

Introduction to and Summary of the Program 2.0 Structure Proposal

Program 2.0 is a proposal for restructuring the way WILPF US decides how to work on “program”, namely WILPF US actions and activity to support our positions and goals in areas such as disarmament, peace, and justice. Currently, the national ad hoc Holistic Committee is continuing work on the more detailed Program 2.0 proposal documents, of which this is a summary. (Please see the end of this document for a list of the current Holistic Committee members.)

This summary is intended as a quick-reference, to introduce and supplement the full Program 2.0 proposal. I invite WILPF members to read and give input on this proposal for restructuring WILPF US program functioning and roles, esp. the role of the Program Chairs and the Program Committee. If you have questions or want to get the full Program 2.0 documents, please contact president@wilpfus.org.

How does US WILPF Program work now and how, under 2.0, would it change?

Currently, the job of the Program Committee is to develop and refine WILPF US’s Program, that is, our priorities and goals for program work. That work of the Program Committee will be strengthened under Program 2.0. The Program guides our work; it isn’t our work itself.

Under Program 2.0, the **Program Committee**, with the issue committees and with input from branches and members, would set program priorities, subject to the approval of the Board. Together these priorities and goals would form the **Program Plan** at WILPF US.

Issue committees would set goals within these priorities and develop specific action ideas and steps to meet those goals. **The issue committees welcome and encourage input from branches and members.**

Contact issue committee chairs by going to [Our Work](#) on our website and click on “Issue Committee Chairs” for specific contact information.

What does the WILPF US national Program Committee do under Program 2.0?

The Program Committee would consist of the Program Chairs, the issue committee chairs, other key program leaders (in program areas outside of the issue committees), such as the (WILPF US) Liaison to the WILPF International Americas Region, and other volunteers appointed to the committee to assist the Program Chairs in their work. Our two Program Chairs, as the leaders of the Program Committee, would be expected to work well together and ultimately be responsible for completing the committee’s work.

Under the Program 2.0 proposal, the Program Committee confers to identify for WILPF US –

- long term (two-year and/or three-year) program priorities,
- annual program goals,
- strategic program plans and actions, and
- program timetables.

The Program Chairs would lead the committee in holding one another accountable for moving forward, prioritizing, implementing plans, and – to determine effectiveness – identifying measurable outcomes or effects of actions.

Under Program 2.0, how do members have a voice in setting program priorities and goals and a place in program work ?

WILPF US follows a feminist model of collective wisdom and deliberate efforts to listen to members on a strategic ways forward and develop paths to leadership. As a part of that model, WILPF Program would be open to periodic – every three years and every year – revision and refinement in a process accessible to WILPF member input. Members and branches would have a voice in setting program priorities and goals in two primary ways: via input to the national board and via participation in our national issue committees. Issue committees are important in WILPF US, both as the primary place where national actions are designed to support issue committee political goals and as part of a pathway to WILPF US leadership, especially for at-large members.

There is a place in national program work both for experts on issues who help us develop responses and statements, as well as for new and seasoned activists who want to be pursuing solutions and focusing on action.

At the individual WILPF member level, at-large members and members of branches are encouraged to take action toward our program goals and to participate in planning and articulating national program. All program work should include suggestions for meaningful ways in which branches and members can implement the work and priorities at a community, state, regional and/or national level and how projects can become collaborative models replicable across the US.

How would the Program Committee work under Program 2.0?

In order to ensure that our work is both strategic and effective, the Program Committee, led by the chairs, would do the following:

1. Set the priorities and broad themes for Program— integrated and interconnected — to be used by issue committees referencing International WILPF Resolutions; WILPF US Congress decisions; previous Program Committee work and plans; the realities of working locally on specific issues; and WILPF Board decisions that affect our finances, capacity, and structure.
2. Collaborate with and assist the issue committees as they design projects, goals, and work plans based on these priorities and themes.
3. Seek synergistic opportunities for collaboration between committees, branches, projects, and movement partners and allies.
4. Suggest funding priorities for development committee goals, based on the projects being launched or completed by issue committees, branches and members.
5. Work with issue committees and other components of WILPF to develop and distribute resources to help members and branches to envision and realize the program goals.
6. Facilitate program implementation, including at every step of the way the input of members, branches, and WILPF issue experts (and *possibly* outside experts).

The Program Committee would propose priorities based on analysis of various factors. One important factor would be our ability to have meaningful influence on the priorities we set, based on our capacity, funding, and leadership profile. Another would be our ability to provide a feminist lens on the priorities and projects we support.

Note: This proposal assumes the presence of two adept Program Chairs. The Holistic Committee is developing a transition plan.

The Holistic Program Restructuring Committee (or, simply, **Holistic Committee**) is an ad hoc national committee appointed by President, Darien De Lu. It has the following members: Janet Slagter, (CA) Anne Henny (CA), Marybeth Gardam (FL), Laura Dewey (MI),

Nancy Price (CA), Ellen Schwartz (CA), Eileen Kurkoski (MA), Odile Hugonot Haber (MI),
Mary Hanson Harrison (IA), Jane Doyle (CA), and Darien De Lu (CA).