

SEEDS OF
PEACE
&
LIBERATION

SOWING AND GROWING GRASSROOTS RESISTANCE

Militarism has become an ordinary presence in our lives, severing connections, cynically confining our horizons, and wrecking our future. From Gaza to Ferguson, we see violence deepen and spread when governments deploy their capacity to control and kill in opposition to developing creative and caring solutions to the crises we face together.

In 2014, we also saw resistance to militarism grow fertile connections. Resisting borders, Palestinians used social media to share tips for Ferguson residents facing tear gas in the streets of their community. Resisting racism, a growing movement against police militarization is recognizing links between empire and the routine violence of policing in communities across the United States. This was confirmed in September, when a vibrant coalition of grassroots organizations, including the War Resisters League, successfully pushed the Urban Shield SWAT training and weapons expo permanently out of Oakland.

Through education, organizing, strategy, and direct action, the War Resisters League works to sow and grow seeds of peace and liberation in our time. We believe it will take many hands to realize that vision, and we hope you will join us in taking practical steps and joyful leaps toward winning a future without war by eliminating its root causes.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

In 2014, the work of WRL's Facing Tear Gas program developed into a focused campaign against the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), a Pentagon program funding the fusion of militarism with policing and emergency response in communities across the United States. Building on our work of the previous year, we continued to mount pressure against Urban Shield, a SWAT training and weapons expo funded by UASI. As a national organization with our staff concentrated in NYC, we understood early on that it was vitally necessary to organize in coalition with grassroots groups in strategic cities if we wanted to build the kind of power that could end Urban Shield locally and nationally. In doing so, we prioritized organizations led by people in communities that are targeted by and experience the violence of militarism and policing. After research and planning, we focused our attention on Boston and Oakland and we got to work.

STOP OPPRESSIVE MILITARIZED POLICE STOMP COALITION (Boston, MA)

Boston held special significance as a sight of militarization, hosting Urban Shield in the aftermath of militarized raids in the community of Watertown. In the spring, we made contact with allies and activists in the Boston area, and soon formed the STOMP coalition to grow opposition to increasing surveillance and repression. On May 4th, STOMP hosted a community speak out, toward building community power to demilitarize Boston.

STOP URBAN SHIELD COALITION (Oakland, CA)

In 2013, WRL organized our first demonstration in opposition to Urban Shield in Oakland. This year, we formed and anchored a coalition with Bay Area grassroots organizations, with the intention of stopping the SWAT training and weapons expo entirely. From community forums and a national call-in day to an autonomous Buddhist meditation blockade, resistance to Urban Shield peaked on September 5th, when hundreds of protestors reclaimed the streets of downtown Oakland. That day, Mayor Jean Quan cited the controversy we created in the city's decision that Urban Shield would no



Ramsey El-Qare. elqarephotography.com

longer be welcome in Oakland.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Militarism and racism are global problems - our solutions, too, must reach that scale by growing international solidarities.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

In July, WRL members joined delegates from War Resisters' International (WRI) affiliates and allies from around the world in Cape Town, South Africa for Small Actions – Big Movements: The Continuum of Nonviolence. This four day convening, co-hosted by the Ceasefire Campaign, was the first WRI conference held on the African continent. Seizing this historic moment to grow connections between movements in the United States and internationally, WRL created a travel grant to support five additional activists and artists to attend the conference. During business meetings, WRI elected council members and a new Chair, Christine Schweitzer. WRI's council issued statements on the Israeli bombing of Gaza and the crisis in the Ukraine, and conference participants joined demonstrations against Israel's siege and ongoing occupation of Gaza. On this occasion WRI honored the life and work of the late WRI Chair Howard Clark (1950-2013), and launched the updated second edition of the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns. The Cape Town conference also launched the new Pan African Network for Nonviolence and Peace-Building, which has since issued a statement on the Ebola crisis in Western Africa. Since returning from Small Actions – Big Movements, WRL has continued to build international solidarity with climate and labor activists in South Africa and nonviolent resisters struggling for justice in Burundi. In October, WRL hosted a public event in NYC featuring Colombian activists from Red Juvenil Feminista y Antimilitarista and ACOOC: Accion Colectiva de Objecion de Consciencia.

RIGHT TO HEAL

WRL continued our work in support of allies in the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI) and Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), petitioning the United States for reparations from the lasting traumas of war. This international network enabled WRL to provide a rare platform for alternative Iraqi perspectives when, on June 15th, we issued our statement in opposition to threats of United States military escalation against ISIS.

EDUCATION

Education remains vital for sharing the histories, vision, and ongoing strategies of revolutionary nonviolence. WRL produces workshops and publishes literature as resources to support activists and educators in

their local and international organizing. In 2014, WRL received nearly 500 orders from across the United States and beyond; distributing hundreds of books and calendars, thousands of counter-recruitment pamphlets, and tens of thousands of the FY2015 Where Your Income Taxes Really Go leaflet.

WORKSHOPS

This year, WRL collaborated with youth activists from the YA-YA Network to produce Buy One Tank, Get Two Drones Free: The Industry & System of Police Militarization, a popular education workshop designed to connect organizations led by youth of color to our campaign against UASI.

LITERATURE

Published in 2014, WRL's Second Edition of the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns features contributors ranging from the United States and Nepal to Afghanistan and Kenya. The original publication in 2009 has been translated in ten languages and used by resisters around the world. This version offers more articles and exercises, updated case studies, a glossary, and an extensive list of other resources. We are thrilled to announce two new WRL publications in 2015. Over the course of this year, WRL has been working hard on an updated edition of our popular counter-recruitment pamphlet What Every Girl Should Know, featuring new perspectives on gender and gendered violence in the military. This version will be redesigned, with Spanish translations soon to come. In collaboration with Tadween Publishing, we are proud to co-publish Live Embers: Voices from Iraqi Social Movements by WRL Field Organizer Ali Issa, featuring a foreword by Vijay Prashad and an afterward by Haifa Zangana.

WEBSITE

Our website continues to be a resource for updates, statements on current events, articles and back issues of WIN Magazine. This year, WRL issued timely statements on US militarism and ISIS, Israel's bombardment and ongoing occupation of Palestine, and resistance to police militarization in Ferguson and beyond; each grounded in WRL's commitment to revolutionary nonviolence in opposition to all war and state violence. WRL Office Coordinator Linda Thurston has been working tirelessly to supervise the development of a substantially redesigned warresisters.org. Look for it in early 2015.

NONVIOLENCE TRAINING

Nonviolence training across generations is one of many ways that WRL continues to grow connections across a diversity of movements. By training people in the history, principles, tactics and strategies of revolutionary nonviolence, we build the capacity of activists and grass-

roots organizations to take powerful action for transformative change.

TRAINING 4 TRAINERS

On November 14-16, WRL gathered two dozen organizers from across the Northeast at Voluntown Peace Trust in Connecticut for our Training for Trainers (T4T). Participants in the weekend-long training and strategy session included activists from: Nukewatch, AF3IRM, Students for Justice in Palestine, Hearing Youth Voices, Stop the F35, LGBTQ Youth Kickback, and ICE-Free NYC.

NATIONAL OFFICE

TRANSITIONS

In the beginning of 2014, WRL welcomed eight new members to our National Committee. Summer brought changes in WRL's staffing. Organizing Coordinator Kimber Heinz left to continue her studies, and we welcomed Uruj Shekh as our new Development and Membership Associate and Tara Tabassi as National Organizer. Consultants, volunteers and interns who have all been vital in supporting WRL's organizing and operations over the past year include: Tom Leonard, YaliniDream, Liz Proefriedt, Barbara Webster, Marianna Reis, Seelai Karzai, and Leani Auxilio. In the not-so-distant future, we are anticipating that WRL may need to move, after four decades at 339 Lafayette.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Marking the 100th Birthday of longtime war resister and WRL staffer Ralph DiGia, we are pleased to honor Ruth Benn with our second Ralph DiGia Award. Ruth was a staff member of the WRL National Office for over a decade, a longtime member of the New York City local chapter, and the coordinator of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. From developing powerful popular education tools such as the Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes leaflet, to consulting individual war tax resisters and coordinating their efforts as a national strategy, it is truly a difficult task to summarize the breadth of Ruth's contributions to growing the movement to dismantle war and militarism.

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

As for many organizations, these are challenging times for WRL to meet our financial needs in support of our ongoing work. Our most significant source of income remains contributions from supporters and members: individual gifts, monthly and quarterly sustainer gifts that provide ongoing support, and legacy bequests that strengthen our financial base for the future. Many members include WRL in their estate planning, and bequests are divided such that one half is placed into our endowment, which is invested in socially responsible funds.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014

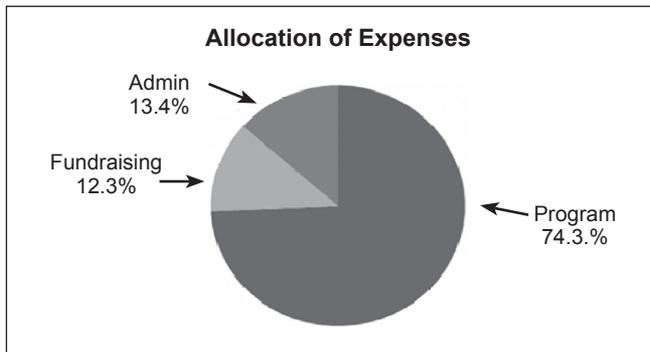
INCOME

Contributions/Grants	238,318
Bequests/Endowment	122,006
Literature/Calendar Sales	14,788
Special Events	46,274
Magazine Subscriptions/Ads	1,762
Misc/Other	14,602
TOTAL INCOME	437,751

EXPENSES

Field Organizing / Movement Building	154,306
Promoting Nonviolent Social Change	112,077
Anti-Militarism/GI Resistance Support	70,778
WIN Magazine	53,600
Literature/Calendar	16,992
Other Program	6,727
Fundraising/Promotion	68,507
Administrative/Office	74,889
TOTAL EXPENSES	557,876

Figures from the most recent fiscal year are not yet audited. You may obtain copies of prior year audited financial statements from the New York State Charities Bureau, 41 State Street, Albany, NY 12207.



SUSTAIN RESISTANCE

“Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For over 90 years, WRL has been able to do all this work and more with ongoing support from our members across the United States and beyond. To sustain and grow our education and organizing tomorrow and in the decades ahead, please give all that you can. We particularly invite you to join as a monthly or quarterly sustainer today: warresisters.org/donatewrl

GROW RESISTANCE!

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VOLUNTEER

warresisters.org/getinvolved



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