

War Resisters' International staff and  
executive report May 2020- June 2021

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WRI Internal</b>	<b>4</b>
E-council 2020	4
Welcoming new affiliates	4
Executive	5
Office	5
Staff	5
Volunteers and Interns	5
Social Media	5
Facebook	5
Twitter	6
Instagram	6
Youtube	6
Vimeo	6
<b>WRI 100</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WRI Programmes</b>	<b>7</b>
Right to Refuse to Kill (RRtK) Programme	7
Countries	7
Turkey	7
Greece	7
Publications	7
CO-Alerts	7
CO-Update	8
UN Submissions	8
CONCODOC Updates	8
Events	8
Webinar Series	8
International Conscientious Objection Day	9
Prisoners for Peace Day	9
RRtK Committee	9
Funding	9
Evaluation	10
Nonviolence Programme	10
Militarised policing	10
Online mapping resource	10
West Papua website	10
Seminars	11
Articles and publications	11
Empowering Nonviolence	11
Constructive Programme	11
War Profiteers News	12
Plans for the future	12

Countering the Militarisation of Youth	12
<b>Publications</b>	<b>12</b>
Broken Rifle	12
War Resisters' Stories	13
Specific Programme Publications	13
War Resisters in Waging Nonviolence website	13
War Resisters' International Executive Committee Statements	13
<b>WRI in the Regions</b>	<b>13</b>
RAMALC	13
European Network	15
Asia	16
PANPEN	17
Introduction	17
Achievements	17
Future plans, challenges and the way forward	18
Conclusion	18
<b>Finances and fundraising</b>	<b>19</b>
2021 Budget for approval	20
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>22</b>

# 1. Introduction

This report includes the actions, challenges and plans made until May 31, 2021. These are the inputs to see what has been done in the middle of the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

100 years of action and resistance, transforming realities from the local and regional to the global level. 100 years of history and learning, being grateful to each contribution and people that have added to our history that welcomes our commitment to a world without war.

Despite the difficulty of meeting as much as we wanted, this time has allowed us to explore virtuality, working as a network, reflecting and discussing in virtual spaces, producing documents that include more perspectives and experiences of nonviolent resistance.

We find here the opportunity to open new channels so we communicate our struggles, the collective and articulated creation of campaigns, the strengthening of periodical publications and the solidarity actions for each territory where the WRI is present.

Today, we can say that the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought us has also brought us the certainty to continue creating ways to resist war and all its causes.

Welcome to this annual report, a reflection of our collective momentum.

## 2. WRI Internal

### 2.1. E-council 2020

War Resisters' International Council met electronically between 1st and 10th May. The meeting was held on the online platform Loomio and via a number of Zoom calls and was attended by our network from across the globe. During the E-Council, we discussed WRI programmes and finances, WRI's 100th anniversary, our publications as well as our network's responses to the militarisation of the pandemic.

### 2.2. Welcoming new affiliates

At our e-Council, we have also accepted two new affiliates to our global network, the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement from Ukraine, Collective Action of Conscientious Objectors (ACOOC) from Colombia.

**Український Рух Пацифістів ("The Ukrainian Pacifist Movement")** is a non-governmental, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization which aims to promote the right

to peace, disarmament, the abolition of conscription, nonviolent resolution of conflicts, and democratic civilian control over military affairs.

**Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objektoras de Conciencia ("Collective Action of Conscientious Objectors")** is a non-profit organization, which promotes the construction of alternatives to militarism, patriarchy and forced recruitment; through the promotion of nonviolence and the fundamental right to conscientious objection.

## 2.3. Executive

The WRI Executive, consisting of Estefania Gómez, Koldobi Velasco, Igor Seke, Subhash Chandra Kattel, Hülya Üçpınar, and Sergeiy Sandler (Treasurer), continues to meet every month via Zoom. The Exec could not meet in person during 2020 due to restrictions in international travel but organised a number of longer online meetings replacing face-to-face meetings. These took place in March, June, September and December 2020, as well as in March 2021. In addition, all Exec members participate in at least one WRI working and task group.

## 2.4. Office

### 2.4.1. Staff

At present, Andrew Metheven works three days a week on the [Nonviolence](#) programme, Natalia Garcia, based in Bogota, Colombia, works full time on the [Right to Refuse to Kill](#) programme. Semih Sapmaz has worked freelance in projects related to both the [Countering the Militarisation of Youth](#) and Right to Refuse to Kill programmes.

### 2.4.2. Volunteers and Interns

In October 2020, Georgios Karatzas from Greece started working as an intern as part of our Right to Refuse Kill Programme. Georgios, based in Athens, has contributed to our World Survey of Conscription and Conscientious Objection, worked on a number of reports to the UN as well as supporting COs in Greece.

### 2.4.3. Social Media

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.

#### Facebook

Find us at [facebook.com/pg/warresistersint/](https://facebook.com/pg/warresistersint/). We now have over 6,000 followers. Our most popular posts this year concerned International Conscientious Objection Day, calls for support for COs imprisoned, and our posts from our monthly publication War Profiteers News.

## Twitter

You can find WRI at [twitter.com/warresistersint](https://twitter.com/warresistersint). We now have over 6,800 followers and post updates and content regularly. In 2019, we introduced a new twitter account posting only in Spanish. You can follow it here [https://twitter.com/irg\\_es](https://twitter.com/irg_es).

## Instagram

In 2018 we started an Instagram account where we are posting photos and videos from our events, as well as bits from our daily work. You can follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/warresistersint/](https://www.instagram.com/warresistersint/).

## Youtube

In 2020, together with Connection e.V., we have started a new youtube channel, Refuse to Kill, where we collect content on conscientious objection to military service, including recordings from our webinars and testimonies by conscientious objectors. You can access our channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0WZGT6i5HO14oLAug2n0Nw>

## 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](https://vimeo.com/user4456636).

## 3. WRI 100

This year we are commemorating 100 years since WRI's foundation. In March to highlight our founding date, we encouraged WRI supporters and affiliates to share Broken Rifles across social media. We upload to our website [some of the versions and designs](#) of the Broken Rifle.

Also, to commemorate this important date, Roberta Bacic - a previous WRI staff member who now works on the [Conflict Textiles](#) project - curated, with assistance from Breege Doherty, [an online exhibition of arpilleras](#) that can be found on the WRI's website. We also organised a launching event to present some of the pieces that were selected for the collection. You can watch it [here](#).

On our website, we put up [a timeline](#) highlighting a few of the key events that illustrate how our organisation has changed and grown since we were formed in 1921.

We are working on a number of events and activities (online for now) to mark this important date and we are hoping that the network continues organising autonomous local events throughout the year.

## 4. WRI Programmes

### 4.1. Right to Refuse to Kill (RRtK) Programme

This year we have explored new ways of doing the programme work virtually and in cooperation and coordination with other organisations and WRI affiliates.

#### 4.1.1. Countries

##### Turkey

One of the highlights of this year has been our increasing cooperation with COs from Turkey. In May 2020, we made a submission, together with Conscientious Objection Association Turkey and some international organisations, to the Committee of Ministers (CoM) of the Council of Europe about the situation of COs in Turkey. Following our submission, the CoM released a decision asking Turkey to take steps recognising the right to conscientious objection immediately and submit them a concrete action plan on the subject.

We are also part of an international working group supporting the work of Conscientious Objection Association Turkey, including facilitating their lobby work in Europe, translating and circulating their publications, organising online events with them and more generally, helping them to create international pressure on the Turkish Government regarding conscientious objection.

##### Greece

We have been supporting the cases of 3 COs in Greece as part of the work of our intern based in Athens. This includes organising international solidarity for the case of conscientious objector KK, who were facing criminal charges for his conscientious objection and recently got acquitted; the case of conscientious objector M.T. (at the European Court of Human Rights); and the case of conscientious objector H.V. (at Greece's Supreme Administrative Court).

#### 4.1.2. Publications

##### CO-Alerts

The RRtK programme continues to support individual COs from different countries. [We released CO-Alerts](#) calling for support for Brayan Gonzales from Colombia, Hallel Rabin from Israel, Osmel Adrian from Cuba and Ruslan Kotsaba from Ukraine. None of these

COs is in prison at the moment. Among those Kotsaba's case continues with new trials and we continue to work closely with Ukrainian Pacifist Movement to organise international solidarity for his case.

#### CO-Update

The [CO-Update newsletter](#) continues to be published every two-to-three 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.

#### UN Submissions

We have also made two submissions to the UN. In December 2020, [we submitted a report](#) to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section on discrimination against conscientious objectors. The report is to be used for an anti-discrimination guideline produced by OHCHR. In March 2021, we [made a submission regarding the situation of COs in Greece](#) for Greece's Universal Periodic Review. Also, in March 2021, we have written a letter to the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief regarding ongoing rights violations of COs in many countries as well as updating him about COs who are in prison at the moment.

#### CONCODOC Updates

We also continued updating our World Survey of Conscription and Conscientious Objection (CONCODOC) as part of the work of our intern based in Athens. We have recently updated the information on Greece ([EN](#)), Finland ([EN](#)), Paraguay ([ES/EN](#)) and Colombia ([ES](#)). We are currently working on the updates of Turkey and Switzerland which will be available within June and July this year. We are also working on the translations into Spanish, German and French of the countries listed above.

#### 4.1.3. Events

##### Webinar Series

Our webinar series Campaigning for Conscientious Objection to Military Service, coordinated together with Quaker United Nations Office and International Fellowship of Reconciliation is another highlight of the recent months.

The webinar series particularly targets campaigners working in the field and aims to inform them about different strategies and tactics they can use in their work. Each event, organised in English and Spanish, were attended by campaigners, conscientious objectors (COs) and peace activists interested in the subject from across the world. So far, we have organised 4 events covering the subjects of strategic litigation, using the UN

human rights system, raising public awareness on conscientious objection, and international solidarity (linked to 15th May, International Conscientious Objection Day). We had speakers including campaigners from WRI's network from Colombia, South Korea, Greece, Cyprus, Finland, Israel and Turkey as well as experts in the field and from the UN.

#### International Conscientious Objection Day

In 2020, on International Conscientious Objection Day [we had a particular focus on the right to asylum of COs](#). Despite the different forms of persecution, they're facing, COs are usually denied their right to asylum. As part of our campaign, coordinated together with Connection e.V. from Germany, we collected some video testimonies from COs who sought asylum in different countries and circulated them as part of a social media action. Later in May 2020, we also organised a webinar on the subject with campaigners in the field which was attended by tens of COs and activists. All videos, including presentations from this webinar, are available on our YouTube channel [Refuse to Kill](#). Conscientious objection and asylum continue to be a subject of interest in our work (this month, we're releasing a new publication on the experiences of COs from Turkey who are in exile at the moment as asylum seekers).

In 2021, [we focused on Turkey](#) as part of which we organised a webinar launching a new report on the situation of COs in Turkey and Turkey's obligations under international law, produced a publication with Turkish COs in exile and organise an online action raising awareness on the situation of COs in Turkey.

#### Prisoners for Peace Day

On [Prisoners for Peace Day 2020](#), we updated the Prisoners for Peace lists and encouraged our followers to write to prisoners for peace and conscience in other countries.

##### 4.1.4. RRtK Committee

The Right to Refuse to Kill programme committee continues to meet regularly. It currently consists of Rachel Brett (Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva), Igor Seke (from Mexico/Serbia), Sergey Sandler (New Profile, Israel), Semih Sapmaz and Natalia García. We usually meet via conference call every four-to-six weeks. This year, due to the pandemic we haven't been able to meet in person, but we can have a chance to meet soon if the situation improves.

##### 4.1.5. Funding

We have successfully renewed the funding cycle from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) until April 2023.

#### 4.1.6. Evaluation

##### **Achievements**

- We continued to work closely with our affiliates and conscientious objectors to support them and respond to their needs.
- The webinar series and collaborations with close partners.

##### **Challenges**

- We needed to cancel our gathering of conscientious objectors and campaigners planned to take place in Seoul in September 2020.
- We were also hoping to organise a visit to Morocco, to make connections with youth and human rights groups concerned with the reintroduction of conscription there. We needed to postpone our plans in relation to Morocco with Covid-19 restrictions.
- We also could not have any physical Right to Refuse to Kill Committee meeting during last year. We are hoping we will be able to have one later this year depending on the restrictions for international travel.

## 4.2. Nonviolence Programme

This year has been an exciting, fulfilling and busy year for the Nonviolence Programme, despite the pandemic and all the challenges that this presented.

### 4.2.1. Militarised policing

#### Online mapping resource

We have continued to sustain our online mapping resource, which is available at [www.wri-irg.org/police](http://www.wri-irg.org/police). The tool had a significant upgrade this year which makes it more accessible and user friendly. The map allows us to compile instances of militarised policing around the world in one place and now allows us to easily mark companies that manufacture weapons and equipment that we have profiled as a “war profiteer of the month” in War Profiteers News.

#### West Papua website

Over the last year, we have been working closely with our friends in the Make West Papua Safe campaign, researching the weapons being used by the Indonesian police and military in West Papua, and the police and military bodies around the world. The majority of the work on this project has now been completed, and we are looking to publish it in August 2021. The website will allow users to identify specific weapons systems, the police and military bodies in Indonesia who use them, the company that manufactures them, and, in some cases, specific instances of violence in West Papua where the weapon has been used. We have liaised with researchers and activists around

the world, and we hope the website will be a key resource for the Make West Papua Safe campaign.

### Seminars

In early 2021 we organised a number of seminars bringing participants together to share experiences and resistance to militarised policing in their own context and explore opportunities for strategic organising together in the future. We will look for opportunities to continue organising this group together in the future.

### Articles and publications

This year, Andrew has written a number of articles for other publications and websites. In late 2020 he wrote an article on militarised policing for a publication produced by WRI's Czech affiliate NESEHNUTÍ, about arms exports to Mexico.

Andrew also wrote an article for the Transnational's Institute's "State of Power" report, which focused on coercive state forces, military spending, prisons, surveillance, and border agencies. Andrew's piece again focused on militarised policing, exploring this theme from a systemic, antimilitarist perspective. The extended essay [is available here](#).

We have also published - as part of The Broken Rifle - an interview with Jennifer Wickham, the media liaison for the Gidimt'en camp. The Gidimt'en "reoccupation camp" is sited on Wet'suwet'en territory in Canada, and has been set up in resistance to plans to construct a fracked gas pipeline across the territory without permission from the First Nations elders. The community has faced a militarised response from the police and company which we documented as part of the Broken Rifle focus on the environment and militarism.

#### 4.2.2. Empowering Nonviolence

We continue to look for opportunities to publish n new articles on our Empowering Nonviolence, but this hasn't been as significant an element of our work this year. We have published one new article, an interview with a representative from the [Save Sinjajevina campaign in Montenegro](#).

#### 4.2.3. Constructive Programme

We have been working on a new book about "constructive programme" style actions for a number of years now, with WRI's Nonviolence Programme Committee leading on the editorial process. Significant work has now taken place on this, as we are nearing having a completed "first draft" manuscript. This work has taken a significant amount of time. Much of this is because we are working through new concepts where relatively little other work has been done.

#### 4.2.4. War Profiteers News

War Profiteers News is our monthly e-magazine focused on the arms trade and other forms of war profiteering, published on a monthly basis in English and Spanish. The format is, generally speaking, 4-6 articles on different aspects of (such as a particular arms deal, a campaign success, a new report, or some other piece of news), as well as a more general "war profiteer of the month", a company profile focusing on the activities of a specific company.

We have continued to publish this year, covering the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the arms trade and on arms fairs. We also use War Profiteers News to cover examples of weapons being used around the world - for example, the use of weapons used against protesters, migrants, and others in [Colombia](#), [Myanmar](#), [Thailand](#), [Chile](#), [Greece](#), and [the USA](#). We hope to continue this avenue of work in the future.

#### 4.2.5. Plans for the future

Over the next few years, we are hoping to find ways to sustain and grow the established pieces of work. For example, we are exploring opportunities to hire a number of researchers/writers in Asia and Latin America to contribute regularly to War Profiteers News. We also hope to sustain and grow our involvement in the Make West Papua Safe campaign, hopefully by hiring a campaigner who can support the growth of the campaign in Europe. A key question for the programme is - what are our movements needs around training and resources on nonviolence? Answering this question would help us to strategise around these areas of the Nonviolence Programme in the coming months.

### 4.3. Countering the Militarisation of Youth

Due to the pandemic conditions, we had limited activities as part of the programme this year. From September 2019 until September 2020, Quaker Peace and Social Witness Peaceworker Jen Harrison worked under the programme for 2,5 days a week. With the start of the pandemic, WRI office got closed in April and Jen needed to work remotely for almost half of her placement, which affected our work plan. As part of her placement, Jen made connections with multiple youth groups within the UK as well as working on a booklet on video games and militarisation, which is to be published within this year.

#### 4.3.1 International Week of Action Against the Militarisation of Youth

In relation to the challenging conditions of the pandemic in many countries (and related shifts in the priorities of many of our affiliates), we needed to cancel the week of action this year. We are currently evaluating whether we'll organise the week this year.

### 4.3.2 Antimiliyouth-net

Our website antimili-youth.net continues to be active. We are currently strategising how to improve its content. We are open for contributions and suggestions. You can contact us via [cmoy@wri-irg.org](mailto:cmoy@wri-irg.org) or [natalia@wri-irg.org](mailto:natalia@wri-irg.org) for any correspondence regarding the website.

### 4.3.3 Staff

From April 2021, Natalia Garcia has started working for Countering the Militarisation of Youth Programme 2 days a week. Semih Sapmaz has worked in a freelance capacity.

### 4.3.4 Future plans

We are currently working to complete the video games booklet that Jen worked on during her placement. Meanwhile, we are planning a new publication on gang recruitment focusing on the Latin American context particularly. We are also making connections with different youth groups campaigning for peace and against arms trade across different countries with whom we'll share information about and interviews with on antimili-youth.net.

## 5. Publications

### 5.1. 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

The Broken Rifle #112 "Women, Gender and Antimilitarism" included a number of articles where we could explore and reflect on how important feminist and women's struggle are in the analysis of social movements, including antimilitarism.

For The Broken Rifle #113 "Militarised responses to the Covid-19 pandemic" we reached out to activists around the world, asking them to describe the diverse ways that the Covid-19 lockdowns were militarised arguing that the militarised responses to the Covid-19 pandemic show how deeply embedded militarism has become.

The Broken Rifle #114 "Environment, climate, and militarism" we included articles that explored the link between militarism and climate crisis and discussed why our movements of peace and ecological justice should work together to respond to it.

## 5.2. War Resisters' Stories

War Resisters' Stories is a short monthly bulletin of news from the WRI network. Each month it contains three to six 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.

## 5.3. Specific Programme Publications

The programme specific publications have been mentioned in their respective programme reports, but here we will list them once more:

Right to Refuse to Kill:

- CO-Update
- CO-Alert

Nonviolence Programme:

- War Profiteers News
- Empowering Nonviolence

## 5.4. War Resisters in Waging Nonviolence website

Since February 2020 we have been publishing content on the community page War Resisters in Waging Nonviolence website. [War Resisters](#) is a joint page shared by War Resisters International and War Resisters League highlighting pressing antiwar topics of today.

## 5.5. War Resisters' International Executive Committee Statements

In 2020, WRI's exec committee and the staff released three declarations in solidarity with peace activists and in response to specific country crises. You can find these statements [here](#).

# 6. WRI in the Regions

## 6.1. RAMALC

During the last year, the Latin American and Caribbean Antimilitarist Network (RAMALC) has produced content related to the militarization of the region, with a special emphasis on the militarization situation derived from the Covid19 pandemic. This content has been shared through our communication channels, our website and

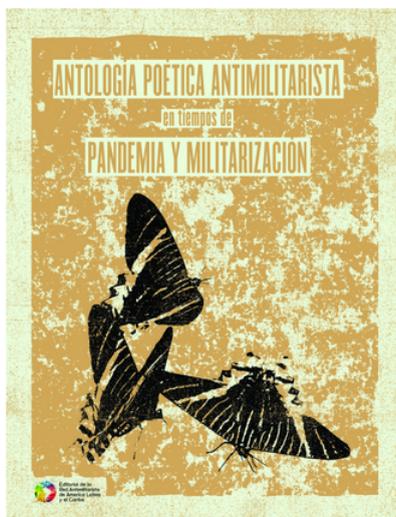


social media. It is worth highlighting the release of the [Covid-19 report and militarization of societies in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), which shows the various forms of militarization resulting from the pandemic situation in the region and is also a call to not give up social spaces to militarization and to be aware of how this militarization is happening in our communities.

The 16 entries on RAMALC's website show the strengthening of our content production capacity, content that is also shared on social media. This is a channel of action and echo, to make visible and denunciate various forms of militarization in the region and the different actions that have been carried out from each territory, in addition to different events that have happened virtually. An example of this is the participation of RAMALC in the Virtual Antimilitarist Festival organised in Colombia on May 15, 2020. RAMALC also has collectively produced a sound piece and a graphic image that aimed to recognize militarism as the real virus that worries us even beyond the pandemic reality. In Bolivia, the organizations were active in making visible militarization as a response to social protest, as well as the obstacles for young people to their right of conscientious objection.

Likewise, statements and declarations have been published regarding different situations, [such as the threats and danger of Provea activists in Venezuela](#), and [media support to Andrea Ixchú in Guatemala](#). Other statements released were not related to the risk of RAMALC members, such as [the denunciation of the entry of U.S. troops into Colombian territory](#).

In Chile propaganda against the curfew and the presence of the military in the streets was made (some posters are attached). We have organized and participated in different campaigns for the freedom of the political prisoners of the revolt and organized a discussion against political imprisonment. We actively participated in the Providencia Memory Site in the city of Antofagasta, and in the eviction of the space by the Chilean police.



During 2020 an open call was made at a regional level to create an [Antimilitarist Poetic Anthology](#) in times of pandemic and militarization, which was launched in August 2020. We are in the process of getting the printed version, as well as its second version in 2021. With this Poetic Anthology, RAMALC intends to give to show the militarization promoted by governments and those who have. The anthology includes the texts of 29 people.

Since 2020 RAMALC officially participates in a network in Colombia called "Movimiento Antimilitarista de Colombia" (Antimilitarist



Movement of Colombia). Taking into account the protests that Colombia has been experiencing since April 28th, RAMALC has been part of different actions organised by the Antimilitarist Movement in Colombia. On May 7, some people and organizations of RAMALC gathered in front of the embassies of their countries to deliver a letter demanding the dismantling of the Anti-Riot Squad (ESMAD), a police force that has killed with impunity more than 20 young people in Colombia. In this scenario, we contributed to the writing [of a background article that delves into what is happening in Colombia](#), published by the Latin American analysis magazine Crisis.

Finally, since March 2021, we have focused on a regional project funded by Karibu that has allowed us to organise several actions simultaneously in different territories and support local initiatives. This project includes the call out, edition and publication of a new issue of our magazine "Rompiendo Filas", the production and publication of a musical compilation that has antimilitarist contents and that have been produced in the region. This project also includes the intervention through murals in 4 countries, the development of a webinar series from the relationship between militarism and patriarchy in 3 countries, the bio-construction of meeting space in a rural community near Bogota, the publication of a research document on militarism in Colombia, the updating of RAMALC's website, a series of live sessions that in the framework of the of WRI's 100th anniversary proposes a conversation on the diverse experiences of antimilitarist resistance in Latin America and the Caribbean called "Esporas de Saberes" (Spores of Knowledge).

## 6.2. European Network

The last virtual meeting was in 2019, with the participation of NESEHUTI (Czech Republic) WRI, Ofog, Vredesactie, Agir pour la Paix and Alternativa Antimilitarista.Moc. During this meeting, it was proposed to continue sharing actions, common campaigns and to find possible joint actions or tasks.

In the 2020 E-Council, we agreed to have a meeting to present the actions we are developing and to find a joint path. Two of the facilitators made an article, called "Demilitarizing Europe from the European Antimilitarist Network: Nonviolent direct actions in the heart of the origin of wars" for the book *Pacifists in Action*, where we briefly shared information of the European Antimilitarist Network. In this text, we report that activists from all over Europe, sometimes from the European Antimilitarist Network, with the participation of several organizations from WRI have organized actions in Brussels, UK and France, to try to disrupt, block and expose EU policies that produce inequality, death and environmental destruction. From disrupting arms lobby events and free trade agreement negotiations to occupying corporate lobby offices and broadcasting radio programs, blocking the NATO summit, to blocking arms fairs. There is a rich history of international direct action in Brussels.

The network shares an e-mail list: [euroantimilinet@lists.wri-irg.org](mailto:euroantimilinet@lists.wri-irg.org); in this list, we share actions and information of each group and share information of networks in which organizations of the network participate. During the last year, the email list hasn't been used much.

We have not met as a group, but WRI affiliates have participated in different campaigns:

- Abolish Frontex: The campaign soon to be launched brings together different organizations to work against the militarization of borders.
- ENAAT (European Network Against Arms Trade): It's an informal network of peace groups that are working through research, publications, lobbying and public campaigns. We see the arms trade as a threat to peace, security and development, and the arms industry as a driving force behind the growing arms trade.
- NoEUMoney4Arms/EU Campaign: Don't invest in arms: <https://act.wemove.eu/campaigns/ue-no-inviertas-en-armas>
- Actions against arms fairs in different parts of the European continent.
- Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is an alliance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to ban fully autonomous weapons and maintain humane control over the use of force. <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/about/?lang=es>
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) <https://www.icanw.org/>
- Global Campaign Against Military Spending.

We will resume if the coordination is intertwined through the active campaigns or if we take up our own space in the Network.

### 6.3. Asia

In July 2020, Yong-suk Lee and Jungmin Choi from World Without War attended the WRI RRtK meeting and updated the situation in South Korea that has changed since the decision of the Constitutional Court. Since October, the alternative service system has been implemented, and the screening process has been too rigid, causing various problems, but objectors are generally passing the screening process. WRI and the World Without War had a plan to hold an international event on conscientious objection in South Korea at the end of 2021 if the corona situation gets better. The German group Connection has already secured funding, but the corona situation has not improved and has no choice but to cancel it.

In October 2020, we launched a campaign to stop the Korea Police World Expo 2020, in support of the rising democratization protests in Thailand at the time. "Jino Motors," which produces and sells equipment that suppressed protests in Thailand, is one of the companies participating in the Police Expo. In particular, in the course of this campaign, Netiwit Chotiphathaisal, the first conscientious objector in Thailand, met with WRI and

the World Without War in 2016 and had a meeting on international/Asian solidarity, sent a letter to Koreans appealing the situation in Thailand, drawing keen attention.

Minyeong Kim from World Without War is joining the group that is working on the Make West Papua Safe campaign report "Stop for Military Support" with WRI and Wage Peace in Australia. We are investigating South Korean weapons exported to Indonesia that could have been used in West Papua. We are also interested in the connection between Korean production companies, the Indonesian police and military, and the Palm Oil Company.

In addition, on May 8th, we joined the urgent solidarity action by sending the protest letter to the Embassy of Colombia in South Korea and translated information about Turkey's conscientious objection situation, which was the focus country of the 2021 International Conscientious Objection Day, into Korean and published it.

## 6.4. PANPEN

### Introduction

No doubt, the year 2020 was a turbulent year not only for PANPEN alone but also for other peace movements across the globe. The COVID 19 pandemic has negatively affected every human institution and interaction. Nevertheless, despite the challenges posed by COVID 19 we pursued our way of nonviolence, peace and justice virtually and where possible physically. This report is about resilience and commitment in doing peacebuilding work during hard times. The purpose of the report is to update PANPEN and War Resisters' International (WRI) members about the progress made by the network in 2020, challenges encountered and future plans. We hope you will find the report illuminating!

This report covers the period May 1, 2020, to April 30, 2021, of activities implemented by the PANPEN and its partners in the region.<sup>1</sup>

### Achievements

- Reduced misinformation about the COVID 19 pandemic in Africa as PANPEN partner organizations engaged the Ministries of Health, World Health Organization and partners to prevent coronavirus and fairly distribute coronavirus vaccines to the low-income countries to save lives. The advocacy campaigns also focused on the protection of vulnerable groups such as the aged, patients with respiratory diseases and health workers. Whatsapp, emails,

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<sup>1</sup> Please, note that PANPEN was established in 2012 and reorganized in June 2014. The network includes over fifty organizations representing over 35 countries in the region. These include; youth and women organizations, academia and professional institutions, faith based groups working with strong focus on nonviolence.

webinars and other digital forms of communication were used to engage PANPEN members and partners.

- Increased engagement with PANPEN members in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt. The engagement with Uganda focused on promoting credible general elections in 2020 through civic education, independent civil society observations and monitoring of electoral processes. PANPEN engaged in peace advocacy at African Union Peace and Security Council to manage border conflicts between Ethiopia and Sudan as well as mitigate the role of Egypt in the Nile River crisis and its security implications in the region.
- Mitigated rape cases among school teenage girls as girls and community members were enlightened to break the silence and use mitigation strategies including response call lines for legal and psychosocial services. PANPEN and ONAD during the year followed more than 12 rape cases in South Sudan. The cases are being followed in the court of law. The COVID 19 situation has forced many girls to get pregnant as schools are closed.
- PANPEN in collaboration with International Peace Research Association (IPRA) and Africa Peace Education and Research Association (APER) held a regional virtual gathering of peace academics and practitioners in January 2021. The gathering emphasized the role of peace research in peacebuilding across the region. It was decided that the next [AFPREA](#) and PANPEN face-to-face meeting will take place in Juba, South Sudan in November 2022. The conference theme is Building Resilience, Peace and Democracy for Nonviolent Transformation. The conference will be held at the sideline of the IFOR international council and conference. PANPEN uses this event as a window of opportunity to revitalize the network to sharpen its contribution to peace and justice in Africa.

#### Future plans, challenges and the way forward

In 2022, ONAD, PANPEN and IFOR are set to host an international council and conference in Juba, South Sudan. Moses John the Executive Director of ONAD and a co-convenor of PANPEN and member of the council of WRI is organizing the meeting. Members from WRI are invited to participate in the conference.

#### Conclusion

PANPEN remained seized to its mission and working together with WRI, IFOR, IPRA and other like-minded partners across the globe. We welcome any ideas, contribution and support from the good wishes to improve the movement's contribution to society.

## 7. Finances and fundraising

The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have been very irregular for many people—devastating for many, but mild, or even positive, for some. WRI ended up

on the relatively fortunate end of the spectrum. On the one hand, our expenditures were significantly smaller than usual, with practically no international travel costs for over a year. On the other hand, income has been higher than usual: WRI has benefited from a large council tax refund-related to the pandemic. A WRI section in Hamburg, Germany, DFG-IDK Hamburg, has recently dissolved, which is obviously unfortunate, but WRI did end up “inheriting” about €10,000 of its remaining funds. In more regular fundraising, we were able to secure a £12,020 grant for the Nonviolence Programme from the Network for Social Change (UK). A smaller grant of £5,659 was secured for the Nonviolence Programme from the Lush Charity Pot in early 2021.

With these added sources of income, WRI ended 2020 with an estimated surplus of £19,000 and with approximately £59,330 in total reserves.

Of course, the backbone of WRI’s annual income is made up of your affiliation fees and individual donations (both one-off and repeated), which together totalled about £17,900 in 2020, and, of course, the main grant supporting our Right to Refuse to Kill Programme, from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (£46,721 in 2020), which has been renewed for another 3-year cycle in 2020.

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) traces its endowment to money accumulated by Rowntree’s, formerly one of the UK’s largest confectionery companies and chocolate manufacturers, founded in 1862. In a recent letter, JRCT has informed its grantees of the early results of an investigation they carried out into the origins of that wealth. It turned out (perhaps not surprisingly, given the history of the cocoa trade) that Rowntree’s has indirectly benefited from slavery, through purchasing products manufactured by enslaved persons, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and that a subsidiary company in South Africa was later involved in “highly oppressive and exploitative practices during the apartheid era”. These did encounter vocal opposition from JRCT trustees at the time, and Rowntree’s is known to have been a relatively ethical business for its time in other respects (e.g., employment practices) even in its early days. Nevertheless, the revelations made in that investigation are indeed unsettling.

That said, from our perspective as grant recipients, it is with regard to ongoing practices that ethical concerns about the sources of money we receive truly become significant. The JRCT – for decades a totally separate entity from the Rowntree’s company – has been a true and rare ideological partner to WRI for the 20 years we have been receiving their grants. The trust is scrupulous about its ethical investment practices. If anything, they have encouraged us to be even more aware of the ethical aspects and implications of our own practices. We trust that JRCT’s investigation into the sources of their endowment will lead to more of that endowment being used to help repair some of the consequences of those past atrocities. Some of our own work, however marginally, already contributes to that effort.

Coming back to WRI’s finances, 2020 has indeed ended with a surplus, but the outlook for the coming years is something to be much less sanguine about. For 2021, we project

(see the attached budget) a deficit of about £11,500, and the coming years – to the extent we can project that far in advance – are not likely to be much better.

While the Right to Refuse to Kill Programme is fully funded by the JRCT grant, our two other office programmes have only sporadic success with securing grant funding (moreover, the funds we do access don't always cover staff costs – the main ingredient in our expenditures). We need to locate and access new potential sources of grant funding, which we did not access before. WRI's Fundraising Committee, which could have helped with this, had a brief revival following last year's eCouncil but is now again inactive. So we would very much appreciate suggestions for potential funding sources to consider.

Beyond that, there are of course private donations and affiliation fees from WRI's sections and associates. This support from the WRI network, and the broader community it is part of, is truly important for any hope WRI has of long-term financial survival. We would like to thank you for your continued support (financially and otherwise). It is for and through our network that the WRI office exists and works. We would also like to encourage you (and for those of you, whose affiliates have not yet paid their affiliation fee for 2021 – also remind you) to continue this support, and help us find more ways to expand it.

## 7.1. 2021 Budget for approval

	<i>2020 result</i>	<i>2020 budget</i>	<i>2021 1Q result</i>	<i>2021 budget proposal</i>
<u>Non-programme</u>				
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>£4,890.43</b>	<b>£10,380.00</b>	<b>£3,848.23</b>	<b>£17,960.00</b>
<i>Office and admin</i>	<i>£4,310.89</i>	<i>£7,000.00</i>	<i>£3,754.45</i>	<i>£15,900.00</i>
Accounting firm	£2,475.00	£1,800.00	£525.00	£2,100.00
Website and IT support	£720.00	£2,700.00	£180.00	£1,800.00
Office expenditures	£1,115.89	£2,500.00	£3,049.45	£12,000.00
Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<i>Network meetings</i>	<i>£579.54</i>	<i>£3,380.00</i>	<i>£93.78</i>	<i>£2,060.00</i>
Council or assembly	£554.54	£380.00	£93.78	£560.00
Exec	£25.00	£3,000.00	£0.00	£1,500.00
Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Income</b>	<b>£36,567.26</b>	<b>£25,600.00</b>	<b>£5,135.00</b>	<b>£26,780.00</b>
<i>Centrally-generated income</i>	<i>£35,767.26</i>	<i>£25,600.00</i>	<i>£5,135.00</i>	<i>£26,780.00</i>
Affiliation fees	£9,335.45	£9,000.00	£1,351.48	£9,500.00
Overhead from programme funding	£6,527.00	£4,500.00	£1,803.50	£6,530.00
Donations	£8,567.26	£9,000.00	£1,721.10	£8,500.00

Sales	£666.30	£800.00	£0.00	£750.00
Service charges	£1,358.93	£1,500.00	£62.86	£1,500.00
Other income	£9,312.32	£800.00	£196.06	£0.00
<i>Event fundraising</i>	<i>£800.00</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£0.00</i>
Council or international conference	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£31,676.83</b>	<b>£15,220.00</b>	<b>£1,286.77</b>	<b>£8,820.00</b>
<u>Programmes</u>				
<i>RRtK</i>				
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>£34,292.16</b>	<b>£36,959.47</b>	<b>£4,704.67</b>	<b>£36,459.77</b>
Staff salary	£29,959.47	£29,959.47	£4,354.15	£30,459.77
Internship, travel, etc.	£4,332.69	£7,000.00	£350.52	£6,000.00
<b>Income</b>	<b>£40,194.00</b>	<b>£40,000.00</b>	<b>£10,048.50</b>	<b>£40,200.00</b>
Main grant	£40,194.00	£40,000.00	£10,048.50	£40,200.00
Additional funding	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£5,901.84</b>	<b>£3,040.53</b>	<b>£5,343.83</b>	<b>£3,740.23</b>
<i>Nonviolence</i>				
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>£18,539.92</b>	<b>£18,975.68</b>	<b>£4,610.31</b>	<b>£22,364.68</b>
Staff salary	£18,328.38	£17,975.68	£4,610.31	£18,364.68
Publications, trainings etc.	£211.54	£1,000.00	£0.00	£4,000.00
<b>Income</b>	<b>£12,020.00</b>	<b>£14,000.00</b>	<b>£5,659.00</b>	<b>£8,659.00</b>
General funding	£12,020.00	£12,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00
Publications, trainings etc.	£0.00	£2,000.00	£5,659.00	£5,659.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-£6,519.92</b>	<b>-£4,975.68</b>	<b>£1,048.69</b>	<b>-£13,705.68</b>
<i>CMoY</i>				
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>£11,983.79</b>	<b>£11,983.79</b>	<b>£1,741.66</b>	<b>£12,183.91</b>
Staff salary	£11,983.79	£11,983.79	£1,741.66	£12,183.91
Seminars, publications etc.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Income</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>
General funding	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
Seminars, publications etc.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

<b>Balance</b>	<b>-£11,983.79</b>	<b>-£9,983.79</b>	<b>-£1,741.66</b>	<b>-£10,183.91</b>
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>£69,706.30</b>	<b>£78,298.94</b>	<b>£14,904.87</b>	<b>£88,968.36</b>
Office and admin	£4,310.89	£7,000.00	£3,754.45	£15,900.00
Network meetings	£579.54	£3,380.00	£93.78	£2,060.00
RRtK programme	£34,292.16	£36,959.47	£4,704.67	£36,459.77
Nonviolence programme	£18,539.92	£18,975.68	£4,610.31	£22,364.68
CMoY programme	£11,983.79	£11,983.79	£1,741.66	£12,183.91
<b>Income</b>	<b>£88,781.26</b>	<b>£81,600.00</b>	<b>£20,842.50</b>	<b>£77,639.00</b>
Non-programme	£35,767.26	£25,600.00	£5,135.00	£26,780.00
Network meetings	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
RRtK programme	£40,194.00	£40,000.00	£10,048.50	£40,200.00
Nonviolence programme	£12,020.00	£14,000.00	£5,659.00	£8,659.00
CMoY programme	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
<b>Total balance</b>	<b>£19,074.96</b>	<b>£3,301.06</b>	<b>£5,937.63</b>	<b>-£11,329.36</b>

## 8. Conclusion

Campaigns, solidarity actions, nonviolent direct actions, publications in different formats, new ways of doing action groups and above all, plans for the future.

As we have been able to read, the broadening of channels, technological learning and the strengthening of networks, have allowed us to forget that borders exist, from the benefits of virtuality and confirms that we are connected, in dialogue and mutual care, that our disobedience to the pain and injustice of wars in all its versions and manifestations, remains intact and it's even stronger!

We celebrate 100 years, and we will continue to celebrate in joyful resistance every year, from every territory, all conscientious objector free from the military structure, every campaign and every meeting that remind ourselves that we are not alone and many more are joining us!

The challenges that we might foresee in the future from the financial, programmatic and methodological point of view, invite us to continue clarifying the capacity of our roles, articulating the necessary support and strengthening actions as a network.

