Highlights of Akhila Sandhu’s Work for VOW

Akhila was a part-time student intern from the University of Toronto from January to April 2023. It was wonderful to have her positive energy. Here are some of the Akhila’s activities and accomplishments with VOW:

- Helped to organize Webinar “Haiti Betrayed: Canada’s Role in the Current Crisis” with filmmaker Elaine Briere, Haitian-Canada activists Jafrikayiti Jean St-Vil and Garry Auguste & community leader in Jeremie Georges Gabrielle Paul
- Joint letter to the federal government on Haiti our call for Canada to stop engaging in foreign intervention efforts in Haiti, acknowledge the harms it has perpetuated in Haiti, and respect the Haitian people’s right to self-determination
- Graphics for the V-Day, Black History Month, International Women’s Day, Global Campaign Against Military Spending
- Graphics for the No New Fighter Jets campaign
- Webinar “Twenty Years On: The Iraq War” with peace activists Kathy Kelly and Yusur Al-Bahrani
- Helped to arrange meeting with MP Lindsay Mathyssen, NDP Defence Critic
- Parliamentary petition and to tell the Trudeau government to #DropTheF35Deal: https://bit.ly/3Jvrawb

Highlights of Sarah Rohleder’s Work for VOW

Sarah was a part-time peace campaigner for VOW from September 2022-October 2023. She is a University of British Columbia undergraduate student who is also an active youth member of the nuclear disarmament group Reverse the Trend. Sarah made an incredible contribution to our organization:

- Developed a parliamentary petition for the Government of Canada to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), send a delegation to the 2nd Meeting of the Parties of the TPNW and show leadership on nuclear disarmament
- Hosted a webinar on youth-led nuclear disarmament for Nagasaki Day in August
- Wrote and published an article on nuclear disarmament
- Helped to create fact sheet for Canada, NATO and nuclear weapons: The urgent need for disarmament: https://vowpeace.org/tpnw-fact-sheet/
- Helped with the campaign on no new fighter jets
- Helped with the Indo-Pacific Strategy discussion, created a graphic “China is not our Enemy” and fact sheet
- Helped with the Global Week of Action for a Ceasefire and Peace in Ukraine October 1-8

Highlights of Tamara Lorincz’s Work for VOW

Tamara was a part-time senior peace campaigner and researcher for VOW for 2022-2023. She organized many webinars and campaigns for VOW and represented VOW at many events:

- Mentored and worked with Akhila, the student intern, and Sarah, youth peace campaigner
- Protested the CANSEC Arms Show in Ottawa in May, brought VOW banners
- Organized two dinners with VOW members in Ottawa in January and June
- Participated in the full-day Global Affairs Consultations on Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in June
• Attended the International Summit for Peace in Ukraine in Vienna in June
• Held an online meeting “VOW Report Back on peace trips to Ottawa London Vienna British Columbia and Brussels” in June
• Gave talks and promoted VOW in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario in June, July and August
• Arranged meetings with Member of Parliament Lindsay Mathyssen and Heather McPherson
• Wrote a letter and arranged meeting with Canada’s Ambassador to the United Nations
• Wrote a letter and arranged a small group meeting with Canada’s Ambassador for Women Peace and Security
• Organized a joint VOW-WILPF meeting with Canada’s Ambassador for Women Peace and Security
• Sent letters to Global Affairs Canada, US Embassy, Russia Embassy and Ukraine Embassy to ask for meetings and to share our position for a ceasefire and to end the war in Ukraine
• Created fact sheet for Canada, NATO and nuclear weapons: The urgent need for disarmament
• Collected signatures on petitions for ceasefires and peace in Ukraine and a ceasefire in Gaza
• Drafted letters for VOW to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs about Canada’s positions on international affairs
• Wrote articles against the fighter jets on behalf of VOW
• Gave the Earth Day talk in Hamilton
• Brought copies of the “Soaring: The Harms and Risks of Fighter Jets and Why Canada Must Not Buy a New Fleet” and gave a talk at the Cold Lake Public Library about the F-35 fleet coming to the Cold Lake Air Force base and the expected impacts on the community
• Spoke about VOW at Barrie Public Library, Brock University and Wilfrid Laurier University
• Organized and moderated the Indo-Pacific Discussion and Strategy Session
• Helped to organize the Global Week of Action for a Ceasefire and Peace in Ukraine October 1-8