



Summer 2025

Number 2

### **Global Women United for Peace Against NATO (GWUAN)<sup>1</sup>**

This international community of women peacebuilders including NSVOW members were part of the June 22 NATO counter summit held in The Hague that was also livestreamed. Watch and share these two powerful videos<sup>2</sup> showing women around the world demanding

**NO to NATO; Yes to Peace.**

We, women, across the globe deeply love our planet, cherish universal principles of equality, justice, and peace enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We fight for the rights of women and all peoples of the world against all forms of violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

\*\*\*

### **Rally for Palestine – Sunday 6 July 2025**

Presentation by kathrin winkler

Good morning. Thank you, Rana and all organizers, for inviting me to speak on behalf of Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace. Thank you to the organizers of the rally this week in front of [federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada] Lena Diab's office calling out the disparity and shameful delays for refugees. Our solidarity with all of you underscores again and again the urgent call for peace and justice for Gaza. Our

solidarity today must be a solidarity of resistance to the violence and injustice the Canadian state is perpetrating – seen and unseen. There is so much that we can do here against the war machine. This is what I will speak to.

We must raise our voices together against the war economy here, advocate stronger for a weapons embargo and disarmament wherever weapons are considered, manufactured, provided, developed, transported, and utilized on our shared Earth. With every tax dollar in military spending, we are agreeing to an *economy of violence and dominance*.

But those in power are afraid of public opinion questioning the excess in spending – that is our work now. **Because if we can increase military spending, we can also DECREASE military spending.**

Most Canadians would agree that robbery, murder, and hijacking are not values that define the “I am Canadian” feel-good video renditions of our identity as we link our elbows up in patriotism. Most Canadians would agree that murder does not define our celebration of the maple leaf in all her colonial glory or the mighty beaver. Still, this government refuses to take a stand against the genocide, instead fuelling it through manufacturers, labour and dollars coming from our pockets.

<sup>1</sup> <https://womenagainstnato.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fweUNTqhol>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-upPhfBW1g>

Yet, what makes the headlines? Canadians expressing their noble outrage against US pressures and tariffs. The headlines bristle with outrage about tariffs that will impact the millionaire's profit.

We do need tariffs. We need a tariff on death – a calling to account for the import and export of every bomb, bullet, arms technology, guidance system, weapon of murder that we are part of this Canadian economy of death – of killing civilians. We buy technology for weapons from Israel that are labelled “combat tested.” We need a death tariff to expose these products of havoc and hopelessness that rain down on people – including starving parents grasping for food under bullet fire, including babies taking in their first breath as their last.

The Canadian Department of Defence has forfeited the right to use the word defence. Maybe the Department of Pretence holds more truth. Yes, let's call it the Department of Pretence. A pretence of upholding international law when we continue to fuel murder in Gaza – a Department of Pretence that cloaks itself in stealth capabilities of honour and patriotism, like the fighter jets we are buying. We are being robbed; our money is hijacked for killing.

In conclusion, let me share a brief story from Setsuko Thurlow,<sup>3</sup> a hibakusha, one who survived the bombing of Hiroshima by the US 80 years ago as a ten-year old girl. She was pulled out of the rubble at her school. None of her classmates survived. She was sharing this [story] on a webinar about the disarmament curriculum that is

being developed by young people for high school to teach our path to peace.

Setsuko Thurlow said that it was the teachers and community that helped those children through the years to come – through the deaths that continued from radiation, through their confusion at the world the adults had made, and through their despair and pain. The teachers encouraged them to keep going, to heal, and to move peace forward.

*For the sake of the children let us be prepared for peace.*

\*\*\*

A gentle reminder – **membership dues**. Please pay what you can and note that our website PayPal link is now working. If you would like to join, renew, or donate to a specific initiative, please go to [Join Us – NS Voice of Women](#). You may also notice that our website is getting updates by some wonderful volunteers. THANK YOU!

\*\*\*

Check out the Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace **Facebook** page<sup>4</sup> Two top stories: An opinion piece by Seth Klein on the Canadian government putting money into the military without considering the global climate crisis;<sup>5</sup> and the persecution of UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories Francesca Albanese by the Trump administration.<sup>6</sup>

\*\*\*

Consider adding your voice to this newsletter: please send contributions to Julie Cormack at [jlc5440@gmail.com](mailto:jlc5440@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup> [https://rise.icanw.org/setsuko\\_thurlow](https://rise.icanw.org/setsuko_thurlow)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NSVOW/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://archive.is/nUw5Y>

<sup>6</sup> [https://chrishedges.substack.com/p/the-persecution-of-francesca-albanese?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=android&r=1aiuc6&triedRedirect=true](https://chrishedges.substack.com/p/the-persecution-of-francesca-albanese?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=1aiuc6&triedRedirect=true)