exec meets once a month by skype for about one hour.

The main topics that the Exec dealt with over the years were the preparation of the various Council meetings and of the conference in Colombia, the budget and financial reports, accompaniment of the work on the various programmes run by the office and the respective Programme Committees, a few political statements, and the hire of several staff members (see below). All Exec members are also involved in one or more programme committees or working groups. Sergeiy Sandler is, in addition, the Exec member on the Personnel Committee, a committee that accompanies the work of staff more closely and conducts annual staff review interviews, as part of the annual staff review process conducted by the Exec.

8.2 Staff

During the reporting period, there have been two major staff turnovers:

In 2015, Javier Gárate, who was WRI’s Nonviolence Programme Worker for ten years, stepped down, and was replaced by Andrew Metheven. Andrew is currently working on the Nonviolence Programme for three days a week. Also in 2015, and thanks to an added component in our grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, WRI has started Countering the Militarisation of Youth Programme as a separate programme.

The second major change happened in 2018, when Hannah Brock, the Right to Refuse to Kill Worker, left WRI after about six years. We recruited a new RRtK worker, Natalia Garcia Cortes, based in Colombia. Semih Sapmaz works freelance on both the Right to Refuse to Kill and Countering the Militarisation of Youth programmes.

We were fortunate to co-host four Quaker Peace and Social Witness Peaceworkers over the course of the reporting period (the QPSW Peaceworker Programme places young activists as staff members in UK-based organisations for a year and covers their salary and expenses).

Andrew Metheven (then Andrew Dey), who later joined our staff, was a Peaceworker in our office during the Cape Town Assembly. Elisa Haf was a Peaceworker in 2014/5, Sarah Robinson in 2016/7, and most recently, Charlotte Cooper has joined for a few months in 2019.

The work of the office has also been strengthened by several volunteers and interns: Taya Govreen Segal, an activist from Israel, Exec Member Hülya Üçpinar, who helped out in the office for one month, David Scheuingm who also volunteered in the office for several months, and has since become the section representative for DFG-VK (Germany), Latin-American activists Marcela Paz and Martin Rodriguez, Martyn Lowe, who has been a regular volunteer in the WRI office for many years, and several other volunteers, who have helped our work in various ways on a less intensive basis.

9 Finances and fundraising

At the end of 2013 – the year before our previous Assembly meeting – WRI’s total equity (so, the totality of our reserves) stood at £62,374. At the end of last year, 2018, that figure was £59,099. The picture of relative stability that transpires from these figures is partly misleading (for one thing, we “owe” about £9,000 of our current balance to the 2016 Brexit vote in the UK, and the resulting plunge in the value of the Pound). Nevertheless, the basic conclusion is correct: WRI is still eating into its historical reserves to keep our office work going, but we are now eating into them much more slowly than we did a decade ago. The
result is that we are able to maintain middle-term financial sustainability, even as the long-
term picture still looks worrying.
This relative stabilisation, however, did not happen on its own. It required a lot of hard work
and commitment from our staff, volunteers, and from the WRI network more generally. WRI
is usually collecting close to £10,000 a year in affiliation fees from our sections and
associates. This sum reflects the WRI network’s commitment to the continued existence of
the office and the work it does on the international level. It also reflects the tireless efforts our
previous Treasurer, Dominique Saillard, and our staff members over the years invested into
contacting and re-contacting affiliates and into relentlessly arguing for the importance of
financing our work by the WRI network directly. And yet, affiliation fees make up only about
12% of our annual budget, so other sources of income are also crucial for our financial
survival.
WRI has also been able to maintain, and even expand, our income from donations. This is
notable, given that our traditional donor base – the people to whom we used to send appeals
for donations – was made up primarily of elderly people in the UK, and has been dwindling
rapidly. Nevertheless, we are able to maintain a level of close to £10,000 a year in income
from donations. One thing that enabled us to do so was a targeted drive of appeals to Quaker
meetings in the UK (as WRI’s work directly addresses a number of traditional Quaker
concerns). Another was that we paid special attention to making our new website as friendly
as possible for potential donors. Finally, we made several special drives to collect regular (i.e.
repeated) donations. While each such drive yields a relatively modest increase in WRI’s
income, the fact that the donations are regular means that these drives accumulate over time,
becoming a permanent source of income to support our work.
But with all due respect to affiliation fees and donations, the WRI office still needs to collect
the bulk of its income from grants. We have been immensely fortunate to receive the regular
and continuing support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which funds our Right to
Refuse to Kill Programme more or less in full, and some overhead expenses on top of that.
This support has been ongoing since 2001 (the current funding cycle ends in April 2020, and
we will soon be applying for yet another extension). But as for funding for the other
programmes, our position is much more precarious. In the course of the reporting period, we
were able to secure funding from several sources: the Network for Social Change (UK), the
Lush Charity Pot (UK)the Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade (UK), the
Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust (UK), the Edith M. Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust (UK), and
the A.J. Muste Social Justice Fund (US). Several of these funded us repeatedly, though there
is no guarantee of future success with any of them, and with some it is clear we should not
expect more funding in the near future. One should definitely mention the funders who
helped finance conferences and seminars coinciding with Council and Assembly meetings:
the Beautiful Foundation (South Korea) for our 2015 Council, and the American Friends
Service Committee (US), Karibu (Norway), the IPRA Peterson Fund (US), SweFOR
(Sweden), Terres des Hommes (Switzerland) and the A.J. Muste International Nonviolence
Training Fund (US), who supported one or more of the co-organisers of our major conference
in Colombia (in addition to several generous large individual contributions from long-time
WRI activists!)
The point is that the bank of potential funders we have relied on in recent years has its limits,
both in terms of the amount of money we are able to raise and in terms of our ability to
continue relying on it for years to come. You may surely have also noticed another limitation
it has – it is made up overwhelmingly of funds based in the UK. This would make sense for a
local group working in the UK, but the WRI is an International, and it can and should reach
funding sources from all over the world.
One possible way in which we may be able to do so is by reactivating WRI’s Fundraising
Committee. This is also another way in which the WRI network as a whole can support the work of our office. The Fundraising Committee is made up of experienced fundraisers from WRI’s affiliates from all over the world, who volunteer to help our staff strategize about raising funds, suggest potential funders we have not accessed in the past, help form necessary personal connections and help edit fundraising proposals. To resume its work the Fundraising Committee needs volunteers, and if you yourself are able to join, or can suggest other potential members, that would be especially useful as a contribution to ensuring WRI’s future financial stability.

10 Publications and outreach


We have written a simple 'writing guide' for the website, to encourage people to consider submitting ideas for stories to our publications. It is available here: [http://www.wri-irg.org/en/Writing-for-WRI](http://www.wri-irg.org/en/Writing-for-WRI) (English, German, Spanish, and French).

Additional information about many of these publications can be found above, in the sections devoted to the office programmes.

10.1 Series Publications

10.1.1 The Broken Rifle

The Broken Rifle is WRI's main newsletter, and is published in English, Spanish, German and French. It is published online, usually with a downloadable PDF version, and sent out as an email newsletter.

We use Issuu to publish the PDF version, which makes it much easier to read on tablets, laptops and e-readers, and to embed on the website. You can sign up for free, and read past issues in all four published languages, at [http://issuu.com/warresistersint](http://issuu.com/warresistersint).


10.1.2 War Resisters' Stories

War Resisters' Stories is a short monthly bulletin of news from the WRI network. Each month it contains five stories, both from the office and from the wider WRI network. It is designed to provide highlights of recent activities and direct them towards upcoming events, in a brief and engaging way. In 2017, we started translating this bulletin into French, so it is now available in English, Spanish, French and German.

10.1.3 CO-Update

The CO-Update, produced in English and Spanish, is the eNewsletter of the Right to Refuse to Kill programme. Since summer 2012 it has been produced four to five times a year. It contains updates on conscientious objection and conscription around the world, in addition to news of RRtK activities.

10.1.4 CO-Alert

In July 2001, WRI launched the email-based CO-Alert system to inform subscribers of the imprisonment or other difficulties faced by conscientious objectors. Since then, hundreds of
CO-Alerts have been distributed. The CO-Alert system has been integrated into WRI's conscientious objection database, and is now managed entirely through the WRI website. CO-Alert is an English-only email list, although some alerts are also available in other languages on the WRI website. CO-Alerts since 2014 have included calls for support for COs in Colombia, Finland, Israel, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine. Please encourage as many people to join this list as possible: http://www.wri-irg.org/en/programmes/co_alerts.

10.1.5 War Profiteers News
The War Profiteers News email newsletter, published since 2006, has been produced monthly since September 2017 in English and Spanish. It has been an important tool in providing information on matters related to war profiteering to a wide range of groups and activists, and has facilitated networking of groups working on war profiteers. See http://www.wri-irg.org/en/publications/war-profiteers-news.

10.2 Books and Reports

10.2.1 Conscientious Objection: A Practical Companion for movements
“Conscientious Objection: A Practical Companion for Movements” was published in October 2015, following a successful crowdfunding campaign to raise the necessary funds. Its Korean translation was published in May 2018 and its Spanish translation will be published in 2019.

10.2.2 Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns
In 2017, we completed the French translation of the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns, working closely with our friends in Union pacifiste de France (UPF) to complete the design work – UPF kindly donated the costs and organised the printing and distribution of the book. Its German translation was published in 2018, and a Turkish translation is almost finished as well. Before his passing, past WRI Council member Abraham Gebreyesus Mehreteab was translating the second edition into Tigrinya, and his wife continues that work.

10.2.3 Who profits at DSEI and the Eurosatory?
In September 2017, WRI produced a short booklet – called "Who profits at DSEI?" – which was distributed at the protests against the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair in London. It profiles twelve of the companies who attended DSEI, what they build, who they sell it to, and the impacts of some of these weapons. You can read "Who Profits at DSEI?" online on Issuu, or you can download the booklet as a PDF at: http://www.wri-irg.org/sites/default/files/public_files/2017-09/Design%20internet%20version.pdf.
In June 2018, we produced a similar booklet covering ten of the companies attending the Eurosatory arms fair in Paris to support the resistance and protests organised by activists in

10.2.4 Eritrea – A Country Under the Sway of a Dictatorship

In July 2018, we co-published (together with the co-organisers of the Eritrea conference we held in Brussels in October 2017) the booklet *Eritrea - A Country Under the Sway of a Dictatorship*, which can be downloaded here: https://www.wri-irg.org/en/story/2018/new-publication-eritrea-country-under-sway-dictatorship-0.

10.2.5 WRI Delegation Report: Stop the Cycle of Violence in Turkey

In April 2016, WRI, in collaboration with Connection e.V. in Germany and nonviolent activists and WRI members from Turkey sent a delegation to the Southeast of Turkey. During their visit, the delegation met officials, peace and human rights activists in Diyarbakır, Cizre and surrounding towns affected by the curfews and armed conflict that took place from August 2015 until spring 2016. Following the visit, delegation members, including activists from Austria, Germany, Spain and Sweden, released a report based on their observations on the situation in the region. You can download the report here: https://www.wri-irg.org/sites/default/files/public_files/WRI%20Delegation%20Report%2C%20June%202016.pdf.

10.3 Social Media and Website

We continue to develop our social media work. We aim to post on Facebook once a day and on Twitter as regularly as seems appropriate. We have also tried to regularly repost and retweet content produced by groups affiliated to WRI.

10.3.1 Facebook

Find us at facebook.com/pg/warresistersint/. We now have over 5,000 followers. Our most popular posts this year concerned COs in Israel, Ukraine and Thailand, our new resource on police militarisation, and posts during the International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth.

10.3.2 Twitter

You can find WRI at twitter.com/warresistersint. We now have over 4,800 followers. Twitter feeds from WRI's affiliates can be found at twitter.com/warresistersint/lists/wri-affiliates. In 2019, we introduced a new twitter account posting only in Spanish. You can follow it here. https://twitter.com/irg_es.

10.3.3 Vimeo

War Resisters' International has a page on Vimeo, a video sharing platform. On this page, you can find various videos produced by WRI, including recordings of our webinars and videos from our previous actions, for example, with activists as part of the International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth, etc. You can find out more at vimeo.com/user4456636.
10.3.4 Instagram
In 2018 we started an Instagram account where we're hoping to post photos and videos from our events, as well as bits from our daily work. You can follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/warresistersint/.

10.3.5 New WRI website
In 2017, staff at War Resisters’ International worked with the web development company Netuxo to build a new website for the network. We began this work in the summer of 2016, and the website went live in July 2017. It was clear for several years that we needed a new site, and we prioritised the work in 2017 because the version of Drupal (the content management system the website runs on) was no longer supported – an upgrade was necessary!

The new website is easier to browse, and the various publications and projects that are hosted there are more accessible – it is also more visually attractive and the menu structure is much simpler. The new website also makes it easier for new supporters to subscribe to our mailing lists and to give regular donations to WRI. The website is primarily available in English, Spanish, French and German (individual articles can be translated into any language), and the language switching function is simpler for the user.

In addition to developing a new main website for WRI, we also took the opportunity to develop a new website for our nonviolence resources, such as the online version of the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns, called Empowering Nonviolence. This project is discussed in greater detail in the Nonviolence Programme section of this report.

10.3.6 WRI Webshop
In February 2018, we launched our new webshop, where you can find a range of WRI publications, in addition to broken rifle badges, bags, t-shirts and hoodies. We are grateful to the web development company Netuxo, who also built WRI's new website in 2017, for their hard work and support.

To find out more about the products and international shipping options, visit our webshop at http://www.wri-irg.org/en/shop.

10.4 Statements
The following statements have been put out by the WRI in the reporting period:


In November 2016, the WRI Council released a statement in solidarity with the civilian population in Syria (you can read it here: https://www.wri-irg.org/en/Council-statement-Syria-November-2016). The WRI Executive Committee also signed a statement originally written by RAMALC, the antimilitarist network in Latin America and the Caribbean, in solidarity with nonviolent resisters in Venezuela. The statement (in Spanish) can be read here:


Apart from the statements signed by WRI, we also helped other peace and human rights groups to circulate their statements. A recent example includes a statement by Venezuelan activists calling for international support to their nonviolent resistance in Venezuela (read it here: https://www.wri-irg.org/en/story/2019/peace-and-non-violence-activists-and-organizations-venezuela-calls-support). Other examples include statements by human rights organisations from Turkey about the military operations in Northern Syria as well as oppression against peace and human rights activists in the country.

11 Regional networking

WRI has affiliates and members based all over the world, and we hope the upcoming WRI Assembly will be a good opportunity for many members of our network to share their efforts, achievements and frustrations since the last time we met. We are, however, unable to survey all that work for this report. Instead, this part of the report will focus specifically on the work of regional networks that the WRI Exec and Office maintain regular contact with (in Latin America, Africa, Europe, the east-Mediterranean region), as well as on regional cooperation and networking efforts we have been involved in (in East/Southeast Asia). The work done by WRI activists and affiliates in North America, Australasia, South Asia, and other parts of the world—as significant as it is—remains outside the scope of this report.

11.1 Latin America

RAMALC – the Antimilitarist Network in Latin America and the Caribbean – was originally created by a number of WRI members, affiliates and contacts in the region, and continues to maintain close links with the WRI. Since the summer of 2014, its activities included the following:

11.1.1 Presentation of WRI’s Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns

By: Igor Seke and Julian Ovalle
Date: 17 March 2015
Place: Casa Museo de la Memoria Indómita, Mexico City
The event lasted for more than 2 hours, where Igor and Julian presented the WRI, the Handbook and had a very fruitful debate with participants about nonviolence as a political strategy.
11.1.2 Workshop on conscientious objection to military service at UNAM.

By: Igor Seke
Date: 17 September 2015
Prof. Petro Ameglio of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the largest University in Latin America, organized a workshop for his students on conscientious objection to military service. This was the first workshop ever on CO in Mexico, to the best of our knowledge, as this issue has not been tackled by any organization or individual before. The audience consisted of more than 60 students and Igor presented the general situation regarding CO in Latin America and the rest of the world. Further, the experience of the CO campaign in Serbia and other former-Yugoslav countries was addressed, as well as the role of nonviolence in the protest that brought down Serbian president (dictator) Milosevic.

11.1.3 Peace March between the Otomí indigenous communities of Huitzizilapan and Xochicuautla,

Date: 21 September 2015
These communities maintain nonviolent resistance to a highway being built on their ancestral land. More than 50 persons participated in the march, video footage of the march was made and we visited both communities including the Resistance Camp in Xochicuautla.

11.1.4 Training for Trainers in Nonviolent Direct Action

Place of activity: Mexico City, Mexico
Dates: 22–26 Sept 2015
Number of participants: 30 regular participants from different Latin American countries plus 10 participants who joined for some activities only (mainly from Mexico).
Outcomes: A very successful training on nonviolent direct action was held and the bases for future cooperation between RAMALC and several Mexican organizations were set up: SERPAZ, Casa Museo de la Memoria Indomita, Centro de Derechos Humanos "Fray Francisco de Vitoria", among others. The representatives of the communities of Xochicuautla and Huitzizilapan also took an active role in the training and became a part of RAMALC. At the training, there were representatives from the association of the Ayotzinapa students who survived the night of the massacre and forced disappearance of 43 students. There were participants from different indigenous communities from Chiapas and Oaxaca. International participants were from: Venezuela, Colombia, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brasil and Cuba.
The training took place at the Casa Museo de la Memoria Indómita, a museum dedicated to forcefully disappeared persons in Mexico since 1974 until today. It’s run by Comité Eureka, founded by family members of the disappeared. Since 1974 they worked on more than 500 cases, out of which they managed to find alive and release more than 150 persons, all of them being captured by the military and found in military clandestine prisons.
On 24th of September RAMALC was featured in a broadcast of the at the Rompeviento on-line TV Channel dedicated exclusively to social and human rights issues. During the 1 hour program, Pelao Carvallo from Paraguay, Lexys Rendón from Venezuela and Angela Cristina Cuenca Sempertegui from Bolivia spoke about the situation and the non-violent campaigns taking place in their respective countries.
On 26th of September 2015, we participated at the protest march that commemorated a year since 43 students from Ayotzinapa were disappeared. About 50,000 people participated at the protest march.
11.1.5 Follow-up event organized by Front for the Freedom of Social Protest “(Frente por la libertad de la protesta social – FLEPS”) 
Date: 12 October 2015. 
Place of activity: Mexico City, Mexico 
FLEPS is a network of various human rights organizations, some of whose members participated in RAMALC’s training. The follow-up event was focused on tools for protection during social protests and on demilitarization.

11.1.6 Publishing the 1st edition of “Rompiedo Filas”, RAMALC’s online and printed newsletter. 
Date: May 2016

11.1.7 Participation at the Human Rights School organized by Human Rights Center Fray Victoria. 
Date: June 2016 
Place of activity: Mexico City, Mexico 
Julian represented Ramalc and held a workshop on CO as an alternative to the militarization of Mexican society.

11.1.8 Launch of RAMALC’s website, www.ramalc.org 
Date: August 2016

11.1.9 Documentary screening 
Organizing simultaneous screenings of the Mexican documentary Mirar Morir, El ejército mexicano en la noche de Iguala (“Watching them Die, The Mexican Army and the 43 Disappeared Students”). 
Date: September 2016. 
As a part of the activities to remember 2 years since the disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa, and through the contacts that Igor made with the director and producers of the documentary mentioned, we decided to take part in the simultaneous screening of the documentary in all the countries where RAMALC has members. Also, we coordinated and found funds for translation of the documentary into German for screenings in Germany and Austria. The screenings took place in more than 50 countries and more than 130 cities during September 2016. The impact of the documentary was huge and even Netflix decided to add it to its online platform.

11.1.10 RAMALC webinar: Peace negotiations and further militarisation in Colombia (negociaciones de paz y profundización de la militarización en Colombia) 
Date: 15th May 2017 
Facilitated by RAMALC and ACOOC
11.1.11 RAMALC webinar: are the protests in Venezuela peaceful? (¿son pacíficas las protestas que ocurren en Venezuela?)
Date: 12th June 2017
Organized by RAMALC, facilitated by Rafael Uzcátegui

11.1.12 Strategies against Militarisation of Bodies and Territories
Gathering of RAMALC in Asunción, Paraguay
Date: November 2017
From 4 to 11 November 2017, RAMALC met in Asunción, Paraguay for a gathering entitled “Strategies against militarisation of bodies and territories”. The event included internal meetings, training, an action, two public seminars and visits to local communities. There were 30 people participating for the full week and 10 more joining for the training only. Representatives came from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. Our hosts in Paraguay were Serpaj PY (Paraguay), Colectivo Caracolito and MOC-PY (the conscientious objection movement of Paraguay).

During the first day there was a guided tour to two resisting communities in the city of Asunción. One was CODECO who are resisting the construction of the Costanera Avenue, a project which runs through the community, directly affecting the people – mostly on low income – who live in the area. The other was a visit to the indigenous community of Yuquiti, the only indigenous community inside the city of Asunción. They are in a process of reclaiming collective land where they can practice their culture and continue promoting indigenous culture in Paraguay.
There was a follow-up event in Bolivia that replicated the training held in Paraguay. The training in Bolivia was on extractivism and militarisation, organized by Women Defenders of Mother Earth (Defensoras de la Madre Tierra).
11.1.13 Additional RAMALC events

Additional events in the reporting period included a number of events in Venezuela:

– The #soycivilnomilitar (I'm a civilian not a soldier) campaign, with 3 round-tables held in Barquisimeto, Mérida and Caracas.

– A public event where more than 50 persons declared conscientious objection.

– Legal action to repeal the Law on Conscription (Ley de registro militar). The action ended up being ruled out by the Supreme Court of Justice.

– A document-map on the militarization of the border and the territories of the Wayuu indigenous nations was produced.

– A video titled “The veins of Latin America Are Still Open”, dealing with extractivism and the militarization of the indigenous territories, was produced.

Finally, a training on nonviolent direct action and a campaign around conscientious objection to compulsory military service took place in Brazil.

11.2 Africa

(Matt Meyer, WRI Africa Support Network Coordinator)

Though the Pan African Nonviolence and Peace-building Network (PANPN)—formed in 2012 and formally founded on the eve of the 2014 WRI Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa—has sent reports to WRI Council these past years, it has decided this year to discuss future matters in person in Bogota. It may be time for both WRI and PANPN to reflect upon the usefulness of these reports in terms of the concrete building of the Network and related movements. That said, there have been many individual, country-specific initiatives and one major PANPN-specific inter-continental initiative worth noting. South-south work, long championed by WRI leaders such as former WRI Chair Narayan Desai, takes a leap forward in the joint seminar organized by PANPN and the Latin America-wide Servicio Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ), taking place in Bogota on the weekend before the WRI Assembly. Though this seminar was mainly supported by the Swedish branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, support from WRI and the International Peace Research Association also played significant roles. The seminar focuses on comparative best practices of nonviolent civilian resistance, and on security and safety contingencies in the face of repression and war. In addition to the seminar and assistance in the writing and publication of several new books and booklets, PANPN members remain committed to work in their local and regional contexts, and to building the continental network in ways appropriate to the needs and capacity of the group.

11.3 Europe

The European Antimilitarist Network (EAN) encompasses a wide-range of groups from across Europe dedicated to antimilitarism and the use of nonviolent direct action. The network facilitates communication between the groups in the network and between the network and other groups and people involved in the antimilitarist struggle. The slogan and action concept of “War Starts Here” has been a major theme in EAN events (going back to the 2011 action in the north of Sweden, which followed the WRI Council meeting that year). Other antimilitarist groups outside the network have since also adopted it. The Network does not hold regular meetings, but does meet whenever its members come
together for an action, such as in Barbate, Cadiz in 2015 and in Burghfield in 2016. The Network has organized actions around Trident Juncture (UK), NATO’s military exercise across Italy, Portugal and the state of Spain in 2015; COP21 climate change negotiations, held in Paris in 2015; a nuclear weapons factory in Burghfield (UK) in 2016; the opening of NATO’s new headquarters in Brussels in 2017 and the DSEI arms fair in London in 2017. Outside Europe, the EAN also assisted in the blockades against the ADEX arms fair in Seoul, South Korea, 2015. In addition, several WRI affiliates and WRI office staff participated in the annual European Network Against the Arms Trade meeting held in London, in 2016.

11.4 The eastern-Mediterranean network of CO and war refuser groups

The eastern-Mediterranean network of CO and war refuser groups was established in 2014 at a meeting in Cyprus. It includes activists from Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Palestine/Israel and Egypt. Since their meeting in 2014, some of these groups have signed up for shared statements, including ‘Solidarity with the Egyptian Conscientious Objector Mark Nabil Sanad’ in 2016.

In December 2014, several groups took part in solidarity actions for an imprisoned CO in Cyprus, Haluk Selam Tufanlı. Simultaneous events were held in Athens, Istanbul, Nicossia and London.

Members from the Druze resister movement Urfod (Refuse: Your People Will Protect You) attended an international CO symposium hosted by Vicdani Ret Derneği (the CO Association, Turkey) in September 2015.

In May 2018, WRI organised a training on Countering the Militarisation of Youth in Cyprus. The event was joined by activists from the network, including conscientious objectors from Israel, Greece and Cyprus.

The Eastern Mediterranean network continues to communicate via a mail group to share news and solidarity requests. They have been particularly active in support of Israeli COs who have been imprisoned repeatedly (we have also sent out many CO-Alerts for them), Greek COs sometimes facing trial decades after their initial refusal, COs in Northern Cyprus and Egyptian COs.
11.5 WRI in East, South and South East Asia

While there is no Asian regional network that WRI supports, there has been regular work by the WRI Executive Committee and together with groups in East, South and South East Asia, which also involved networking between groups and activists in different countries of the region.

One of WRI’s active partners in this region is the World without War, South Korea. Jungmin Choi from WwW has been a WRI Executive member for the last five years and in October 2015, there was a WRI Council meeting in Seoul alongside the Stopping the War Business international seminar and action. WRI and WwW have been working very closely on CO issues. WwW and WRI held a webinar on educating for peace and conscientious objection in South Korea ([wri-irg.org/en/story/2017/educating-peace-and-conscientious-objection-south-korea](http://wri-irg.org/en/story/2017/educating-peace-and-conscientious-objection-south-korea)) in 2017 and organized an International solidarity action on International Conscientious Objection Day in 2018. Our nonviolence program worker Andrew Metheven facilitated a training for nonviolence trainers in Seoul in 2018.


Subhash Chandra Kattel from Nepal has been working as a council member for the past five years and two groups from Nepal, Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), joined the WRI as affiliates.

12 Outlook

(Christine Schweitzer, WRI Chair)

As outgoing and perhaps last Chair of WRI, please allow me to write this outlook in a more personal manner than this section is usually written in.

In our report to the last International Assembly in 2014, we wrote in the outlook: “Making predictions—the saying goes—is difficult, especially about the future. This is definitely also true about WRI’s future, but some recent efforts and events we have been engaged in also imply possible future developments. Of these, we would like to highlight three things: Regional networking, countering the militarisation of youth as a new direction in WRI programme work and, alas, the continuing financial crisis WRI is facing.” When you have read our report to this point, you will have seen that these predictions weren’t far off.

Over the five years I served as Chair of WRI, I have been often asked what WRI does, and what its difference from other international networks is. What would be your answer? Here is what I like to reply: Conscientious Objection, the issue around which WRI was founded 98 years ago, is still an important issue at least in some parts of the world, and is the only programme run by the office with a somewhat stable funding for many years now. Perhaps its importance even grew again with the going down of peace movements in the Northern hemisphere, and the dissolution of WRI’s Womens’ Working Group which had for some time loudly demanded a widening of the focus of WRI. The programme on the Right to
Refuse to Kill is also supported by the fact that some of WRI’s currently most active affiliates
are working on this issue.
CO, however, is definitely not the only issue. Fighting different faces of militarisation is
another one, and is now also supported by an office programme, the CMoY programme.
Militarisation assumes many faces, and is certainly on the rise on a more or less world-wide
level. This trend may be partly explained by the growing number of armed conflicts, mostly
of internal conflicts. Venezuela is just one example here. And vice versa, militarisation does
lay the ground for allowing conflicts to get violent very quickly. “If you want peace, prepare
for war” was a saying of the ancient Romans 2,000 years ago, one, to which governments and
military forces almost everywhere still subscribe to. And, though the number of outright wars
decreased in 2018, the threat of new major international wars, including the danger of a
nuclear, all-destroying war, has increased. The Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic
Scientists has been at two minutes before midnight for two years now. This is not only due to
the U.S. and Russia both being ruled by autocratic populist macho men in love with their
large guns and missiles. We could see both on the Korean peninsula in 2017, and in early
2019 in the conflict on Kashmir, how quickly regional conflicts threaten to escalate to a
nuclear war.
Militarisation getting stronger is also an element of the growing right-wing / fascist populism
that holds sway in more and more countries, both in the Global South and in the Global
North. So-called post-democratic regimes and illiberal democracies are growing with each
election held. Let’s make no mistake here: Fascism is based on violence, and violence alone:
Against the “others” in one’s own country, however they are defined in each place, against
human rights defenders and the opposition generally, and against migrants and international
civil society.
People worldwide become more and more conscious of the fact that threats do not come from
the military and from war alone. Climate change and growing destruction of the very nature
on which the survival of humankind depends are no longer issues for specialised scientists or
NGOs. Large movements everywhere congregate around these issues, movements in which
hundreds of thousand if not millions of young people engage. In my part of the world, I have
often heard grey-haired pacifists of my age or older complain: “Why don’t they (meaning
young people) come to us? Don’t they see that war is still a threat?” Well, perhaps we should
turn this around, and come to them! I believe that the conference in Colombia with its
discussion on the three “peaces” is one step in this direction. Pacifists and antimilitarists
could make a contribution to these movements – by pointing to the military being one cause
for climate change and destruction both directly and indirectly, through diverting resources
urgently needed for these other causes. There are other intersections too – we can already see
how governments sometimes turn to militarised “solutions” to climate change and other
drivers of social upheaval, by militarising police forces and borders. Over the last years these
forms of militarisation have been picked up as important themes by WRI and our affiliates,
and we may expect to continue working on them in the future.
Last but not least, there is the conviction that nonviolence is the only way to deal with
conflicts – from the international level to the level of communities and in personal life. WRI
is (fortunately!) not the only network that shares and promotes this conviction. But
nonviolence is part of our core, and one that is also expressed in our activities: Nonviolence
trainings, peacebuilding activities and the production of resources around nonviolence have
not only formed a programme run by the WRI office for more than ten years now, but are
also a focus of a number of affiliates that have joined WRI in recent years. Nonviolence as a
third way, as Gandhi liked to characterise it, has made pacifists and antimilitarists often find
themselves between political fronts, from Venezuela to the debates on Syria or the Ukraine,
only to name three places on which affiliates of WRI got and are still being active. I feel that
is something to be proud of!
So where does this lead to? What to predict or to hope for the next years? I would like to
name three points here:

1. WRI is strongest where affiliates work together. This seems to work best on a regional
basis. Therefore, we could probably use more regionalisation: Here I would wish not only
for the strengthening of the existing networks but also for looking to possibilities to create
networks in the two continents which don’t have such so far: Asia (or parts of Asia given
the size of this continent), and Australia/Oceania.

2. Let us break down the walls between the different movements, not by preaching but by
doing, by joining their efforts. Then they might also join us when we need them!

3. A particular, organisational wish would be financial stability for WRI. One way to
achieve this might be the commitment of individuals caring about WRI. If we found 100
people making a small donation of perhaps 10 USD/Euro every month to WRI, this
would already make a big difference.

I regret that for personal reasons I cannot be with you in Colombia – when the dates were
postponed from May to the end of July, it was too late for me to adapt. But I wish you a
successful meeting, and hope to see some of you in future Council meetings, and definitely at
our 100th birthday in 2021!