

Congress 2018 practical information: website, registration, travel, agenda and more

Dear sisters,

We hope that this finds you well and we look forward to seeing many of you in Accra for the WILPF Congress this August. We are 4 months away!

We are writing to share several practical pieces of information to support your preparations for the Congress.

The content of this letter as well as a detailed agenda, supporting materials, further travel and accommodation information, and more, are available on the **Congress website** on myWILPF: <https://www.mywilpf.org/congress/>

Access: Login with your myWILPF account. If you do not have an account or have forgotten your password, email membership@wilpf.org.

1. Theme of the Congress

This Congress is another milestone for WILPF being three years after the Centennial Congress in the Hague and the first Congress to be hosted by an African Section. The theme of this Congress is **Building a Feminist Peace Movement**, and the Agenda will include inspiring speakers and participants from WILPF and discussion will focus on key issues to take WILPF forward. Preparation for Congress have been happening for months already. To get a recap, see the supporting documents and webinars available on the Congress website.

2. Agenda and dates

In addition to the Congress, we are also organising a series of events. We suggest participants to arrive by the 17 August, especially if you wish to attend pre-conference activities. Below the preliminary schedule:

Saturday 18 August: Feminist Peace Movement - Africa. A pre-Congress conference open to all WILPF delegates and members. "Feminist Peace Movement in Africa" will be a special one-day conference that will look at the historic and current realities of women working for peace across Africa, especially within conflict-affected communities. We will come together to discuss the root causes of violence and women's role in social transformation, economic justice and peace. It will also have space for connections between African and global causes and movements.

More information coming soon on the Congress website. Please note that this event will have an independent registration process.

Sunday 19 August: International Board and ExCom meeting and Gertrud Baer seminar in the afternoon

Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 August: International Congress (open to members of the International Board, WILPF Section delegates and alternates, WILPF National Groups, and paid-up members).

Thursday 23 August: combined ExCom / Incoming International Board meeting

Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 August: New International Board training session
Saturday 25 August (afternoon): International Board meeting

3. Venue and catering

The Congress will take place at the University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana. Please note that morning and afternoon tea, as well as lunch will be provided throughout the Congress (dinner excluded).



4. Registration

The Congress **registration fee** is \$200 (USD) and covers the cost of venue hire and catering.

The registration to attend the Congress will open on 25 April and payment will be processed through PayPal.

All members of WILPF can register to attend. Registration is important for planning and issuing visa support letters.

Deadline for registration is 15 June 2018.

5. Travel arrangements

Flights should be booked directly by each participant. We recommend checking Skyscanner.net, a flight comparison website, for the best connections and deals from where you are flying from.

WILPF Ghana has put together a suggested list of **accommodation** in and near the Congress venue. This list is available on the the Congress website and it will be updated as new recommended options are made available.

Proof of **yellow fever vaccination** is required for entry into Ghana. Malaria risk is high throughout the year in all areas, and thus antimalarials are usually advised. For more information, consult your doctor or this website: <https://bit.ly/2HgaVUU>

When planning your travel arrangements, please remember that Congress and related meetings will be held from 18 August but official Congress dates are 20-22 August.

VISA

Most delegates will require an **invitation letter**, which will be coordinated between WILPF Ghana and WILPF International Secretariat. We will provide invitation letters to all participants that have registered.

For international travel, all travellers will need a passport, valid for at least 90 days following your departure date. However, we strongly recommend traveling with six months validity on your passport at all times.

It is also recommended that your valid passport have at least two unused pages remaining, for any necessary entry and exit stamps that may be issued. It is also a good idea to review the number of pages and validity remaining in your passport well in advance of any overseas travel.

To apply for an entry visa, you should go to the nearest diplomatic representation of Ghana, be it a consulate, High Commission or an embassy.

Visas are typically valid for 3 months from moment of issue.

6. About Ghana

This is the first WILPF Congress hosted by an African Section. Here is a little information about Ghana.

Ghana has ranking of 69 / 153 on the [Women, Peace and Security Index](#). It has 13 % Women's Share of Parliament Seats. Ghana voted for the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, signed on 24th September 2013, and ratified on 22 December 2015. In 2016, \$162 million was spent by Ghana on its military. Ghana's National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security does not include a specific budget for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Due to the adverse impacts on women from the civil conflicts and Ghana's discriminatory traditions and customs, Ghana's peace activists continue to advocate for greater implementation of national and international agendas on women's equality and empowerment.

WILPF Ghana has worked on peace education, nonviolence, elections, women, peace and security and disarmament. Learn about WILPF Ghana work on the recent We are WILPF Webinar: <https://bit.ly/2HwJ5TH>

You can find more about Ghana, including getting around (to and from airport), health, local transport and money on the Congress website.

7. Funding for Congress

As per our Constitution, the Secretariat has raised some funds to support our members travelling to the Congress. However, please keep in mind that this fund is very limited. More information is listed below along with other options for support.

- **Self funding.** In past Congresses, the vast majority of delegates and members have generously self-funded or conducted fundraising activities locally to sustain their participation at Congress.
- **National Sections**, where possible, can fund their own delegates, alternates, and their elected International Board members.
- **Kay Camp grants for active young WILPF members (age 35 and under)**
Read the guidelines to apply for the grant: <https://wilpf.org/kay-camp-fund-wilpf/>

Deadline to apply: 15 May

- **WILPF Travel Fund for Congress**
WILPF is opening a limited Travel Fund to assist members in special circumstances to attend the International Congress. Special circumstances means Sections or members cannot fund their travel, due to in-country circumstances that relate to. i.e. widespread poverty, conflict, occupation, etc. Consideration will be given to Sections coming from situations/countries affected by conflict. In order to qualify for travel assistance to Congress, Sections must be in good standing (paid Section Fee for the past two years and have 10 or more active members). Please note that the Travel Fund is meant to cover the travel assistance for visa costs, plane fare and other transportation. The Travel Fund is not meant to provide full financial coverage for members' participation at Congress.

The Fund will be administered by the ExCom.

Applications must be submitted through your Section and be signed by the President or other elected officer of the Section.

Download the Travel Fund application here: <https://web.tresorit.com/#YcekJlInx-dXL8l6uVdfjg>

Please email your completed application to zala.zbogar@wilpf.org.

Deadline to Apply: May 15th

- **Supporting Sister Sections - Donations**
There will be some additional sponsored support for some members related to specific sister Sections projects and other ongoing projects, including for WILPF African groups. International Secretariat will help coordinate these.

To ensure that everyone who wants to come can attend, we are also asking members and Sections to consider making a donation to support sister-Sections' participation. During previous Congresses, Sections have supported each other's

participation by generously providing donations which have allowed the diverse participation of many Sections and which has been of great help to the success of the Congress.

To do so, please contact zala.zbogar@wilpf.org to arrange the donation. Every contribution counts!

8. Contact details

If you have any questions, please contact Zala Žbogar, the Congress Coordinator at zala.zbogar@wilpf.org

If you have any doubts, please do not hesitate to contact us!

In solidarity,

WILPF International Secretariat & WILPF Ghana