VOTE!
ELECTION of AT-LARGE MEMBERS to the WRL NATIONAL COMMITTEE

About the WRL National Committee
The National Committee (NC) is WRL's highest decision-making body. The NC meets twice a year in New York City and at least twice a year by conference call to shape the WRL's programs, policy and direction and set its budget. (The Administrative Coordinating Committee, a subcommittee of the NC, meets monthly in New York City for day-to-day oversight of the operations and staff of the National Office.)

The NC consists of 21 to 24 members, all of whom must be members of WRL, i.e., signers of the WRL pledge:

- **Seven ACC members:** One from each of three standing committees - Finance, Fundraising, and Personnel - and Four at-large members. The ACC can include members from outside New York City.
- **One from each of two WRL Task Forces:** currently International and War Tax Resistance
- **Three to Six Organizing Reps:** At least one person from each of these three categories:
  - **Program reps:** Those working on WRL programs.
  - **Local organizers:** People active with WRL Locals and Affiliates or who serve as Contacts.
  - **Allies:** People who are working with WRL, although WRL is not their primary organization.
- **Nine members elected by the WRL membership:**
  - **Five Regional members:** Midwest, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest
  - **Four members from Frontline communities:** people of color (African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latina/os, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Arab-Americans and others who identify themselves as non-white), women, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTIQ, and survivors of war and conflict and/or those in diasporas of war and conflict.

This ballot is to elect the at-large members from regions and from frontline communities only. Incumbents are designated with an asterisk on their statements and on the ballot. NC terms are three years.

How Were Candidates Chosen?
Nominees were chosen by inviting WRL members, local groups, and NC members to make nominations. All nominees on the ballot have signed the WRL pledge and agreed to serve if elected.

Who May Vote?
Only WRL members should vote. If you are not sure that you are a member and wish to become one, simply indicate "I agree" to the pledge at the end of the online ballot or sign your name at the end of this paper ballot or online.

What If There Is More than One WRL Member at Our Address?
If there is more than one WRL member at your home and you received only one ballot, mark the ballot in different colors of ink or with different symbols for each voter, and indicate when you return it that it represents more than one voter.

Ballot Instructions
Please fill in the ballot and **return by June 17, 2020**. We urge you to vote online, as slower postal mail is a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis. **To vote online:** go to WRL’s website: www.warresisters.org. **Although there are few contested elections this time, we urge you to vote and to consider who you would nominate for the next NC election.**
**Statements of Candidates**

(*) = Incumbent

**LJ Amsterdam (Frontline)**

LJ Amsterdam creates opportunities for folks to take courageous action. As a direct action trainer and a dancer, she believes that our bodies are the building blocks of community power. For over a decade LJ has created making-spaces and mobilizing-spaces for young folks through music, movement, and political education, working with teenagers at various points on the school-to-prison pipeline. She developed Re-Up, a harm reduction organizing project for young drug users and sellers, and co-founded Social Justice Leadership Academy, a summer-long arts and action training for teens. In 2016, she was invited to Standing Rock to “come get the white people” which meant running daily come-correct trainings for non-Native visitors and helping build out national infrastructure to disseminate decolonization resources. She joined the staff at The Ruckus Society only weeks before Trump’s nomination at the Republican National Convention, and spent much of her tenure there building out trainings and resources for community defense, working with About Face: Veterans Against the War to support their membership in translating the skills they learned in the military into demilitarized tools for communities facing increased state and white supremacist violence. Now co-chair of the Board of Directors at About Face, she is excited to bring together her experience working on issues of mass incarceration, militarization, and environmental justice. LJ is a collective member of Mayday Space in Bushwick, Brooklyn, a social movement resource center and organizing hub and currently trains in narrative strategy for the center for Story-Based Strategy.

I would be very humbled and honored to join the team at War Resisters League. The U.S. invasion of Iraq when I was 18 was a defining political experience for me, and even though the antihar/demilitarization movement has ebbed and flowed over the years, I still consider it my movement home. I’ve been working with About Face since the end of 2015 and am very passionate about how to translate “antiwar” work into the political moment were in, a moment where militarization shapes not just political policy, but our most basic community rights to water, land, and bodily safety. Also, as someone who came of age in Occupy Wall St, direct action has been my vocation for nearly a decade and the resources of WRL were extremely important to me and my development. I would love to continue to move that legacy of creative interventions and strategic nonviolent direct action into the future.

**Shruti Bakre (Midwest)**

My name is Shruti Bakre and I currently live and work in Chicago. I would be thrilled about the opportunity to be a part of the War Resisters League National Committee. I’ve been involved and invested in various organizing efforts related to de-militarization in Chicago and beyond. Projects that I am deeply passionate about include ideas of food and land sovereignty and connecting these frameworks and solutions to deepen connection between different struggles. I seek to highlight the effects that war and militarization have on land autonomy and people’s sovereignty. I’ve been organizing with the Stand with Kashmir Chicago chapter and with collectives of South Asian groups around the No NRC and CAA campaigns in India. I want to continue bringing up the necessity for global solidarity, centering those most impacted by U.S. imperialism (communities both inside and outside the U.S.), framing the fight towards ending war as a global struggle, collectively build solutions for autonomy and vision new ways of being without the violence of war, occupation, militarization, prisons or police. It would be incredible to be able to learn from a group that has been doing this work for so long and I’d be deeply grateful to be considered.

**Raed Jarrar (Frontline)**

Raed Jarrar is a bilingual Muslim-American seasoned antivar activist and community organizer. He is half Iraqi and half Palestinian. He lived in Iraq with his family during the U.S. invasion, during which he blogged about his experience to expose the horrors of war to the world and to advocate for an end to U.S. military intervention in the country. After the fall of Baghdad in 2003, Raed founded the only door-to-door civilian casualties survey at the time in Iraq. He also founded Emaar, an NGO that carried out humanitarian and reconstruction work in Baghdad and southern Iraq. Since immigrating to the U.S., he has been an advocate, lobbyist, internationally recognized media pundit and activist for human rights in the Middle East. He is an expert in foreign military financing and 501(c)3 compliance. Over the last decade he was an active volunteer with Architecture for Humanity and the American Red Cross.

**Sarms Jabra (Frontline)**

As a refugee of the Gulf War, I am pleased to apply a frontline board member for the War Resisters League. I respect and admire WRL’s intersectionality and its stance against all forms of oppression. As a board member, I hope to bring my talent as an organizer and strategist to assist WRL is its goals. Having directed various groups, I have learned how to lay out and execute organizational goals. Examples of these goals include setting a record number of programming hours for a radio station, hosting biannual community block parties, and doubling the design team at an arts collective. I helped achieve these goals by organizing my colleagues around specific goals and setting out steps necessary to achieve them. I’ve continued this work as a project manager for the City of Detroit, rehabilitating the entire city’s fuel stations. I have also helped national and regional business outline their goals as a research strategist at a local design studio and as a consultant to social organizations as a Challenge Detroit fellow. What unifies all this experience is taking a holistic and practical approach and a healthy dose of compassion. After all, it is only through unity and empathy that we can form coalitions to achieve massive change. Now, I am most excited to apply my talents to WRL. I am a member of the National Lawyers Guild and served on the Loyola-Chicago chapter’s board while in law school. Furthermore, I am a member of the Iraqi Transnational Collective, where we recently raised hundreds of dollars to support The Organization of Women’s Freedom in Iraq.

**(Rev. Dr.) Werner Lange (Midwest)**

I was born in the rubble that was Germany in the aftermath of World War II. My hatred for war is embedded in my DNA. My political and activist teeth were cut during the dramatic social movements of the 1960s, especially the youth protests against the War in Vietnam. During my undergraduate years at Ohio State University I organized and participated in several antivar protests and after graduation I joined the U.S. Peace Corps malaria eradication program in Thailand. A scholarship enabled me to pursue graduate studies at the University of Frankfurt and later participate in ethnological fieldwork in southwestern Ethiopia resulting in several publications. Upon return to the USA I began a lifelong career teaching sociology at several colleges and continued to publish several books, the most notable being "A Voice in the Wilderness: W.E.B. Du Bois on Peace". During my campaign for U.S. Congress in 2006 I was arrested for civil disobedience protesting the War in Iraq and in 2009 I was part of a delegation of Americans delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza, to just mention two of my numerous peace actions in more recent years. Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy.
Noor Mir (Northeast)
I am a Pakistani immigrant and a resident of DC. My journey into the antiwar organizing world started during the Obama presidency, as U.S. military drones reigned terror upon the tribal communities of Pakistan. I developed strong relationships with Yemeni, Pakistani and Somali survivors of drone warfare, frontline journalists and whistleblowers from the drone operator community. With the Ground the Drones campaign, I was able to build a strong global network that remains strong today. After this, I ran a police accountability, ending gun violence and criminal justice program at Amnesty International USA, where I developed a global solidarity network of mothers who had lost their children to police violence, deployed human rights delegations to Ferguson and Baltimore, and collaborated with WRL on the use of tear gas in prisons. Currently, I am a partner at a worker-owned collective called DC Action Lab, where I focus on consensus-building, training for nonviolent direct action and campaign strategy. I am also the Board co-chair of Collective Action for Safe Spaces, where my focus is on organizational development, staff management, fundraising and strategic planning. I would be honored to serve and bring my passion for nonprofit administration, network building and strategy to grow the work of WRL.

Juan Ortiz (Southwest)
It is hard to quantify or articulate the effect violence as a direct result of American policy has had on my life. Half of what I know is only because I lived it, I survived it. The other half, I learned, and most of my educational journey has been to trace issues directly back to policies and structural inequality. On the border, that isn’t hard to do at all. Drug policy, foreign policy, immigration policy it all plays out here-binationally. In societal and personal ways. Living on the streets of a very distressed community, at such a young age (14) had consequences. By the time I was 17, I was going to be the father of a son I almost never got to see. I was gunned down for reasons that are still unknown to me other than existing in a place and time where that wasn’t uncommon. Only later would I find out the institutional and structural reasons why the border had become the warzone that it is to this day. At that tender age, all you know is that you might not live another day or see it free. War is hell and I, we, live it here every day.

Asha Sawhney (Midwest)
Asha Sawhney is a researcher with the Sikh Research Institute (SikhRI) and an incoming sociology PhD student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she will be researching the ways in which migrant communities stake their role in urban sustainability in South Asia. She is also the editor for a book underway on Iran’s policies towards universities and student movements by Saeid Golkar, a dissident academic at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. As a Sikh, her consistent values are to build leadership models that transcend hierarchy, stand for justice crafted in wisdom-oriented principles, to hold institutions accountable, and to pledge commitment only to the people, not any border or nation-state. Asha holds knowledge on the Indian state’s role in the global military-industrial complex, the previous occupation of Panjab, and the occupation of Kashmir. As a member of the Iranian Sikh diaspora community, she has a vested interest in a movement against U.S. economic sanctions that centers Iranian liberation first and foremost, from both international and state repression. Unlearning the focus on nation-state level narratives is her passion, evidenced by her thesis on the Afghan Sikh community that dispelled self-serving narratives by Afghanistan, India, the United States, and UK alike.

Nathan Sheard (Northwest)*
Originally from New York, Nathan “nash” Sheard moved to San Francisco in 2017, where he serves as the Associate Director of Community Organizing for the Electronic Frontier Foundation. A long-time admirer of War Resisters League’s work, nash became engaged with WRL while leading a police demilitarization campaign for a national peace organization that partnered with WRL in successfully campaigning to evict Urban Shield training exercises from the Bay Area city of Oakland. Having viewed the results of aggressive and militarized policing—backed by U.S. tax dollars—in the U.S., Palestine, and Honduras; and as a target of racial profiling, biased broken windows policing, and police brutality in his own life; nash has worked extensively to help activists and communities mitigate the damage of harmful interaction with law enforcement and is committed to fighting state-sanctioned violence in the U.S. and abroad.

Brian Terrell (Midwest)
I am pleased that my friend Rosalie Riegel has nominated me for a spot on the War Resisters League’s National Committee. I have been a peace activist since 1975, when I dropped out of school in Wisconsin to join the Catholic Worker in New York. I continue to live on a Catholic Worker farm in Maloy, Iowa, about half the time. For the past 10 years or so I have been a co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. Until this year, I was also on the council of the Nevada Desert Experience. Other groups I have worked with include Witness Against Torture, Upstate Drone Action Coalition, Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, World Beyond War, the Plowshare movement. My work with Voices has brought me to Afghanistan many times. I have participated in peace actions in Germany, UK, Iraq, Bahrain, Korea, Honduras, Palestine, Ireland, Puerto Rico and have maintain relationships in many of those places. At this crucial time in history, I welcome opportunities to meet and work with communities engaged in resisting war, racism, economic exploitation, climate crisis, hyper-incarceration, sexism and find hope in a rising understanding of the interconnectedness of these issues.

YaliniDream (Frontline)
YaliniDream would bring to WRL’s NC over 20 years experience as a cultural worker, consultant and organizer in antiwar, anti-violence and racial, gender, and economic justice movements. With an allegiance to Black Liberation and Indigenous Sovereignty, Yalini is rooted in ending the full continuum of violence and exploitation, from the intimate to the global. Yalini utilizes creative practice for dignity, organizing and healing with communities contending with violence and oppression and is also an experienced consultant in leadership development, facilitation, base building, logistics, curriculum development, conflict navigation, and strategic visioning. Of Hankai Tamil Descent, Yalini has worked in solidarity with war-impacted and persecuted communities in the North and East of Sri Lanka, taking the difficult position of questioning all armed actors and ethno-nationalisms in order to cultivate a people–centered, pluralistic, anti-caste, feminist vision of Tamil liberation. As a consultant through Vision Change Win, YaliniDream has worked with organizations such as youth organization BreakOUT!, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Arab American Association of New York, New Era Colorado, Dalit Women Fight, The National Lawyers Guild, Jewish Voice for Peace, Voices for Racial Justice, the Transgender Law Center, Borealís Philanthropy, The North Star Fund, and more.
BALLOT

Frontline Communities (vote for 4)
__ LJ Amsterdam
__ Sarms Jabra*
__ Raed Jarrar
__ YaliniDream

Geographic Areas (vote for one from each region)
__ Shruti Bakre (Midwest)
__ (Rev. Dr.) Werner Lange (Midwest)
__ Asha Sawhney (Midwest)
__ Brian Terrell (Midwest)
__ Noor Mir (Northeast)
__ Nathan Sheard (Northwest)*
__ Juan Ortiz (Southwest)

There are no candidates for the Southeast.

There is no need to sign your name to the ballot if you are a member of WRL. If you are not sure that you are a member, consider the statement below, sign if you agree, and return with your ballot. To vote online, go to WRL’s website: www.warresisters.org.

WRL Statement of Purpose
The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all causes of war.

Signature______________________________

If you are not on our mailing list or your address has changed (please print):

Name _________________________________

Address _______________________________

City/State/Zip __________________________

Phone _________________________________

Email _________________________________

Return by June 17, 2020
Ballot, War Resisters League, 168 Canal St, Suite 600. New York, NY 10013

(or vote online: www.warresisters.org)