



PAM FLYNN AND
CATRIN ASHTON AT
THE NAW'S AGM

JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN 50P AUTUMN 2022

ists

2 worse off in wales

3 sue ferns on the TUC

4 NAW agm

5 NAW 70 fighting years

6 a message to COP27

8 wortley, sylvia, unite...

worse off in wales

DERISORY pay increase means NHS staff in Wales will be significantly worse off.

The cost of living crisis shows no signs of abating. In fact, forecasts project that it will last well into 2023, and, beyond that lies huge uncertainty. Rapid inflation has caused prices to spiral, and our fuel, food and energy bills has eroded the value of our 'take home' pay.

Workers are not responsible for this crisis; however, it is workers who are bearing the brunt of it and are being left wondering what support there will be from both government and employers.

In Wales, the NHS is in enduring crisis with rising waiting lists, huge numbers of vacancies, and an exhausted workforce. Simply put, NHS staff are facing a crisis both in and outside of work.

The figures illustrating the rise in cost of living are disturbing. The energy price-cap is expected to rise to over £3,000 per year in October and may rise further in January. In fact, since the last pay increase in April 2022, the overall cost of energy bills will have risen by £2,000.

Food bills are expected to be between 15 and 20% higher by the end of the year – that's £1,000 more per year for a family of four and the cost of filling our cars is around £400 more expensive. This is not forgetting clothing, school uniforms, vehicle maintenance, increased mortgage rates etc.

For more years than I or any of my colleagues can remember, the NHS has been in crisis. The high vacancy rate has not been successfully addressed and this has had repercussions on staff, chiefly, unsustainable, and unmanageable workloads, physical and mental exhaustion and, for many, feelings of guilt about the level of care patients receive, despite their best efforts.

The burden of guilt should not lay with NHS staff. It should lie with the decision makers who oversee a system that is in chronic need of proper resourcing, primarily in terms of staffing levels.

I have never known morale to be so low and the last three years have been unrelenting, first the pandemic and now rapid inflation and a cost of living crisis. We are battle weary and many are now facing the choice between heating their homes and feeding their families. A choice that is grotesque in what is the world's sixth largest economy.

The level of 'in-work poverty' has risen to such an extent that I know of colleagues who are using foodbanks and employers have even gone so far as to provide guidance to staff on how to access them.

So, what support is being given to NHS staff? Well, we know what the answer is – very little. In September, NHS staff in Wales had a pay increase of £1,400 that was imposed upon them, without discussion, without negotiation. This increase is not only derisory, but also overdue – pay



increases in the NHS are due on 1 April – a derogation of responsibility towards staff more so this year than in perhaps any other.

The figures above illustrate that this pay increase will not go anywhere near to covering our bills. Our claim was not an outlandish one. We called for an inflation proofed pay rise following a decade of real terms pay cuts, the economic shock of the pandemic and now steep inflation.

Therefore, Unison members working in NHS Wales will shortly be voting on whether to take strike action.

The outcome is by no means certain. Taking strike action is always a last resort, and people's views will differ. But, with the situation as serious as the one we find ourselves in, asking members to make this choice is one we are forced to make.

I encourage members to exercise their vote in favour of taking industrial action. Another year of inaction will not serve either staff or our patients in the long-term.

Pay is a huge factor and influences both recruitment and retention in the NHS. Yet, once again, the opportunity to properly reward existing staff and incentivise the next generation to think about a career in the NHS has not been taken.

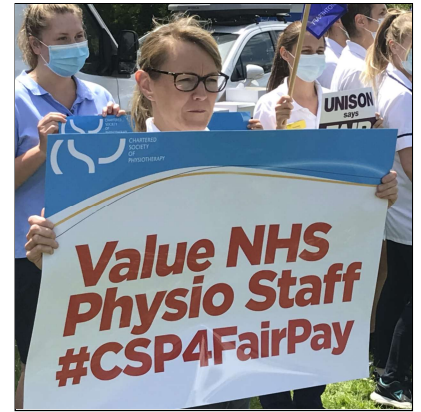
The NHS and care work more generally is performed by a majority female workforce, and I cannot help but feel that the historical link between care being undervalued as a profession is intrinsically linked to it being performed in the main by women.

Welsh decision makers have an opportunity to take the lead in reversing this historical trend, to be progressive and set an example to the rest of the UK that it recognises the value and importance of care by properly rewarding those staff who deliver it.

There is no NHS without its staff. Welsh government must listen to us.

JAN TOMLINSON IS UNISON CYMRU/WALES ASSISTANT CONVENOR AND BRANCH SECRETARY NORTH WALES HEALTH

UNISON CYMRU STRIKE BALLOT CLOSES 25 NOVEMBER



**enough
is
enough**

HUNDREDS of thousands of health workers across the UK are calling on the government to work with their unions to solve the staffing crisis in the NHS – but this must start with a decent pay rise. Years of pay stagnation have effectively resulted in a pay cut. Since 2010 nurses' pay has fallen by 20%. Long shifts, extra workloads and understaffing is leading to low morale and burnout. The government's feeble offer of a 4.75% pay increase in July shows their contempt for the contribution NHS staff make to the health and wellbeing in our society.

The Royal College of Nursing, representing over 300,000 members, held its first strike ballot in its 106-year history this autumn in the fight for fair pay and safe staffing. The overall results announced on 9 November show the majority voted YES to strike action which means many leading hospitals across the UK will be taking action this winter including St Thomas' Hospital London, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, University Hospital of Wales and the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Belfast.

Unison and most other health unions have called for an above inflation pay rise in their submission to the NHS pay review body and are either balloting or planning to ballot for industrial action including the Royal College of Midwives, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the GMB and Unite.

Essential services in the NHS will be maintained if strike action takes place, but the government needs to wake up to the reality that health workers and patients have had enough!

we demand better!



WE DEMAND BETTER
SUE FERNS FROM PROSPECT REFLECTS ON
THE TUC CONGRESS 2022 AT THE END OF
HER PRESIDENTIAL YEAR

OUR postponed Congress took place from 18 to 20 October in Brighton, and I had the honour of chairing it.

The new timing, which positioned Congress for the first time at the end of the political conference season, coincided with the slow-motion collapse of the disastrous Truss government.

It was a moment to savour, and we made the most of it, whilst being clear that the ministerial merry-go-round will do nothing to alleviate the cost of living crisis for working people or the pernicious anti-union agenda.

It was also the first in-person Congress for three years; a great time to come together in unity and to demonstrate the power and purpose of the entire trade union movement.

The cost of living crisis dominated the agenda, along with the full-frontal attack on our public services, key workers, and employment rights. Union after union spoke about the appetite for industrial action, the anger and despair of members, and the frustration of seeking to negotiate with ideologically driven ministers.

The agenda also included a range of other motions of direct interest to women including low and unequal pay and pensions, the right to food, workplace policies on the menopause, and sexual harassment. I strongly believe that tackling sexual harassment within our movement must remain a priority, and that it is a responsibility on all of us to make sure that happens.

As always, there were great fringe events including on the TUC's work on sexual harassment and on the anti-racism task force, which has completed a two year programme of work. A personal highlight for me was listening to Neville Lawrence, who gave one of the shortest but most powerful speeches of the week.

Congress also heard from Keir Starmer, who made important commitments on employment rights under the next Labour government as well as taking questions from delegates on a range of topics including industrial action, outsourcing, and the need for investment in our public services. Keir's positive messages were reinforced by sororal delegate Jo Stevens MP.

Rightly, there were many tributes to Frances O'Grady in her final Congress as TUC General Secretary. Congress also welcomed a passionate and determined speech from General Secretary Designate, Paul Nowak.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have served as TUC President, and I left Congress feeling energised for the challenges ahead. We should though, be in no doubt about the difficulties we face and the important role that each of us has in building membership and activism, not least across the private sector.

As I write this on the eve of the TUC's mass lobby of Parliament on 2 November, my final reflection is a simple one: We are stronger together, and together we can win.

[HTTPS://PROSPECT.ORG.UK/](https://prospect.org.uk/)

YOU CAN READ THE 2022 CONGRESS FINAL AGENDA HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.TUC.ORG.UK/FINAL-AGENDA-CONGRESS-2022](https://www.tuc.org.uk/final-agenda-congress-2022)

TUC congress

THE most controversial aspect of the 2022 TUC Congress was not Sir Keir Starmer's refusal to condemn below inflation pay offers or his lack of support for justified strikes, because delegates already knew his stand on these issues. It was the motion led by the GMB instructing the general council to "campaign for immediate increases in defence spending" on the spurious grounds that this would create more jobs and expand the economy. It also maintains that "up to 36p in the pound spent on defence manufacturing is returned through taxation – helping fund public services". Which begs the question – why not spend the whole pound on public services instead of building bombs!

Although only narrowly passed, this motion indicates that much work still needs to be done to commit the trade union movement to defence diversification.

In her final speech to TUC Congress before retiring as general secretary, Frances O'Grady (below centre) made it clear that "It's time for change. We need a general election now. We know who creates real wealth in this country. It's not hedge fund managers who made a mint by betting on the pound crashing. The real wealth creators are the people of this country." She called on delegates to "take that message to workplaces and communities, in every corner of the country. We can build a better world. We will fight for our class. And, together, we all win."



naw annual general meeting

THE National Assembly of Women's annual general meeting was held on Saturday 5 November at the Marx Memorial Library in London. It was a real treat for all those who attended to meet in person after so many years of zoom meetings due to Covid. The AGM was to be held in June but the closure of much of the rail network led us to reschedule to November. Little did we know that the train unions would be in the middle of major pay and conditions dispute and the cost of living crisis would bring thousands on to the street for the People's Assembly demonstration! Nonetheless the AGM was as inspiring and uplifting as ever.

Executive member Liz Payne reported on the international work she had undertaken on behalf of the NAW. Notably liaising with the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) at both regional and international level. Holding these meetings via zoom resulted in a slightly higher attendance and greater regularity. The two WIDF/European Vice Presidents, Ada Donno from Italy and Skevi Koukouma from Cyprus, regularly participated along with many representatives from affiliated women's groups including Greece, Portugal, Spain and Turkey. Liz emphasised how sharing and learning from each other enhanced our understanding of the issues women faced world-wide. It also gave the NAW opportunities to explain what was happening to women in Britain – for example when Liz was interviewed on Turkish TV.

Although the NAW was unable to attend the WIDF Congress held in Venezuela in April (Foreign Office advice made travel insurance difficult) Liz did participate in the preparatory meetings and a full report is on the NAW website.

Another aspect of NAW international work is liaising with women's groups domiciled in Britain, including the Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women and our Sudanese and Iraqi sisters. These links are particularly important as was shown when Unite sisters at their Equalities conference benefited from information the NAW had about the tragic death of the young women at the hands of the Iranian regime's Guidance Patrol.

The AGM thanked Liz for her work and her coverage of women's struggle for equality across the world that features regularly in *Sisters*.

The AGM went on to discuss two motions – the impact of conflict on women, nuclear weapons and the campaign for peace. Both passed unanimously.

In moving the first resolution Women and Peace, Pam Flynn said that we had to recognise the interconnection between nuclear war and climate change. An increase in conflict equals a greater impact on the environment. She also stressed the horrific impact conflict was having on children and women, with mil-



LIZ PAYNE, ROSE KEEPING, SANDRA DURKIN

lions being casually killed, displaced, raped and trafficked. Yet Labour leader, Keir Starmer will not condemn war or oppose NATO and is silencing Labour Party branches from discussing this life and death issue.

The proposal to increase Britain's military budget will do nothing to help the fight for peace, but sadly some trade unions view this in terms of job opportunities as witnessed at this year's TUC Congress when delegates passed a motion calling on the TUC to campaign for an increase in military spending. Pam called for support of the Move the Money campaign calling for investment from military spending to diversification launched by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and commended the WILPF exhibition and pamphlet on Climate Justice.

In closing Pam reminded us that the

UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 made it clear that women's equality was integral to lasting peace because "women's rights were human rights and that gender equality was an issue of universal concern, benefiting all".

Rae Street moved the second motion on NATO. Whilst condemning Putin's war in Ukraine she spoke passionately about how NATO expansionism was becoming global with all pretence of being a solely North Atlantic organisation gone long ago. She pointed to NATO deals being struck with South American countries sympathetic to US imperialism and the possibility of the right-wing governments of Sweden and Finland joining the Alliance. NATO had also blocked support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons passed in 2017 which was the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination. This shows that NATO is not a force for peace. Rae noted that NATO closed its bases in Britain in 2008 but in the current climate there were fears that they would return so CND and Stop the War would be demonstrating at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk on 19 November as this was a site where NATO might bring its bombs.



NAW executive committee election

NAW officers were elected unopposed as follows:

President, Rose Keeping
Secretary, Sandra Durkin
Treasurer, Carolyn Simpson.

Executive committee members elected were Mary Davis, Megan Dobney, Siobhan Endean, Bernadette Keaveney, Vicky Knight, Liz Payne and Anita Wright.

70 campaigning years



TO celebrate the National Assembly of Women's 70th anniversary a special event was held at the Marx Memorial Library on 5 November. Welcoming everyone to this historic building and the meeting MML Librarian Mierian Jump reminded us that the Library was established 50 years ago as a workers' school, and houses the archives of Claudia Jones, Eleanor Marx, Sylvia Pankhurst and is now home to the NAW archives. In summer this year, work began on cataloguing the deposit of approximately 10 boxes of material documenting the history and activities of the National Assembly of Women since its inaugural meeting on 8 March 1952 in London attended by 1,500 women from across the UK. This occasion was marked by a Home Office ban on overseas delegates, and the drafting of the first resolution for understanding and peace, an early indicator of the barriers to progress on issues affecting women and confirmation of the need for a unified women's organisation to advocate and press for change.

The archive is an exciting record of the NAW's history and development, its stated aims and activity at local and national level, its solidarity with international sisters, its dedicated research, its determined and interventionist approach to influencing policy and pressing for change. The items often show a high level of inspired and personal involvement – conference speech texts and conference programmes with notes scribbled in the margins, handwritten memos and reminiscences, photographs of delegates at conferences and on marches including a Moscow conference attended by Mikhail Gorbachev.

The catalogue is now published and able to be accessed via Marx Memorial

Library website.

In 2012 the NAW produced a pamphlet documenting the history of the organisation for its 60th anniversary, brilliantly researched by Norma Bramley, so rather than write a complete new one, Executive member, Liz Payne was tasked with writing a history part-two for the years 2012 to 2022.

This will now be added to the Marx Memorial Library archives along with photos and documents from the past 10 years.

The highlight of the anniversary event was having Dame Vera Baird KC, former Victims Commissioner and Gloria Mills, Unison Head of Equalities, as our invited speakers. Two leading women in their fields and long-standing Vice-Presidents of the NAW.

Dame Vera Baird talked of her early life growing up in Oldham's working-class community and chronicled her journey to become a barrister specialising in criminal law. A journey that brought her into contact with the prevalence of domestic violence and the law's gender inequality. In the 1970s and 80s when there was no mechanism to take out an injunction against a violent husband banning him from the home as he was regarded as the 'bread winner'. Only by threatening to sue could the wife be protected from her husband's violence. Gender inequality was also apparent in cases where one partner killed another. The charge of manslaughter was only applied if the killing was not premeditated – or seen as a "crime of passion" whereas murder was regarded as premeditated. So a woman who had endured years of domestic violence and feared for her life would be charged with murder, whereas a husband stabbing a wife who's about to leave

would be charged with manslaughter on the ground he "just snapped" implying that the woman brought about her own death.

Successive governments have also failed to take seriously the deep-rooted societal problem of domestic violence, illustrated by the fact that in 1997 there were All-Party Parliamentary Committees on Beer, Scotch Whisky, Irish Whiskey and Indian Islands but not on domestic violence. We can see, even now that the low level of conviction rates for domestic violence and rape do not reflect the number of reported incidents – there was a 46% decrease in prosecutions between 2016 and 2011 – and police misogyny compounds this further.

Dame Vera made a powerful argument for women's representation in Parliament, noting the positive impact women Labour MPs had made during 1997 with the call for all-women shortlists and she congratulated the many young women barristers, including one who was her pupil, who are currently making a stand in their dispute. She said that to make real, sustained change you must have a critical mass and only through this can society move forward on equality and justice for women.

Gloria Mills began her contribution by congratulating the NAW on its 70th anniversary and its history of campaigning for peace, equality and freedom. She reflected on how life was so different for women in the 1950s including the women of her own family especially those who died in childbirth or had to endure domestic violence in silence. She said that it was the right of all women to have agency over their own life and this is what she saw the NAW standing for.

As a trade unionist, particularly when she was in the print industry, she felt so proud to have had strong, supportive sisters in the movement "who lived their values" and had the integrity to not play male-games. She stressed that as a woman in the movement you can only achieve a shift in power if you work for the collective good not just yourself. Gloria recalled how Barbara Castle had worked hard to get equal pay legislation through Parliament in the 1970s but was blocked by leading male Labour MPs and how the Dagenham women machinists' strike gave her the opportunity to move it forward, albeit with the compromise of phased implementation. "Play positive and play long" was Barbara Castle's catch phrase, something Gloria said we have had to learn in our movement, notably on proportional representation of women.

Gloria spoke of the expansion of the public sector in the 1990s and how this gave women the chance to have quality jobs, career development opportunities, economic independence and good pen-

concluded on next page

continued from previous page

sions. The devastation wreaked by George Osborne's austerity policies followed by covid has pushed women back and shown that women really are the shock absorbers in the system. But we have re-grouped and re-built before so we can do it again.

Our task is to remove the market model from childcare and social care, where money is filtered off to hedge fund managers and corporate profiteering. We need to break with the past and unite behind some core demands:

- To revitalise trade union action and

confidence through campaigns that are successful, particularly demanding pay increases in line with inflation

- To demand the triple lock on pensions
- To demand an end to in-work poverty – the government should not be subsidising employers who don't pay a living wage
- Fight for 100% trade union density in public and private sectors

Gloria finished by saying that if we are to strengthen workers' resolve we must re-build our passion and determination to shift the dial. Only by the participation of women in our movement can we create a stronger force for change.



women's rights are human rights

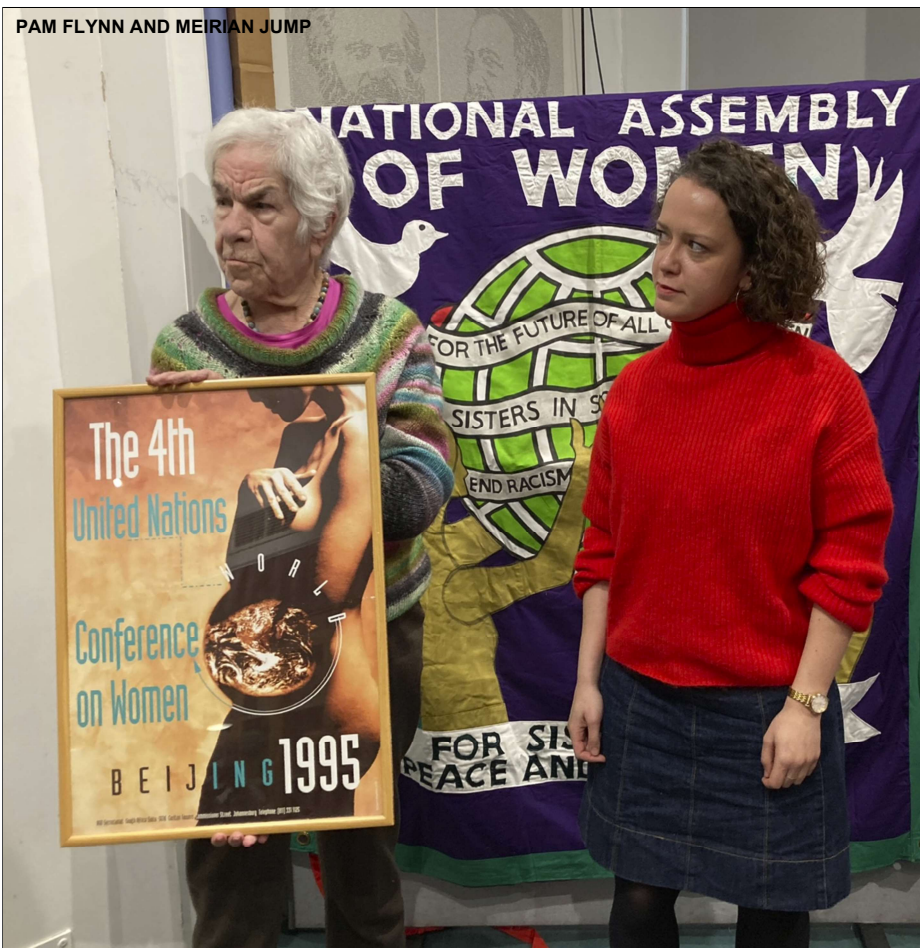
AS COP27 opens, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in collaboration with the International Peace Bureau and World Beyond War, launched two open letters regarding military spending and climate finance. One to the Green Climate Forum and the other (extract below) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change calling on them to explore the re-allocation of military spending to climate finance.

extract...

"As armed conflicts rage in Ukraine, Ethiopia and South Caucasus, we are gravely concerned that military emissions and expenditures are derailing progress on the Paris Agreement. We are appealing to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (UNFCCC) to conduct a special study and publicly report on the carbon emissions of the military and war. We are also asking that the Secretariat study and report on military spending in the context of climate finance.

We are troubled that military emissions and expenditures continue to rise, impeding countries' capacity to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. We are also worried that the ongoing wars and hostilities between countries are undermining global cooperation needed to achieve the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Since its inception, the UNFCCC has not put on a COP agenda the issue of carbon emissions from the military and war. We recognise that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified the possibility of climate change contributing to violent conflict but the IPCC has not considered the excessive emissions from the military to climate change. Yet, the military is the largest consumer of fossil fuels and biggest carbon emitter in the governments of state parties.

The United States' military is the largest consumer of petroleum products on the planet. The Costs of War Project at Brown University released a report in 2019 entitled "Pentagon Fuel Use,



AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE LEUVEN PEACE MOVEMENT AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF LEUVEN AND THE UNIVERSITY, A STATUE WAS UNVEILED ON 11 NOVEMBER 2021 FOR THE "UNKNOWN WAR WOMAN".

[HTTPS://WWW.TRACESOFWAR.COM/SIGHT S/142399/MEMORIAL-THE-UNKNOWN-WAR-WOMAN.HTM](https://www.tracesofwar.com/sight/S/142399/MEMORIAL-THE-UNKNOWN-WAR-WOMAN.HTM)

ABOVE PIC: THE NAW'S AGM CLOSED WITH PAM FLYNN PRESENTING TO THE MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ON BEHALF OF THE NAW, A FRAMED POSTER FROM THE 4TH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, HELD IN BEIJING IN 1995. PAM ATTENDED THIS CONFERENCE AS PART OF THE NAW DELEGATION.

CLAUSE 14 OF THE 'BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION' STATED SIMPLY, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT "WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS".

to COP27...

Climate Change, and the Costs of War" that showed that the carbon emissions of the US military are larger than most European countries. Many countries are investing in new fossil fuel-powered weapons systems, such as fighter jets, warships and armoured vehicles, that will cause carbon lock-in for many decades and prevent rapid decarbonisation. However, they do not have adequate plans to offset the emissions of the military and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

We are requesting that the UNFCCC put on the agenda of the next COP the issue of military and war emissions. Last year, global military spending rose to \$2.1 trillion (USD), according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The five largest military spenders are the United States, China, India, United Kingdom and Russia. In 2021, the US spent \$801 billion on its military, which accounted for 40% of world military expenditures and more than the next nine countries combined. This year, the Biden administration has further increased US military spending to a record high of \$840 billion. By contrast the US budget for the Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for climate change, is only \$9.5 billion. The British government plans to double military spending to £100 billion by 2030. Worse still, the British government announced that it would cut funding from climate change and foreign aid to spend more on weapons to Ukraine. Germany also announced a €100 billion boost to its military spending. In the latest federal budget, Canada ramped up its defence budget currently at \$35 billion/year by \$8 billion over the next five years. Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are increasing military spending to meet the 2% GDP target. NATO's latest defence expenditures report shows that military spending for its 30 member countries has risen dramatically over the

past seven years from \$896 billion to \$1.1 trillion USD per year, which is 52% of world military spending. This increase is more than \$211 billion per year, which is more than double the climate financing pledge.

In 2009 at COP15 in Copenhagen, wealthy Western countries made a commitment to establish an annual fund of \$100 billion by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to the climate crisis, but they failed to meet this target. Last October, Western countries led by Canada and Germany published a Climate Finance Delivery Plan claiming that it will take until 2023 to meet their commitment to mobilise \$100 billion every year through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to assist poorer nations deal with the climate crisis. Developing countries are the least responsible for the crisis, but are the hardest hit by climate-induced extreme weather events and urgently need adequate financing for adaptation and loss and damage.

At COP26 in Glasgow, rich countries agreed to double their funding for adaptation, but they have failed to do so and they have failed to agree on funding for loss and damage. In August of this year, the GCF launched its campaign for a second replenishment from countries. This funding is crucial for climate resilience and a just transition that is gender-responsive and targeted to vulnerable communities. Instead of marshalling resources for climate justice, this past year, Western countries have rapidly increased public spending for weapons and war. We are requesting that the UNFCCC raise the issue of military spending as a source of funding for climate financing facilities: the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Financing Facility. In September, during the General Debate at the United Nations, the leaders of many countries denounced military spending and made the connection to the climate crisis. The Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands Manasseh Sogavare stated, "Sadly more resources are spent on wars than on combatting climate change, this is extremely unfortunate." The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Arnaldo André-Tinoco expounded "It is inconceivable that while millions of people are waiting for vaccines, medicines or food to save their lives, the richest countries continue to prioritise their resources in armaments at the expense of people's wellbeing, climate, health and equitable recovery.

In 2021, global military spending continued to increase for the seventh consecutive year to reach the highest figure we have ever seen in history. Costa Rica today reiterates its call for a gradual and sustained reduction in military spending. For the more weapons we produce, the more will escape even our best efforts at management and control. It is about pri-

oritising the lives and wellbeing of people and the planet over the profits to be made from weapons and war. It is important to note that Costa Rica abolished its military in 1949. This path of demilitarisation over the past 70 years has led Costa Rica to be a leader in decarbonisation and biodiversity conservation.

Last year at COP26, Costa Rica launched the "Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance" and the country can power most of its electricity on renewables. At this year's UN General Debate, the President of Colombia Gustavo Petro Urrego also denounced the "invented" wars in Ukraine, Iraq, Libya, and Syria and argued that wars have served as an excuse to not tackle climate change. We are asking that the UNFCCC directly confront the interconnected problems of militarism, war and the climate crisis. Last year, scientists Dr Carlo Rovelli and Dr Matteo Smerlak co-founded the Global Peace Dividend Initiative. They argued in their recent article "A Small Cut in World Military Spending Could Help Fund Climate, Health and Poverty Solutions" published in Scientific American that countries should redirect some of the \$2 trillion "wasted every year in the global arms race" to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other development funds. Peace and the reduction and re-allocation of military spending to climate financing are crucial to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

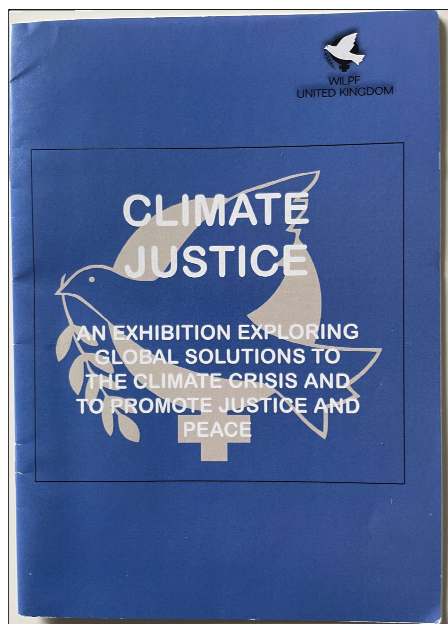
We call on the UNFCCC Secretariat to use your office to raise awareness about the impacts of military emissions and military expenditures on the climate crisis. We ask that you put these issues on an upcoming COP agenda and commission a special study and public report. Carbon-intensive armed conflict and rising military spending can no longer be overlooked if we are serious about averting catastrophic climate change. Finally, we believe that peace, disarmament and demilitarisation are vital to mitigation, transformational adaptation, and climate justice. We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you virtually. WILPF will also be sending a delegation to COP27 and we would be pleased to meet with you in-person in Egypt. We look forward to your reply. Thank you for your attention to our concerns."

**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE AND FREEDOM**
WWW.WILPF.ORG.UK

**INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**
WWW.ICANW.ORG

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU
WWW.IPB.ORG

**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC
FEDERATION**
SEARCH ON FACEBOOK





PIC ABOVE: NAW EC MEMBERS ANITA WRIGHT, MEGAN DOBNEY AND LIZ PAYNE AT THE NAW STALL AT UNITE'S EQUALITIES CONFERENCES



PIC ABOVE: FROM THE FRONT CLOCKWISE MEGAN, CAD, PHILIPPA, MARIE AND LYLIE AT THE NAW'S STALL AT THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE FESTIVAL IN WORTLEY HALL'S GARDENS

naw @ unite

THE Unite national women's conference 2022 kicked off Unite's equalities conferences, held in Bournemouth in October. In taking up her new post Alison Spencer-Spragg said:

"It is an honour to be seconded into the position of Unite National Officer for Equalities with responsibility for women "recognising that the involvement and activism of women within Unite is a high priority as is helping to deliver strategies that will bring a reduction of the gender pay gap, expansion of agreements that will benefit women workers and seeking improvements on current maternity, flexible working, menopause, sexual harassment policies."

Our NAW stall attracted a lot of delegates and Alison said she looked forward to working closely with us as she knew many Unite women were already fully engaged and appreciated it brought women together from across the movement.

PIC BELOW: A FULL HOUSE FOR THE 2022 SYLVIA PANKHURST MEMORIAL LECTURE GIVEN BY AUTHOR RACHEL HOLMES ON THE TOPIC "SYLVIA PANKHURST AND WAR"



what's on...

NAW Executive Committee meetings are open to all members. For more information about the next meeting please contact the Secretary, Sandra Durkin, on naw@sisters.org.uk or at NAW, 72 Beaconsfield Road Coventry CV2 4AR

join the NAW now!

I would like to join the NAW. Here is £20 for the annual subscription (£10 unwaged) which includes my subscription to **sisters**, the journal of the NAW.

Our organisation would like to affiliate to the NAW. Enclosed is: £20 (local organisation/NAW branch), £45 (regional organisation), £60 (national)

Name

Address

postcode

Organisation

phone

email

Send to: NAW, c/o C Simpson, 26 Birchanger Road, London SE25 5BB