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**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE**



**YEARLY REPORT  
1940-1941**

**PRICE 3d.**



# Women's International League

(British Section of the Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom)

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH, 1940—MARCH, 1941

Temporary Address:

'PORTWAY,' ST. MARY BOURNE,  
Nr. ANDOVER, HANTS



## THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

*Head Office*—Maison Internationale, 12 Rue de Vieux Collège, Geneva.

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects :—

- I. The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.
- II. The Emancipation of Women.

Before the war we had National Sections or Correspondents in

Argentina	Denmark	Hungary	Palestine
Australia :	Egypt	India	Panama
Victoria	El Salvador	Ireland	Poland
Tasmania	Esthonia	Italy	South Africa
New South Wales	Finland	Japan	Spain
Western Australia	France	Jugo-Slavia	Sweden
Belgium	Germany	Lithuania	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Great Britain	Mexico	Tunis
Canada	Greece	New Zealand	Ukraine
China	Holland	Nicaragua	U.S.A.
Costa Rica	Honduras	Norway	Venezuela
Czecho-Slovakia			

*The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as*

### THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

*Temporary Address:*

'Portway,' St. Mary Bourne, Near Andover, Hants.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1941

*Chairman*—Mrs. Duncan Harris

*Hon. Secretary*—Mrs. K. E. Innes

*Hon. Treasurer*—Mrs. McGregor Wood

Miss Mosa Anderson, Miss Karleen Baker, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Mignon Castle, Miss Maud Dickinson, Mrs. Garside, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Amy Haughton, Miss Lettice Jowitt, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Prichard, Miss Edith Pye, Dr. Richenda Scott.

*Vice-Presidents*—

Miss Vera Brittain, Mrs de Bunsen, The Hon Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Unwin

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above two-fold object. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality. Minimum Subscription to Headquarters, 2s. 6d. per annum. Monthly News Sheet, 1d. ; 2s 0d. per annum, post free.

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

March, 1940—March, 1941

Since the last Report we have passed through a year of war—a year which has seen the collapse of France, the over-running of Europe, and the intensification of air warfare. The W.I.L. has "carried on." Branches have continued to study and prepare for the kind of peace which would avoid such tragedies recurring. Branches and individuals have given help to refugees and evacuees. The Office was removed from 55 Gower Street to Hampshire on 25th September, and is continuing there, with Miss Horscroft working alone and kept extremely busy.

Limitations of paper and rising costs make it advisable this year to make our Report, as far as possible, simply a statement of action taken, under the different headings.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Up to September the Executive met in London. It then met three times in Reading, with the kind co-operation of the Reading Branch. Members who have resigned during the year for different reasons are : Dr. Clark, Mrs. H. G. H. Huxley, Mrs. Lankester, and Mrs. Thornycroft. We would like to record our appreciation of their valuable services in various capacities, and in particular to Dr. Clark whose wide knowledge of international affairs has been a great asset both on the Executive, and as Editor of the *News Sheet*. Miss Lettice Jowitt has been in Syria most of the year and is still there, in charge of a Friends' School at Brummana. Attendance has, of course, depended on possibilities of travel and this has restricted it very much. Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Lord and Mrs. Lloyd Prichard were co-opted.

**Affiliations.** We are affiliated to the British Commonwealth League and the National Peace Council, on which our representatives are Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Harrison, Miss Hayler, and Mrs. Kinnish. Our representatives have served on the Liaison Committee of British Women's Organisations interested in Indian affairs, and the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union. Miss Sheepshanks on behalf of the W.I.L. attended the British Commonwealth League Conference on the recommendations of the West Indies Commission in April 1940.

Visitors to the Executive have been Frau Hertzka, Frau Misar, Madame Tutschova and Miss Sheepshanks.



**Sandwich Luncheons** were held in the early part of the year and were well attended. Speakers, under the main subject: "World Reconstruction for Peace," included:—

Mr. Kenneth Ingram—Our Struggle.  
Mr. Ham Djiang Liem—China's part in World Reconstruction.  
Miss Edith Pye—Impressions of Situations in France.  
Miss Vera Brittain—Women Peace Lovers: What is their work to-day?  
Mrs. Ambrosova—What I mean by Freedom.  
Dr. Rita Hinden—War Hits the Colonies.  
Miss Kumaramagelan—The Part Played by Women in the National Movement in India.

**At a Social Gathering**, with tea in the garden, Vera Brittain spoke on America. A Stall in the garden was quickly cleared and £5 raised for Headquarters' Funds.

These social events were made possible by the capable and ever-ready help of Mrs. Goodrich and Miss Ruth Harrison.

It was not possible to hold the annual money-raising effort centrally, but help from Branches has largely made up for this, and the following have sent special donations to Headquarters:—

Birmingham, Brighton, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, North Wales, Welwyn Garden City, Worthing.

A special appeal to members in the autumn from Mrs. Wood, brought in £93 7s. 6d.

We comment briefly on various items of work:—

(1) **Issue of Study Syllabuses.** (a) Outline of the Geographic and Economic Factors underlying the present Political Structure of Europe; (b) A New Social Order.

These were prepared by Miss Sheepshanks in co-operation with The Royal Institute of International Affairs and the Labour Research Bureau, and have been widely used.

(2) **Co-operation with the National Peace Council on pressure to secure the publication of Peace Aims**, at Conferences held (a) in London, June 29th, 1940, and (b) at Oxford, January 10th to 13th, 1941, representatives were Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs. Innes and Miss Sheepshanks.

In connection with the declaration of peace aims when, after the collapse of France, the announcement of the armistice terms was awaited, a letter was sent to the press on June 19th, urging "that it would be an act of effective and imaginative statesmanship if the Government of this country would make known the principles of the New World Order which it would seek to construct at the conclusion of peace." This was not, as far as we know, inserted in any paper.

(3) **Internees.** After the internment of many friendly aliens, the W.I.L. took its share in voicing the public protests which the wholesale action of the Government aroused. A letter was sent to the press direct,

while Branches took similar action. Appreciation for Miss Rathbone's championship for the cause of refugees was sent to her. On various occasions, on different points, e.g. the sending overseas of married male refugees without their wives; the conditions under which women were being released; the organisation of relief and assistance through the League of Nations, letters were sent to Lord Lytton, Lord Halifax and Sir John Anderson. Miss Karleen Baker, who is doing full time work in connection with the internees wrote a useful article in the January, 1941, News Sheet on the problems of their internment.

(5) **The Purchase Tax.** When this was under discussion the W.I.L. joined with other groups in urging that a tax should not be placed on books. The protests in this case were successful.

(6) **Statement.** October 7th, 1940, the Officers of the W.I.L. issued a Statement as follows:—

The Officers of the W.I.L. take the responsibility of issuing the following Statement which they believe voices the feeling of the League as a whole:—

"In the grave times we are passing through, the Women's International League wishes to draw closer the bonds of sympathy and a common purpose which unite its members and to include in this fellowship all like-minded peace-loving women wherever they may be.

This is a time of testing and one to spur us to fresh efforts. We must devote ourselves anew to the task of helping to create a new and better life for humanity. To do this we must be prepared for sacrifice, for the abolition of privilege whether of class or of race or nation. We must face and condemn the injustices which in the past have thwarted the efforts and stunted the lives of men and women. We must combine with all like-minded people of every class, creed and country to work for world-wide co-operation and mutual help. In this way we may hope to get rid of the envies, ambitions and rivalries which lead to war and in this way only can we prepare for a new era of peace. For the moment direct action may not be possible, but we can get together and prepare. This is the more needful as no one knows when there may be a chance to put forward or to support new policies. We must be on the alert and seize the moment when it comes.

(Signed) B. Duncan Harris, Chairman; Agatha Harrison, M. Sheepshanks (Vice-Chairmen); K. E. Innes, Hon. Secretary; G. R. McGregor Wood, Hon. Treasurer.

On behalf of the Executive Mrs. Innes appended her signature to a Statement, drawn up by Miss K. Bourne, one of our members. Its purpose was "to challenge the philosophy of domination in all relations of life by the presentation of co-operation as an alternative." The Statement was as follows:—

"We, the undersigned women of Great Britain, send this message to the women of the world, and especially to those in belligerent countries.

"We send our heartfelt sympathy to all those who have lost those they love in this war. We also have suffered. We are united with you in sorrow.

"Because we believe that it is better to struggle for the welfare of our fellow-beings than to fight in order to crush down those of other races, we condemn the method of violence as a means of settling international affairs, and we reject with ridicule the theory that "war is the expression of the highest and the best and the noblest manhood." Physical violence is the method whereby animals settle their differences. Men have intelligence. They can rise above such methods.



"We ask women of all nations to join with us in expressing their condemnation of the method of violence. If news of this message reaches you, remember that whatever may be the result of this wanton slaughter, we are looking to you to bring the message of love to all nations."

This was also signed by C. Cook, General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Vera Brittain, Ruth Fry, Marian Parmoor and Maude Rowntree.

(7) **Conscientious Objectors.** An Executive member, Mrs. Grindley, took an active interest in the treatment of Conscientious Objectors in military custody. A striking article appeared in the December News Sheet. Representations were made in various directions about proved ill-treatment, and questions in the House led to a Court of Inquiry. It is hoped that the success of Mrs. Grindley's efforts will help to prevent a repetition of the brutalities.

(8) **Blockade.** On 5th February, Mrs. Innes, on behalf of the Executive Committee, sent a letter to The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, expressing appreciation of the Government's action in allowing food from America to be sent to unoccupied France, welcoming it from the humanitarian point of view and also for the probable effect on opinion both in France and in America.

(9) **The National Registration of Women.** On March 7th the following letter was sent to The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P., the Minister of Labour.

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Organisation held at 55 Gower Street, London W.C.1, on Wednesday March 5th, 1941—

I was asked to express in writing to you, the deep anxiety which is felt by all members, at the proposed extension of the principle of compulsion to Industry, and at the pressure which is now to be exerted upon women to participate in war work.

The Committee would be relieved to have an assurance from you that any legislation introduced for this purpose will include a real safeguard for the defence of conscientious objection, applying equally to men and women; and that due consideration will be given to the many special forms of hardship that must inevitably arise through the compulsory employment of women, and through the transference of women to war work from their peace-time occupations.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) K. E. INNES

Hon. Secretary.

### INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

The house was fully occupied for the first eight and a half months of 1940. Then, owing to war conditions in London, it was thought advisable for the Office to move into the country. Our tenants, one after the other, had previously left International House. At the beginning of 1941 it stands empty. Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison and Miss Gill visit it at intervals. We are very grateful to these members for the help they are giving during a very difficult period. We are faced in consequence with the problem of expenses

which do not help the work, and we are, therefore, particularly grateful for the financial support given us so willingly by Branches and members. Some have even increased their subscriptions without being asked, knowing the position and determined that the work of the W.I.L. must go on.

### REFUGEES.

At the end of 1941 we find the group of women and children who came to us as refugees from our Section in Czechoslovakia, nearly all absorbed in one way or another into the life of the country. A very few have lost touch with us, and owing to the intensification of war conditions in London it has not been possible to continue the monthly gatherings at International House which were such a pleasant opportunity for meeting our friends in the early part of the year. Several of the women who came over with a child have now been able to set up house with their husbands and sometimes with the child. Quite a number are working in factories and some remain in domestic employment. One woman had to undergo a major operation but is now well again, and the girl who had a whole year of illness is now beginning to lead a normal life. We have to record with sorrow the death of Marie Munich in an air raid in London, where she had lived with friends since her arrival. We knew her to be a woman of courage, who had given of her best for the causes she believed in. One of our number has gone to join her husband overseas. One was interned in the Isle of Man, but is now released, bringing with her her baby, who was born on the island. There have been three marriages among our friends, to our knowledge. So far as we know all "our children" are doing well, some of them very well. The two whose parents remain in Prague are each in an excellent school, Miss Baker having, in spite of the great difficulties which she has had to face taken the girl into Badminton. Our colleague, Mrs. Rudinger, who for some months was working very hard at cheese-making, after rubbing up her knowledge at her old University of Reading, is especially to be congratulated. Her daughter, at the age of 17, secured a place in St. Hilda's, Oxford, with an exhibition and a bursary, and her son is also doing brilliantly at his school.

Frau Marie Schmolkova, whose death we have also to record, is referred to elsewhere.

### INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

During the course of the year Gertrud Baer has gone from Geneva to America. Lotti Birch has left the W.I.L.P.F. and taken up other work, and the work in Geneva has been carried on valiantly by Louisa Jaques, helped by Frau Ragaz, who has kept in close touch. Since the collapse of France correspondence has of course been extremely difficult, but messages of sympathy and encouragement have come through from time to time, including a cable of good wishes for 1941



from Frau Ragaz. Letters have contained news of our other Sections and we have learned from Geneva and America that our friends in France, Norway and Denmark are well. Much appreciated letters have come from Sweden, giving news of continued activity and of contact with some other Sections. From U.S.A. we have had welcome letters of support and a cable at the beginning of 1941 from the W.I.L. in Brooklyn, U.S.A. Our Sections in Canada and Australia keep in touch with the British Section and are carrying on their work, and helping evacuees and internees.

### THE BURMA ROAD

During the period when the Burma Road was closed the following Memorandum was sent to the Prime Minister and the Press on September 10th:—

We, the undersigned individuals and representatives of women's organisations, protest on the following grounds against the closing of the Burma Road for conveyance of certain supplies to China:—

(1) The action is in direct contradiction to the undertaking of the League of Nations Council in February, 1939—an undertaking to “refrain from action which might have the effect of weakening China's powers of resistance”—and one in which our national honour is involved.

(2) The transport of medical material is rendered useless by the embargo on vehicles and petrol, without which the sorely needed medical materials cannot be distributed or ambulances operated.

(3) The closing of the road under whatever degree of pressure from Japan is a direct encouragement to aggression.

(4) The statement made recently by the President of the All India National Congress on the closing of the Burma Road serves to show the grave effect of this action on Indian national opinion. They view the road as an artery that brings India, Burma and China nearer together, the closing of which is in marked contrast with the friendly relationship which has been cemented between national India and China in recent years.

In the name of honour, and the overriding claims of humanity, we urge that the restrictions on the use of the road be removed at the earliest possible moment.

(Signed)

M. CORBETT ASHBY, Chairman, Women's Liberal Federation.  
MARGARET G. BONDFIELD, J.P., LL.D.  
HARRIETTE CHICK, D.Sc.  
MARGERY FRY.

B. DUNCAN HARRIS, Chairman, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section.

K. E. INNES, Chairman of the International W.I.L.P.F.

ANNA L. LITTLEBOY.

BESSIE M. RISCHBIETH, O.B.E., J.P., (Perth, W. Australia).

MAUDE ROYDEN, C.H.

EFFIE RYLE, M.A.

MARY SHEEPSHANKS.

SYBIL THORNDIKE.

MARGARET WINTRINGHAM.

Dame Katharine Furze expressed the wish to add her signature but it came too late to send with the others.

In connection with the Memorandum a women's deputation, led by Mrs. Duncan Harris and introduced by Miss Agatha Harrison,

was courteously received at the Japanese Embassy. Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mrs. Rischbieth, President of the Australian League of Women Voters took part.

### THE MORAL WELFARE OF THE HOME AND BRITISH EMPIRE FORCES

On December 16th, the following letter was sent to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for War:—

“My Committee is deeply concerned with the moral welfare of the Home and British Empire Forces. It fully sympathises with the difficulties the War Office has to face in so many parts of the world at the present time, but it deeply regrets that, while world-wide research has for many years unanimously condemned the system of licenced brothels, the War Office is repeating arguments used in the last war, and then effectively answered, both by arguments and by proved facts. We urge the British Government:—

- (1) to induce the War Authorities to put all brothels out of bounds to every man of the Empire Forces;
- (2) to take steps to educate the Forces in the futility and ugliness of the system, and
- (3) to develop further facilities for healthy recreation and amusement for the men.”

Signed K. E. INNES, Hon. Secretary.

### INDIA

The situation in India has been closely watched by the Executive, helped by the expert knowledge of Miss Agatha Harrison, whose articles in the News Sheet have been particularly helpful to our members.

On April 8th, 1940 the following letter was sent to the Prime Minister:—

Dear Sir,

The Executive Committee of the Women's International League has been greatly exercised by the growing tension in India.

While recognising the vast body of Indian opinion which sincerely seeks an equal and honourable friendship with Great Britain, we are aware also of the growing danger that the scales may turn towards open conflict or even violence. Believing in the possibility of a reasonable solution we urge that His Majesty's Government should, before such a situation arises, and while the moderating influence of Mr. Gandhi is still effective, make a fresh effort to find the road to agreement, both between divergent opinions in India, and between India and ourselves.

We make this appeal at this time of great stress believing that the peaceful evolution of Indian self-government is an essential factor in securing that just and durable peace which is desired by the peoples of the world.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) B. DUNCAN HARRIS,  
Chairman

On June 10th a letter was sent conveying good wishes to Mr. Amery on his taking up his work at the India Office.

The tragic situation at the close of the year caused much anxiety to all who had hoped to see a sane and democratic solution of Indian problems. Branches were urged to write to their local press on



certain special points. The following letter appeared in *The Times* of December 30th, 1940:—

Sir,—The present situation in India has been brought home forcibly to us by reason of the imprisonment of some of the leading members of the All India Women's Conference—Mrs V. L. Pandit, for example—India's first woman Cabinet Minister. With this Conference during the past years many of us have had close and vital connection.

We are fully aware of India's generous help to our war effort in terms of men, material and money. But alongside of this comes the disturbing news of the imprisonment of outstanding national leaders and many of the rank and file who are opposing this effort for reasons not fully appreciated in this country. We learn that six ex-Premiers and some 15 former Ministers are among those in gaol. For nearly two and a half years, until they resigned office, these men and women made a notable contribution to India's social and economic reconstruction. Little information is reaching us of the repercussions in India to these arrests, but the effect on Indo-British relations and on world opinion can be imagined. We cannot convince the world we are fighting for democracy and at the same time maintain this position in India.

We feel this is no time to go into the rights and wrongs that brought about the impasse: on this there are varying opinions. A new approach must be made; a new atmosphere created. In this connection we welcome the news from India that an effort is being made by Indians themselves to end this disastrous situation. Cannot the British Government, on their side, make it possible by releasing the political prisoners for men and women to meet together with the determination never to separate until an acceptable formula be found? We believe a solution can be found, and we urge the British Government to co-operate in this effort to solve the constitutional deadlock.

Signed:—

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY, BEATRICE M. BAKER, MARGARET BONDFIELD, VERA BRITTAIN, ELIZABETH CADBURY, HILDA CLARK, KATHLEEN COURTNEY, MARGERY FRY, ISABEL FRY, KATHARINE FURSE, AGNES HARDY, BARBARA DUNCAN HARRIS, AGATHA HARRISON, GRACE LANKESTER, EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE, DOROTHEA LAYTON, FRANCES MELVILLE, ALISON NEILANS, H. M. PROCTER, EDITH M. PYE, MAUDE ROYDEN, MARY SHEEPSHANKS, DAISY SOLOMON, FRANCES STEWART, EDITH SUMMERSKILL, SYBIL THORNDIKE.

This led to articles and correspondence in other papers.

### NEWS SHEET AND PUBLICATIONS

The *News Sheet* continued to appear under the Editorship of Dr. Hilda Clark until the issue of August/September numbers together. With the issue of the October/November numbers Mrs. Innes took up the Editorship.

Difficulties of postal delays and printing made it necessary to combine two months' issues in these two cases, and it is not always possible to get the *News Sheet* out by the first of the month, but it is hoped now to continue its issue monthly.

The *Publicity Committee* has not been able to meet since the Office moved in September, and printed propaganda, apart from the

*News Sheet* has been impossible. Leaflets issued were (1) "Live Dangerously," a reprint of an article in an early *News Sheet*, by the late Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, C.H.; (2) Statement by the Officers, October 7th, (Pull-off from the October/November *News Sheet*.) A reprint from an article from the 1941 March *News Sheet* on "The Feeding of Children in Occupied Areas."

Leaflet on "A Penny-a-Week Fund for the Restoration and Extension of our International Work after the War."

### TREASURER'S REPORT

In my last year's report with signal Hubris ("cheek" in the vernacular) I ventured to sketch the usual yearly procedure followed at the Headquarters of the W.I.L. for the getting in of funds. Suitable nemesis has followed. Not this year have we walked in the well-worn path. Indeed we have been bombed out of it. Still our feelings are those of all surviving "bombees." We are thankful to be alive. And more than alive; we are modestly solvent. With Miss Horscroft working at St. Mary Bourne our office expenses are greatly reduced and though our receipts are smaller we are not so badly off as we might have been. In donations we have received £129. 16. 5d.; subscriptions and affiliation fees have amounted to £387. 4. 0d. For all that we have received we do render to members, branches and affiliated societies, our true gratitude. "For this relief much thanks." And from the delightful (sometimes critical, we welcome these too) letters we get, we feel our members are in good heart and we cannot fail to be struck with the appreciation they express of the W.I.L. coat which, designed by Mesdames Harris, Innes and Partners, and stitched by our Secretary, and cut according to the cloth at our disposal, has proved warm and serviceable in the blasts and shivers that assail us all these days. We would beg the Branches to continue their good work for Headquarters during the coming summer. "Cheerfulness Keeps Breaking Through," as Angela Thirkell calls her new novel, and we can help ourselves as well as Headquarters by providing an opportunity for meeting one another and getting away from the house.

Here in Cambridge (I only use this illustration because I am now living there) we had an extraordinarily happy day in the autumn. After much hesitation—there seemed so many real reasons why we should not hold the usual little sale, work for refugees and evacuees, catering difficulties, lack of time,—you have them all yourselves,—we decided to risk it. Mrs. Duncan Harris came down and, we fear, spent a whole day on the two journeys, but her address was full of encouragement, fresh thought and her own valiant spirit. Then in the afternoon we had some exquisite music from friends in exile and the result was bigger than ever in money, but personally, I felt the money was the smaller result; so many of us had enjoyed the "day out."



We are grateful to Miss Dickinson, too, for a valuable suggestion of a penny-a-week scheme for after-the-war work. Her organising ability in things artistic has been at our service for so long. Now she enters the realm of high finance and we welcome her help.

Indeed we all must not be content with "holding on." Contrary to what a great many of us expected and predicted out loud, thought has not died in this war; constructive planning is wide-spread and of a high order. One point now being made is that after the Armistice there should be a longish period before the peace conference. For this time of calming, constructive thought we, in our small way, should be preparing now. Regional Conferences could perhaps be planned this summer. Our leaders must not be too modest and underestimate the impetus which their visits give to districts. I envisage a team with one programme, interstices to be filled in locally, going to several centres. A lot of our Pacifist Bible needs some drastic Higher Criticism; among our members are to be found brilliant, progressive thinkers. If we have the money ready they will give us stuff worthy to publish. Let us now begin to work in groups—there are long light evenings ahead. Even if we are isolated "singletons" perhaps we can get into women's meetings, with aims which though so familiar to us, are only now beginning to trickle through to the general public. People are now alert, receptive, eager. These bombs are clearing away a lot of rubbish; they are showing up the poor foundations, flimsy structures and sadly inadequate equipment of the House of Life which many of us have been occupying. "Love is the identification of ourselves with God's purposes for others;" we women must prepare to take a bigger part in this organisation of Love.

G. MCGREGOR WOOD

### IN MEMORIAM

We regret the loss of the following Headquarters and Associate members by death during the year:—

Miss Evangeline Barratt  
Mr. Alfred Boswell.  
Miss Gertrude Eaton.  
Miss Feek (in an air-raid)  
Mr. F. Littleboy.  
Miss Frieda Maynard.  
Miss C. Moser.  
Mrs. Clara Perrett.  
Miss Alice Woods.

We would add a note on a Czech member, who died during the year in London, Marie Schmolkova.

Marie Schmolkova's name will be remembered in many countries all over the world for her devoted work for her Jewish co-religionists and for the cause of the refugee. The outbreak of war found her in England after her release from prison in Prague, and here she continued her work till last Easter when quite suddenly from heart failure, she died at the home of Mary Sheepshanks. The W.I.L. in all lands will mourn her loss.

### STATEMENT AND RESOLUTIONS

Adopted at the Annual Council Meetings of the Women's International League at Holywell Manor, Oxford, April 16th to 18th, 1941.

#### STATEMENT

The Women's International League (in Annual Council) reaffirms its belief that war is a crime, developing a vicious circle in which violence begets violence and reprisals. The Council feels at this crucial stage in world affairs, fresh urgency is given to its work for finding another way of adjusting human relations.

It is believed that in planning a new world order there must be, above all, a new spirit and a new attitude of man to man, and nation to nation, a spirit of brotherliness and mutual help, a realisation of interdependence and a renunciation of exploitation and profiteering.

The first considerations should be :—

#### I. Security of Livelihood to Peoples and Individuals.

Among the causes of social insecurity and thus of war are :—

- (a) The struggle for economic power as a means to political power, and for political power as a means to economic power.
- (b) Industrial competition aggravated by widely varying standards of living, and the failure to plan production in the interests of the consumer.
- (c) Tariff barriers, immigration laws, exclusive privileges of Colonial Powers.
- (d) Dependence of agricultural production on purchasing power, failure of purchasing power, involving destruction of crops and impoverishment of the producer.

To remedy them these evils need far-reaching measures not only of national economic reconstruction but also of international economic planning and organisation.

The "New Order" now being attempted in Europe and in Asia could achieve unity, but at the expense of liberty, and would sacrifice the well-being of nations and individuals to the aggrandisement of one nation. Economic unity and co-operation must be planned so as to allow freedom to peoples and individuals and to secure prosperous development for all.



## II. Security of freedom for Nations and Individuals.

In the State of the future :—

(a) There must be a proper balance of the rights and duties of the individual and of the State ; and similarly in the community of nations, each nation must admit rights and duties *vis-a-vis* other nations and be prepared to sacrifice some measure of national sovereignty.

(b) Governments must be truly representative of the peoples and there must be the right and possibility of change by free choice of the majority. The problem of developing a true democracy must be solved.

(c) Free expression of opinion through press, public meetings and in all other ways must be guaranteed, with legal safeguards against abuse.

(d) Individual liberty must be accorded, subject only to a just and fairly administered legal system.

(e) For the successful functioning of democratic institutions a democratic system of education is needed, as well as far-reaching improvements in nutrition, housing, and opportunities for the best use of leisure. Healthy and better educated populations will form a firmer basis for popular government.

### RESOLUTIONS

**Peace Aims.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League urges the Government to state the principles on which peace should be based. This declaration might materially shorten the war by giving the hope of a just peace to the German people and the subjugated peoples of Europe.

**Women and Post-War Reconstruction.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League is of the opinion that in the work of post-war reconstruction women should take an equal share with men. To this end it urges that any Committee formed to discuss and formulate plans for either national or international policy should consist of fair proportions of men and women.

**Colonies.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League is convinced that a radical change of the present economic system, which leads to economic imperialism, is fundamental to the problem of international post-war planning. This is, moreover, vital in the interests of those peoples which are not ready, under the conditions of the modern world to govern themselves.

This Annual Council urges the extension to all non-self-governing dependencies of some form of international control, which should ensure an equitable distribution of the wealth accruing from colonial development, prevent the financial exploitation of the coloured peoples, and give them the basic requirements of social welfare and of economic and political development.

In all administrative planning the goal should be complete self-government at the earliest opportunity and, in the meantime, the eradication of the Colour Bar.

**India.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League emphasises its profound concern that the deadlock in India remains unsolved resulting in the imprisonment of thousands of men and women.

While recognising the difficulties that confront the Government on this problem, and that the settlement of the constitutional issue as a whole may be impossible during a world war—this Council is of the opinion that some transitional measure of agreement could be reached now in consultation with responsible Indian leaders.

It therefore urges H.M. Government to take the initiative in forming a National Government on which real responsibility would rest, composed of Indians who command the confidence of their country.

It also urges that release of political prisoners should accompany this action.

**American Provision of Food and Clothing for the Refugees and the French Children in Occupied French Territory.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League is profoundly thankful for the generous American initiative which is providing food and clothing for the refugees and the French children in unoccupied French territory, and would welcome the extension of facilities for this feeding.

Since the preservation of children is a fundamental instinct to which all peoples respond, this Council believes that such extension would not only be a measure of civilisation and humanity, but would be politically helpful in securing from this country when hostilities have ceased, goodwill and co-operation in the reconstruction that must follow.

**Application of Compulsion to Industry.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League deplores the extension of the principle of compulsion for the war requirements of Industry and Civil Defence, and in particular regrets that conscientious objection is not a specific ground for exemption.

It further points out that due consideration has not been given to the social consequences and to the special forms of hardship that must arise through the employment of women who accept compulsion.

**Armaments.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League urges that post-war planning should include steps to be taken for the establishment of international control for the prevention of the private manufacture and sale of armaments and for the disposal



of stocks of munitions existing at the end of the war in such a manner as to prevent their being used to precipitate war in any part of the world.

**Juvenile Offenders.** This Annual Council of the Women's International League observes with alarm the increasing number of juvenile offenders and, realising as it does the physical and moral benefits derived from an open-air life, it urges the Government to provide permanent camps for children of school age.

**Cable to Mrs. Nehru, President of the All India Women's Conference.** The Women's International League in Annual Council sends greetings to your Conference. In discussing post-war reconstruction we realise as you do the vital part women must play in this planning. We deplore present deadlock between our countries seeing it as a challenge to British and Indian women who desire a peaceful world. What can we do together to find a solution ?



## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending, 31st December, 1941.

<i>RECEIPTS</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
To Balance, January 1st, 1940	...	...	181 8 4½	By Rent	...	75 0 0	
Subscriptions	...	352 0 0		Lighting and Heating	...	9 11 2½	
Donations	...	129 16 5		Office Expenses	...	23 0 2½	
Affiliation Fees	...	35 4 0		Wages	...	22 0 2	
Sale of Literature and News Sheet	...	44 4 1½		State Insurances	...	5 16 9½	
Proceeds of Meetings	...	22 16 7½		Travelling Expenses	...	38 1 5	
			584 1 2	Affiliation Fees	...	4 17 10	
Geneva Subscriptions and Pax	...	16 5 6		Postage and Telephone	...	68 5 5	
				Audit Fee	...	7 7 0	
				Stationery	...	23 6 1	
				News Sheet and Literature	...	71 19 1	
				Salaries	...	276 7 6	
				Meetings	...	22 6 8¼	
				Grant to N.C.C.L.	...	1 1 0	
							649 0 4¾
				Geneva Subscriptions and Pax	...	19 5 6	
				Balance December 31st, 1940:—			
				Cash at Midland Bank, Ltd.	...	69 14 1	
				Cash in Hand	...	3 15 1	
				Co-operative Permanent Building Society (Congress Fund)	...	40 0 0	
							113 9 2
			<u>£781 15 0¾</u>				<u>£781 15 0¾</u>



Auditor.

19th February, 1941.







