

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN

THE HAGUE — APRIL 28TH TO MAY 1ST 1915

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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THE WAAGE - APRIL 1911 TO MAY 1912

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International Congress of Women

THE HAGUE = THE NETHERLANDS.

APRIL 28th TO MAY 1st. 1915.

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS: JANE ADDAMS.

International Committee of the Congress:

LEOP. KULKA, }
OLGA MISAR, } Austria.

EUGÉNIE HAMER, }
MARGUÉRITE SARTEN, } Belgium.

THORA DAUGAARD, }
CLARA TYBJERG, } Denmark.

Dr. ANITA AUGSPURG, }
LIDA GUSTAVA HEYMANN, *Secretary & Interpreter*, } Germany.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, *Secretary*, }
KATHLEEN COURTNEY, *Interpreter*, } Great Britain and Ireland.

VILMA GLÜCKLICH, }
ROSIKA SCHWIMMER, } Hungary.

ROSE GENONI, Italy.

Dr. ALETTA JACOBS, }
HANNA VAN BIEMA-HYMANS, *Secretary*, } Netherlands.
Dr MIA BOISSEVAIN, }

Dr. EMILY ARNESEN, }
LOUISA KEILHAU, } Norway.

ANNA KLEMAN, }
EMMA HANSSON, } Sweden.

JANE ADDAMS, *President*, }
FANNIE FERN ANDREWS, } U. S. A.

International Congress of Women

THE HAVRE - THE NETHERLANDS

APRIL 28 TO MAY 14 1913

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International Committee of the Congress:

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CLARA MERRILL {

ELIZABETH STANTON {
MARGARETE SARTER {

THEA DANKERT {
CLARA THURN {

DR. ANNA KUNDEL {
LINA CLARA HILMARSEN, Secretary & Treasurer, { Germany

CHRISTAL BIRNBAUM, Secretary {
KATHARIN COCKREY, Treasurer, { Great Britain and Ireland

YVON GILBERT {
KONIG SCHWIMMER {

ROSE GARDIN, Italy

DR. HELENE JACOB {
FRANZ VAN DER HAEGHE, Secretary, { Netherlands
DR. MRS. ROSSIGNOL

DR. EMILY BARRETT {
LOUISA BARNARD {

ANNA KUNDEL {
EMMA HILMARSEN {

JANE ADDAMS, President, { U.S.A.
FRANZ VAN DER HAEGHE, Secretary

SOME PARTICULARS ABOUT THE CONGRESS.

How the Congress was called.

The scheme of an International Congress of Women was formulated at a small conference of Women from neutral and belligerent countries, held at Amsterdam, early in Febr. 1915. A preliminary programme was drafted at this meeting, and it was agreed to request the Dutch Women to form a Committee to take in hand all the arrangement for the Congress and to issue the invitations.

Finance.

The expenses of the Congress were guaranteed by British, Dutch and German Women present who all agreed to raise one third of the sum required.

Membership.

Invitations to take part in the Congress were sent to women's organisations and mixed organisations as well as to individual women all over the world. Each organisation was invited to appoint two delegates.

Women only could become members of the Congress and they were required to express themselves in general agreement with the resolutions on the preliminary programme. This general agreement was interpreted to imply the conviction

- a.* That international disputes should be settled by pacific means;
- b.* That the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women.

Conditions of Debate.

The Congress was carried on under two important rules:

1. That discussions on the relative national responsibility for or conduct of the present war,

2. Resolutions dealing with the rules under which war shall in future be carried on, shall be outside the scope of the Congress.

Countries Represented.

Women from the following countries were present:

Austria	6
Belgium	5
Canada	2
Denmark	6
Germany	28
Great Britain	3
(about 180 prevented from coming)	
Hungary	10
Italy	1
Netherlands	1000
Norway	12
Sweden	16
U. S. A.	47

The Congress, which was attended by a large number of visitors as well as by the members was extremely successful. Proceedings were conducted with the greatest goodwill throughout, and the accompanying resolutions were passed at the business sessions.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

I. WOMEN AND WAR.

1. Protest.

We women, in International Congress assembled, protest against the madness and the horror of war, involving as it does a reckless sacrifice of human life and the destruction of so much that humanity has laboured through centuries to build up.

2. Women's Sufferings in War.

This International Congress of Women opposes the assumption that women can be protected under the conditions of modern warfare. It protests vehemently against the odious wrongs of which women are the victims in time of war, and especially against the horrible violation of women which attends all war.

II. ACTION TOWARDS PEACE.

3. The Peace Settlement.

This International Congress of Women of different nations, classes, creeds and parties is united in expressing sympathy with the suffering of all, whatever their nationality, who are fighting for their country or labouring under the burden of war.

Since the mass of the people in each of the countries now at war believe themselves to be fighting, not as aggressors but in self-defence and for their national existence, there can be no irreconcilable differences between them, and their common ideals afford a basis upon which a magnanimous and honourable peace might be established. The Congress therefore urges the Govern-

ments of the world to put an end to this bloodshed, and to begin peace negotiations. It demands that the peace which follows shall be permanent and therefore based on principles of justice, including those laid down in the resolutions ¹⁾ adopted by this Congress, namely:

That no territory should be transferred without the consent of the men and women in it, and that the right of conquest should not be recognized.

That autonomy and a democratic parliament should not be refused to any people.

That the Governments of all nations should come to an agreement to refer future international disputes to arbitration or conciliation and to bring social, moral and economic pressure to bear upon any country which resorts to arms.

That foreign politics should be subject to democratic control.

That women should be granted equal political rights with men.

4. Continuous Mediation.

This International Congress of Women resolves to ask the neutral countries to take immediate steps to create a conference of neutral nations which shall without delay offer continuous mediation. The Conference shall invite suggestions for settlement from each of the belligerent nations and in any case shall submit to all of them simultaneously, reasonable proposals as a basis of peace.

¹⁾ NOTE. The Resolutions in full are Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

III. PRINCIPLES OF A PERMANENT PEACE.

5. Respect for Nationality.

This International Congress of Women, recognizing the right of the people to self-government, affirms that there should be no ¹⁾ transference of territory without the consent of the men and women residing therein, and urges that autonomy and a democratic parliament should not be refused to any people.

6. Arbitration and Conciliation.

This International Congress of Women, believing that war is the negation of progress and civilisation, urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to refer future international disputes to arbitration and conciliation.

7. International Pressure.

This International Congress of Women urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to unite in bringing social, moral and economic pressure to bear upon any country, which resorts to arms instead of referring its case to arbitration or conciliation.

8. Democratic Control of Foreign Policy.

Since war is commonly brought about not by the mass of the people, who do not desire it, but by groups representing particular interests, this International Congress of Women urges that Foreign Politics shall be subject to Democratic Control; and declares that it can only recognise as democratic a system which includes the equal representation of men and women.

1) NOTE. The Congress declared by vote that it interpreted no transference of territory without the consent of the men and women in it to imply that the right of conquest was not to be recognized.

9. The Enfranchisement of Women.

Since the combined influence of the women of all countries is one of the strongest forces for the prevention of war, and since women can only have full responsibility and effective influence when they have equal political rights with men, this International Congress of Women demands their political enfranchisement.

IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

10. Third Hague Conference.

This International Congress of Women urges that a third Hague Conference be convened immediately after the war.

11. International Organization.

This International Congress of Women urges that the organization of the Society of Nations should be further developed on the basis of a constructive peace, and that it should include:

- a.* As a development of the Hague Court of Arbitration, a permanent International Court of Justice to settle questions or differences of a justiciable character, such as arise on the interpretation of treaty rights or of the law of nations.
- b.* As a development of the constructive work of the Hague Conference, a permanent International Conference holding regular meetings in which women should take part, to deal not with the rules of warfare but with practical proposals for further International Cooperation among the States. This Conference should be so constituted that it could formulate and enforce those principles of justice, equity and good will in accordance with which the struggles of subject communities could be more fully recognized and the interests and rights not only of the great Powers and small nations but also those of weaker countries and primitive peoples gradually adjusted under an enlightened international public opinion.

This International Conference shall appoint:

A permanent Council of Conciliation and Investigation for the settlement of international differences arising from economic competition, expanding commerce, increasing population and changes in social and political standards.

12. General Disarmament.

The International Congress of Women, advocating universal disarmament and realizing that it can only be secured by international agreement, urges, as a step to this end, that all countries should, by such an international agreement, take over the manufacture of arms and munitions of war and should control all international traffic in the same. It sees in the private profits accruing from the great armament factories a powerful hindrance to the abolition of war.

13. Commerce and Investments.

- a.* The International Congress of Women urges that in all countries there shall be liberty of commerce, that the seas shall be free and the trade routes open on equal terms to the shipping of all nations.
- b.* Inasmuch as the investment by capitalists of one country in the resources of another and the claims arising therefrom are a fertile source of international complications, this International Congress of Women urges the widest possible acceptance of the principle that such investments shall be made at the risk of the investor, without claim to the official protection of his government.

14. National Foreign Policy.

- a.* This International Congress of Women demands that all secret treaties shall be void and that for the ratification of future treaties, the participation of at least the legislature of every government shall be necessary.

VII. ACTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. General Policy

The Board of Directors has adopted the following general policy: to support the development of a world-wide network of voluntary health organizations, to provide technical assistance and training, and to promote the health of the people of the world through the support of voluntary health organizations.

2. Objectives of the Organization

The primary objective of the organization is to support the development of a world-wide network of voluntary health organizations, to provide technical assistance and training, and to promote the health of the people of the world through the support of voluntary health organizations.

The Board of Directors has adopted the following objectives: to support the development of a world-wide network of voluntary health organizations, to provide technical assistance and training, and to promote the health of the people of the world through the support of voluntary health organizations.

3. Methods of Operation

The organization shall operate through a network of voluntary health organizations, to provide technical assistance and training, and to promote the health of the people of the world through the support of voluntary health organizations.

4. Financial Policy

The organization shall operate on a non-profit basis, and shall not have any financial interest in any enterprise.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOR PERMANENT PEACE.

At the International Congress of Women the following resolution was passed.

While recognizing the desirability of the cooperation of men and women in the cause of peace, this International Women's Congress resolves to form a Committee of Women of all Countries, specially to ensure the holding of an International meeting of women in the same place and at the same time as the Conference which shall frame the terms of the peace settlement after the war. It further recommends to women of all nations the study of the conditions of a permanent peace with a view to presenting practical proposals to that International Women's Meeting.

In order to carry out the above resolution.

The International Committee of the Congress recommends that this Women's Congress should be held when the official Conference which is to frame the peace settlement after the war has been sitting for four weeks and that each country should send 20 delegates and 10 alternates to that Congress.

The International Committee of the Congress also recommends that a permanent International Committee be formed to be called the „*International Women's Committee for Permanent Peace*,“ to consist of the members of the International Committee of the Congress, with other members coopted by them, so that each country is represented by not more than five members.

The officers to be a chairman, vice-chairman, a secretary, assistant secretary and treasurer.

Objects of the International Women's Committee for Permanent Peace.

1. To ensure that an International Congress of Women shall be held in the same place and at the same time as the official Conference which shall frame the terms of the peace settlement after the war for the purpose of making practical proposals to that Conference.
2. To organise support for the resolutions passed by the International Congress of Women at The Hague 1915.

Proposed National Committees or Branches.

It is recommended that some machinery be created in each Country to promote the objects of the International Women's Committee for Permanent Peace.

1. It will probably be necessary to form a special Committee for the purpose of sending representative women to the proposed Congress of Women to be held at the same time as the official Conference which shall frame the Peace Settlement after the war;
2. For purposes of propaganda it will probably be desirable that in every country there should be a National Association, membership of which should be open to those who support
 - a. The extension of the Parl. Franchise to women;
 - b. The settlement of International disputes by peaceful means;

and who are in general agreement with the resolutions adopted by the International Congress of Women.

It is suggested that the women of each country should either join existing organisations which include the above objects or should start new ones.

Finance.

It is suggested that if these organisations develop each Branch should pay an affiliation fee of 25 francs to the International Treasurer, and should raise as large a sum as possible for International Expenses.

COMMUNICATIONS

should be sent to: **ROSA MANUS**, *Assistant Secretary of the International Women's Committee for Permanent Peace,*

Plantage Parklaan 15, AMSTERDAM.
Netherlands.

ORDERS FOR THE FULL REPORT OF THE CONGRESS

should be sent to:

Drukkerij „CONCORDIA,” Kadijk, Amsterdam (Netherlands).

These must be *prepaid*. Price 1.50 gulden, (2 s. 6 d.; 60 cents) post free. Each Member of the Congress will receive a free copy of the Report as soon as it is published.

It is suggested that a more systematic development of the
plans should be made in the form of a plan to the
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ORDERS FOR THE MAIL REPORT OF THE CONGRESS

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