

WRI [eCouncil schedule](#): 20 – 30 September, 2013.

All times listed = UTC. Please email info@wri-irg.org for more information.

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Monday						
30 Evaluation						
Cafe space						

Agenda items

See below for [Council topics: running through the eCouncil](#), [Political conversations: running through the eCouncil](#), [Cafe space](#), [Conference calls](#), [Two day forums](#), [Webinars](#) and [Decision-making](#).

Agenda key: [Item](#): **Format**, *facilitator/s*, date

[Council topics: running through the eCouncil](#)

Whilst these topics will run over the whole ten days, there will be certain times/days when particular things are focused upon.

- [Regions](#): **Forum discussion**, *Pelao Carvalho + Igor Seke*: 20th – 30th September

In WRI for some years now we have been encouraging regional cooperation. The European and Latin American antimilitarist networks have been functioning for some time now. In Europe, this has mostly been through doing joint actions against NATO, nuclear weapons and military bases. In Latin America, it has mostly been through the irg-al list serve and drafting joint statements. Since last year, the African Nonviolence and Peacebuilding Network was formed. These networks are independent from WRI, but WRI has played an important role in getting them started and also providing coordination. At this eCouncil, we want to evaluate WRI's regionalisation work and asses the potential for work in other regions or sub-regions. This session will look at how the networks have functioned and how can we strengthen them.

- [Right to Refuse to Kill programme](#): **Forum discussion**, *Hannah Brock, Sergei Sandler*: 20th – 30th September

The forum will be a chance to report back on the work of the Right to Refuse to Kill programme, as well as to evaluate particular aspects of the work. For two days (25th and 26th), the focus will be on the work of the Countering the Militarisation of Youth project, including evaluating our recent collaboration with [New Tactics](#), and gathering resources and suggestions for the next step in the project's development: a website that will become a repository of information and resources on countering the militarisation of youth. In particular, we look forward to gathering audiovisual and image-based resources, challenging the militarisation of youth.

We will also be sharing ideas for how, and to whom, to promote WRI's recently-launched and invaluable resource, [A Conscientious Objector's Guide to the International Human Rights System](#). We also will welcome feedback on the Guide: have you used it? What did you think?

- [Nonviolence programme](#): **Forum discussion**, *Javier Garate, Christine Schweitzer* 20th – 30th September
- including exchange on the place of nonviolence in training: **Webinar**, *Brian Martin* Tuesday 24th September, 5.00pm UTC.

The Nonviolence Programme in this eCouncil will have two main themes: Firstly, we are in the process of producing a second edition of the Handbook for

Nonviolent Campaigns, with the aim of publishing before the South Africa conference. The first step in this process is to conduct a thorough evaluation of the Handbook. We will use the opportunity of the eCouncil to conduct this evaluation, which will provide the basis for working on the second edition.

The second aspect will be a [webinar on nonviolence for social change](#). The webinar will provide the opportunity for exploring and discussing the role that nonviolence plays in social transformation. Our speaker will give a presentation on the role of nonviolence and misrepresentations of it, especially presenting the difference between a practical and principled approach to nonviolence, as well as looking at the uneasiness of many activist who do not use the word nonviolence. The webinar will look at what radical nonviolence and nonviolence society should look like.

- [South Africa](#): **Forum discussion**, *Javier Garate*: 20th – 30th September. Funding focus: 22nd September

"[Small Actions Big Movements: The Continuum of Nonviolence](#)" is the title of WRI's upcoming International Conference to be held in July 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. During the eCouncil we will look at how to build momentum towards this important event, looking at how WRI members can get involved promoting the conference. Fundraising is always a big challenge for international conferences, so we will also explore different ways WRI members can support this conference. This will be WRI's first mayor conference in Africa, so special attention will be given to gathering contacts WRI members have in Africa. The conference programme is a work in process, so we will welcome suggestions both for topics that the conference should address, as well as potential people to invite. The main goal of this eCouncil is to create momentum to engage the WRI network and beyond in making this conference a success.

On Sunday 22nd, following on from the two-day fundraising forum, we will focus particularly on fundraising for this event, although it will also be a theme running through this forum item.

- [Forum for technical queries](#): **Forum discussion**. Monitored by: *Javier Garate, Hannah Brock, Sergey Sandler*, 20th – 30th September

A space for sharing technical problems with participation in the eCouncil.

Political conversations: running through the eCouncil

- [Contemporary challenges and WRI's / nonviolence movements' response](#): **Forum discussion**, *Howard Clark*, 20th – 30th September

This topic will run through the length of the eCouncil. The point of departure is about the challenges raised by the situations in Syria and Egypt, not only immediately but as they have both evolved from non-armed struggles for democratisation.

What should we learn from this evolution - both as advocates of nonviolence and as opponents of military intervention?

What have WRI groups done at various stages of the evolution of these situations?

And what does it make sense to say and do now?

- [First World War alternatives anniversaries](#), **Forum discussion**, 20th – 30th September

We will have one forum item where groups are encouraged to share plans for what they are doing in terms of 'alternative' commemorations of the 1914-18 war.

Cafe space, 20th – 30th September

Council discussions are serious and important, but they're really all just a long prelude to the evening, which we spend socialising, over a beer in a pub, or what have you. For many, this informal interaction also serves as the best setting for discussing WRI business in a more open and out-of-the-box fashion. So, one of the disadvantages of having an eCouncil instead of a physical meeting is that there is no pub. But while we can't transmit beer over the internet (yet), we can still keep an open space for people to interact freely on whatever topic they like. This is precisely what our café space is for. Just pop by any time you feel like it, and share your thoughts, ideas, jokes, stories, with anybody else who cares to join.

Conference calls

- [Women's Working Group](#): **Conference call** *Susan Kingland*: Sunday 22nd September, 1.30pm UTC

This conference call for the women's working group (WWG) will start by looking at the organisational contribution and involvement of the WWG in WRI:

1. What we want the WWG to be now

2. How can we organise to make this possible

3. What work can we do? And

4. Can we also be a group of women in different parts of the world, learning from each other? This may involve maintaining contact and creating opportunities for women in all levels of WRI, as well as supporting the work of women in affiliates.

It will also examine how the WWG can input into the 2014 Cape Town International conference, and look at possible topics and themes for the WWG e.g. feminism and domestic militarism (nonviolent responses to violence in the home), and how we bring WRI to having a feminism that is relevant and embedded in WRI, rather than just an isolated idea.

- [Queer working group](#) **Conference call** *Cattis Laska, Hannah Brock*, Wednesday 25th September. 5.00pm UTC

This webinar will explore the militarisation of LGBT and Queer movements, and how to respond. Starting with a look at the experiences of movements in Europe that are starting to be militarised (for example with the need of police and military protection, increasing levels of hate crime legislation which, though intended to protect at-risk groups, also lead to further militarisation) we can then share experiences from other contexts around the world, and discuss how anti-militarists in Queer and LGBT movements can do, focusing on how countering militarism in LGBT movement is connected to queering antimilitarist movements. This is a way for people interested in these issues to join together – our Queer Working Group has not been so active of late, and we hope this opportunity to come together can be used to rejuvenate thinking of these issues!

Two day forums

- [Check in and affiliates reporting](#): **Forum discussion**: Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September

Sections and associated organisations are asked to report to Council on their activities over the last year – this will take place in the first two days of the Council. As well as written reports, please post links to any films, audio files, and other content that you think gives a clear impression of your work over the last year. Please also feel free to give your report in an audiovisual form.

- [Fundraising](#): **Forum discussion**, *Sergeiy Sandler*: Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September

While WRI's financial situation always makes fundraising into a crucially important subject of discussion, the opportunities, and especially the risks, WRI faces in the coming year make this discussion more important than ever. Active and useful participation by representatives from all affiliates in this discussion is essential for WRI's future. WRI will be organizing a major international event - our [conference in South Africa next year](#) - with almost all of our money reserves gone and with a chronic deficit in our regular accounts, stemming from the fact that we have not managed to secure full regular funding for one of our two office programmes.

We would thus like to focus our fundraising discussion on ways in which we can improve WRI's financial situation and how the WRI network as a whole - affiliates and individuals - can help in the process. This includes:

- People's suggestions for raising money (for our Nonviolence Programme, for regular expenses, possibly for new directions in WRI's work) by improving our access to money from funds and organisations around the work, or by other means.
- Increasing WRI's income directly from the network, in the form of affiliation fees and benefit fundraising (can the WRI network support a full regular staff position in the WRI office, as it once did?)
- Finding more funding sources, large and small, for the South Africa conference (this topic will also be discussed as part of the eCouncil forum on the South Africa conference itself [link], on Sunday, the 22nd).

Your participation is crucial! In addition, it would be especially useful if each affiliate sends, if possible, its fundraising experts to this discussion, to join its regular representatives. Please come with ideas and suggestions (which will be collected and reviewed by the WRI's fundraising committee), and willingness to take on commitments!

- [Visibility](#): **Forum discussion**, *Dominique Saillard*: Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th September

Since last Council meeting in Bilbao, we have been paying specific attention to the "visibility of WRI". Some debate has taken place and a number of concrete actions have been taken, which is encouraging, but this Forum should aim at getting us into the much higher speed we need to reach now. We will start reviewing what our objectives are: what do we need extra visibility for? And how do we want to prioritise our objectives (taking into account the

South Africa conference as a first milestone event, less than a year from now)? Drawing from our objectives, we will then unravel several conversation strands, all from an eminently practical perspective: the "who" will be as important as the "what" and the "how"!

A table with the actions taken so far by the WRI central office will be posted, so that affiliates can also indicate how they have contributed so far (let's celebrate those steps already taken!).

To organise our future work, we will review the ideas already mentioned in Bilbao and at posterior exec meetings, and develop new ones. To do so, it will be important to keep a close eye on the results of other eCouncil items - especially the fundraising forum, as increasing the visibility of our work both within and outside the wider WRI network is key to reverting the critical financial situation we are in.

- **Activism and social media: Forum discussion**, *Hannah Brock, Sophie Schellens* Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September

This forum is a chance to explore the uses of social media, and learn from others who are using it. We hope this forum will help us all to use social media in ways that are effective, and true to our goals. Here are the questions we will pose in the forum to spark conversations.

How do you deal with political and ethical dilemma's regarding the use of social media:

- How does nonviolent communication fit with online communication?
- Social media platforms like Google+, Facebook, etc are privately owned space, controlled by companies. Politically, this is problematic. How have you responded to this?
- How do you deal with issues of security and anonymity within social media?

Could you share some of your personal learnings from using social media, specifically regarding:

- What do you think are the ingredients for successful social media use? What is your measure of success?
- What advice would you give to other groups based on your experience of using social media?
- Is social media useful for connecting your local struggles with international and regional organizations

Sharing useful resources:

- Are there resources that have helped you to get more out of social media? Please share information about them here.

- **Evaluation: Forum discussion**, *Susan Kingsland*, Sunday 29th – Monday 30th September

A chance to debrief: space to leave feedback and share experiences. This feedback will feed into how we undertake and plan future eCouncils.

Webinars

- **Extractive industries: Webinar**, *Anand Mazgaonkar* (Webinar [in English](#)) Saturday 21st September, 2.00pm UTC.
Rafael Uzcategui (Webinar [in Castellano](#)) Saturday 21st September, 5.00pm UTC.

For the first time at an eCouncil, we will be having webinars as part of the programme. Webinars will allow us to have live interaction and the possibility to go more in depth in particular topics. Nonviolent resistance to the extractivist industry will be the theme of two webinars, one in Spanish, one in English. These webinars will bring us back to the theme of the 2010 India conference, as we look at how local communities nonviolently resist the devastating impact of corporations and their unlimited hunger for natural resources. Each speaker will present a case study of nonviolence livelihood resistance to extractivists, and participants will be able to interact and bring in their own experiences and share strategies against these corporations.

- **Nonviolence training experience exchange: Webinar**, Tuesday 24th September

See Nonviolence programme info, above.

Decision-making

- **Decisions:** three days, **Forum discussion** *Howard Clark*, Friday 27th – Sunday 29th September
 - Finance: approving the budget
 - Affiliations: approving application for affiliation from sections and associates