



Women's Federation for World Peace

Australian Newsletter 2/2014

From the National Office

This year the month of May has been so beautiful, with warm sunny afternoons and cool mornings. In May we also honoured our Mother's for their investment and giving hearts. The love we experience from our Mother's guided our development and helps us feel warm, hopeful and safe. Our mother's love gave us hope because she believed in us. As members of WFWP International, we are asked to serve with a mother's heart and in so doing heal the wounds of mistrust, conflict and distress that have been passed on from generation to generation. This is such an important calling; how else can true peace come within our families and be expanded into our communities. The support we share together as sisters gives us strength to continue to give, continue to believe, continue to hope and continue to smile.

May I thank all our WFWP members in Australia; our sisters who may be new volunteers or seasoned veterans who inspire our newer members. Together we are stronger and together we make a significant difference to each other and the lives of many, many people. In the words of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon (founder of WFWP I), the heart behind WFWP is an giving heart; "the priority of the Global Women's Peace Network should be the true family movement of living for the sake of others, based on true love, carried out in conjunction with proper values education. War and conflict arises from selfish motives of desiring to take others' land, possessions or the like by force. On the other hand, peace arises from investing oneself for the sake of others, that is, giving based on true love".

Please enjoy the news from around Australia this season.

Anne Bellavance
President WFWP, Australia



Her Story - reflections from the field

Reflections by Karen Sullivan, on the Bridge of Peace, Melbourne

Many thanks for organising such a fantastic Bridge of Peace event yesterday. I really enjoyed myself and from what I heard from the other participants, everyone else did too. Providing these opportunities to build bridges across religious, cultural and social spheres fosters understanding, compassion, forgiveness and, of course, friendship.

I believe that the Women's Federation for World Peace conducts itself with the highest respect for religious and cultural differences and adopts a highly inclusive approach. However, there were a couple of items I wish to mention - only to share knowledge, not to effect any change. Some conservative/orthodox Muslims do not participate in singing and dancing, especially in a mixed environment. Also, Muslims are "not allowed" to bow to another person as they are only allowed to bow (usually in the form of prostration) to God. I worked around this by bowing the head, rather than from the waist.

As I mentioned, discussing these couple of things is only to allow you to be aware of the "constraints" on some of those who participate in your forum. I do not expect that you make any changes to the way you conduct the events. I only request that you consider making provision for those who cannot interact in certain ways. This was already done by the lovely sister from Heart

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The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



“History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service and sacrifice. Today’s problems cannot be solved by the logic of power. ... Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love.”

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon
Founder, WFWP International

Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania

W^F**W**^P Chapters adhere to the principle that women working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion; we can create healthy families and resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

The acronym for the fabric S. A. T. I. N summarises the philosophy behind WFWP.

Shine & stand up

Action; starting in the family

Transformation through teaching

Impact with love

Nurture self & others

Since the inauguration of WFWP International in 1992, WFWP is now active in 122 nations worldwide. As an NGO, WFWP obtained the prestigious General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations after only three years of International humanitarian service. Check out our website in Australia to see where you can get involved www.wfwpaustralia.org WFWP Australia supports projects within the Island nations of the Oceania region. These include: Books for the Islands; Solomon Island Kindergarten; Vanuatu Women’s Centre; Island Lights and Water Project; Marriage, Family and Wellness education; Character education; and, reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies.

Join us in our efforts to promote a culture of peace through: fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, supporting projects that serve the community and overcome racial boundaries; all centering on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation. Connect with other likeminded people around the world who are dedicated to a more harmonious and peaceful world. WFWP contact details are found at the back of the newsletter. We hope to hear from you soon.

Aims & Activities



WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately “solutions” come as true partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society’s most elemental level - the family. Therefore, WFWP works to provide women worldwide with: the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities and our nation.

Victoria

Africa Day Australia - Women and Families' Forum, May 10th 2014

WFWP Victoria, as one of the sponsors of Africa Day Australia is proud to be part of the Women and Families Forum committee. This year the event was focused around a 'community day' for families and held in Clayton.

Thank you to all the WFWP volunteers who helped out on the day. Ajak Mabilia was the MC; Beth Treacy helped out at reception; Sarah Treacy and Lauren Treacy provided craft activities for the children; Gai Soorjee, Jacinta Darbshire, Naomi Darbshire and Tsuneko Babb ran the WFWP stall; and, of course Theresa Sengaagaa Ssali worked tirelessly as the chairperson for the Africa Committee with the co-chair Anne Bellavance.

African Women and Families Community Day
for the whole family
Part of Africa Day Festivities

- Meet African workers and businesses
- Learn from the City of Monash & other diverse community services
- Meet & explore links to the wider community
- Have some fun with African music and dances

Event includes African Halal and Vegetarian Food for purchase, entertainment, Children's Story Time and Activities & Plenty of Parking

Date: **Saturday 10 May 2014**
Time: **12.00pm - 3.00pm**
Venue: **Clayton Community Centre Theatre**
9-15 Cooke Street, Clayton 3168 (near Clayton train station)
Melways Map 79 B3

Contact: **Theresa Sengaaga Ssali**
Email: theresas@newhope.asn.au
PH: 0401 515 117 or 9700 2251



Some of the committee members of Africa Day Australia at the Women's Forum



Our other hard working committee members comprised the staff of the city of Monash; Amara Hamid, Reagan Holsinger and Colin Bostock; plus representatives from community organisations, Sylvia Daravong, Divya from SEAAC and Kapambwe Mumba from New Hope Foundation.



The morning session began with service providers and local African businesses setting up stalls to display their services for the community participants. African food was available to purchase, courtesy of Denis from Afrofeast.

The WFWP display did us proud. Many women came over to discuss about the goals and vision of WFWP and were inspired to sign up as new WFWP members.

In the theatrette, a panel comprising of an array of service providers, a teacher, lawyer and the local police briefly presented their community service or their experience working with African community groups to the audience. Some of the questions presented to the panel resulted in a discussion on how effective community services are in actually reaching the community.

Issues highlighted are as follows. Service providers need to be consistent with their projects to gain the trust of new African communities. New Australians lose their trust when services



are stopped. The current grant system means that projects have a 2-3 year life span and cannot be financially maintained when the grants run out. Service providers spend too much time in their offices waiting for people to come to them and writing reports, rather than getting out in the community to know the people that they are providing services for. New Australian's often do not understand and distrust police due to experiences back home and this is worsened by prejudice that they feel from individual members of the police force. The police women on the panel apologised for individual incidents and explained to the audience the process to report these incidents so they will be reviewed to help prevent escalation of bad feelings.



'WFWP in the Hills' workshops

WFWP Victoria continues with WFWP in the Hills workshops, the 1st Sunday of each month at Belgrave Library. After lunch and each participants 'bear' story, some of our members practiced their public speaking techniques by presenting the WFWP introductory power point.

This month's presentation was given by Sue Kerr (WFWP Victoria vice-president) on health and well-being. Sue spoke about the benefits of filtered water, the cleansing benefits of a vegetarian diet and keeping an exercise routine such as yoga or walking. Sue has not needed to visit a doctor for over 25 years and her life is a testament to a healthy lifestyle.



WFWP Vic. Anniversary Dinner, April, 2014



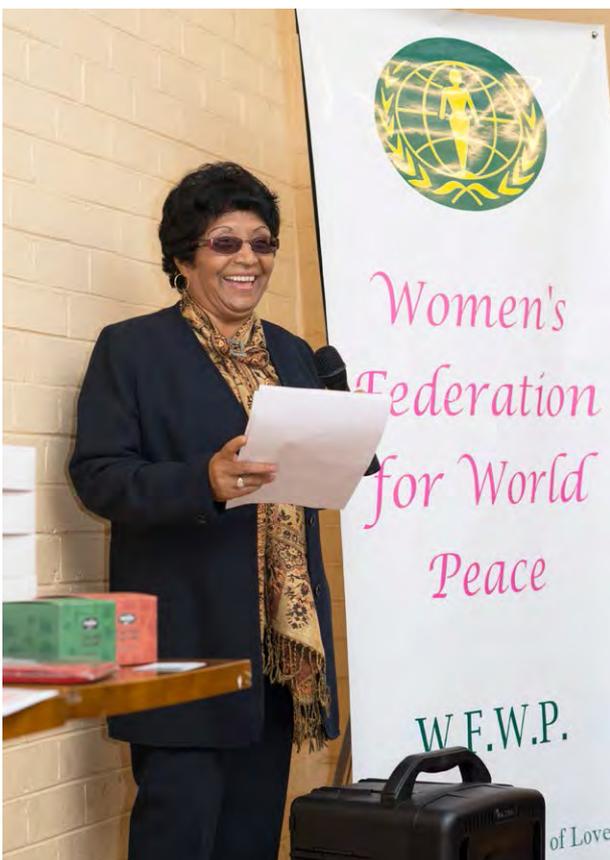
It was a full house at Kimchi Grandma Korean Restaurant, where **WFWP Victoria** celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the founding of WFWP in South Korea in April of 1982.

Our community development officer, Gai Soorjee, MC for the evening opened the celebrations with an address by WFWP International founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Mrs. Moon said "In the twenty-first century, women should play a major role in world history by serving, together with men, as one of the wheels of the engine pulling the construction of



a peaceful world forward. Going beyond a century of power and technology, women will be the central axis in building a new century characterised by its loving, peaceful culture, and their role will be more important than ever before".

Barbara Von Dracek gave us soul as she entertained in us in a cappella style with her beautiful and powerful voice.



One of the highlights of the evening was the large assortment of door prizes and raffle prizes given out after dinner.

The anniversary dinner has become our major fundraiser to support our activities in Victoria and we are very grateful for all our supporters who made our evening a successful and fun evening.



Hellend, flew in from Sydney for the evening. Jynene, as the outgoing WFWP International Vic-president representing Oceania, served in her role for 13 years and coordinated the organisation and startup of our WFWP Australia Island projects; that are still continuing today.

Jynene was presented with a beautiful crystal vase and honoured for her leadership, service and dedication for so many years. Jynene is now the WFWP Oceania advisor; a role that Anne Bellavance, as the new WFWPI vice-president is very grateful for.

WFWP Victoria is a chapter of WFWP Australia, one of the 122 national chapters of WFWP International; an International NGO having general consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. WFWP supports the UN millennium goals and seeks to serve with the 'logic of love' (the WFWP motto) and empower women to find their unique value.

For more information visit www.wfwpaustralia.org

Women's Federation For World Peace 22nd Anniversary, Sydney, Australia, April 2014

An Anniversary is a special time for anyone. From the day we were born, growing as an individual or a group, an anniversary marks a unique moment in time. For WFWP the moment of maturity and reflection had dawned on the 12th April 2014. We celebrated the 22nd Anniversary of International WFWP in Sydney Australia.



position in the world”

And she continued “All mothers in every country in the world have the hardest job, to rectify, maintain peace and build harmony with the family and the society.

The event began with the president of New South Wales Chapter, Mrs Aila Willitts, giving a compelling talk on the recent events of WFWP in Australia.



The SilverBelles and a Japanese singing group gave performances bringing energy and high spirit for all attendees. Both English and Japanese songs were sang. Diversity and range of culture brought a real sense of community.

All were lucky to hear the keynote speaker, Mrs Sisilia Moala, wife of the Pastor in the Church of Tonga in Sydney. The title was “Women’s role as Peacemakers”.

A lucky door price and raffle competition were up for grabs. And many ladies returned home with a book, DVD, CD and items of clothing.

Her message moved all with her deep and compassionate presentation.

Learning about the women’s role as individuals within the society and family life uplifted spirits and hearts. She spoke about the conversations with her son and quoted her son saying “You are my Mom, that is the highest

Many ladies brought their food offering and entered a competition to have the recipe in the WFWP cookbook in the future. The voting for the best dish resulted for a winner SilverBelles choir member and active WFWP contributor, Lauren Lewis.



Library Books for Wingecarribee Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Mittagong, NSW

What do pre-loved school books and gold bead necklaces have in common? Well let me thread together the chain of events that links them.

The librarian from Grandville East Public School, Lyn Crowshaw, was replacing some of the older books in the school library with new ones. WFWP had picked up books from the school before to send to schools in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and she contacted us to see if we would like the books that had been culled.

After picking up the books and packing them, we contacted Auntie Annie and Auntie Val at the Wingecarribee Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Mittagong, NSW and they were happy to receive the books for their Kindergarten. The day we drove down to the Centre it was a craft day. The boxes were unloaded and as we sat and chatted over a cup of tea, Auntie Val threaded together shiny gold beads for a necklace as she retraced some of the painful events of her life.

Auntie Val was born on the Mission at La Perouse, Sydney and grew up under the Aboriginal Protection Law (APL ended in 1967). It's difficult to imagine now, but Auntie Val recollected that her mother could

not buy a train ticket at Central Railway Station without written permission from the Authorities. Auntie Val's father was sent to Old Bar Settlement near Taree, NSW. Auntie Val and her family could not visit him. When he died he was buried at Old Bar Cemetery in an unmarked grave. In concluding her heartfelt story Auntie Val said,

with a peaceful, satisfied smile, that she will finally be traveling to Old Bar in the next couple of months to place a plaque in the cemetery for her father, to acknowledge and pay respects to him.

As we left the Aboriginal Centre, the boxes of books were being opened and the books were being read.



Bridge of Peace

Sisterhood Ceremony to celebrate International Women's Day 6 March 2014, Springwood Queensland

The Bridge of Peace, Sisterhood Ceremony was held to celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday 6 March at Springwood Tower Apartment Hotel in Logan, Queensland, hosted by Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and Logan Elders. The 70 attendees were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and mainstream Australian women in Logan.

The program started with 'Acknowledgment of Country' by Aunty Kerry Charlton, representing Elders of the Logan area, followed by encouragement for women to aspire from State Member Freya Ostapovitch MP. Then Ms Leanne Enoch, representing Logan Elders, talked about the value of sharing the story of the First Nations People in order for others to understand and heal together.



Then MC Glenda Stanley asked two hosts' organisations to welcome all the participants. Aunty Peggy Tidyman, president of the Logan Elders, emphasized the importance of acknowledging the First Nations People and expressed her gratitude to co-host the ceremony to promote reconciliation between the First Nations people and other Australian. Next Mamiko Rattley, chair of WFWP Queensland, thanked VIPs and participants for their support for the event and explained about the "Bridge of Peace Ceremony": the beautiful signature program of WFWP which has been promoting profound healing and reconciliation among women around the world for past 30 years.



All participants eagerly lined up from right and left of the beautiful make-believe bridge to be paired mostly across different cultures. Each pair signed the Sisterhood Pledge which says, *"I join with my partner to build a bridge of peace and reconciliation between our two cultures.... I will strive to be a peacemaker...."*



While sisters got to know each other High Tea was served and 3 groups of wonderful singers entertained everyone with inspiring cheerful songs.



At the end 8 organisations* who donated to support the event were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. And the two host organisations exchanged gifts: from Logan Elders, a beautiful emu egg painted with the WFWP logo and an Aboriginal design; and from WFWP a plaque of appreciation.

We concluded the program by singing together 'Let There Be Peace On Earth'.
All participants had an unforgettable and unique International Women's Day.
We pray world peace can truly be realized through us women.

If the women of the world can be sisters, the men of the world can't fight a war
Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP founder

* Acknowledgement of 8 organisations: Jim Chalmers MP(Federal), Desley Scott MP, Freya Ostapovitch MP, Office of Mayor Pam Parker , ACCESS, MultiLink, YFS, Murrigunyah and Elizabeth Marnock.

Prepared by Mamiko Rattley, Chair WFWP Queensland



Aims & Activities

WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as true partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level - the family. Therefore, WFWP works to provide women worldwide with: the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities and our nation.

Africa Day Celebration in Queensland 2014, 25 May

By Mamiko Rattley

It was a brilliantly sunny day when Africa Day in Queensland was celebrated by thousands of participants on Sunday 25 May at African House in East Brisbane.

For the first time, WFWP was invited to be one of the partners with Queensland African Communities Council (QACC) to hold this annual event. This came about from our close relationship with former president of QACC Sharon Orapeleng, WFWP project adviser.

It was a colourful program, with talented performances, speeches and many stalls for cultural food and items to purchase. WFWP sponsored the segment called Fashion on the Field with prize money. Mamiko Rattley, chair of WFWP Queensland, was one of three judges.

At the end of this segment she thanked the organisers for including WFWP and explained why WFWP is very happy to support the Africa Day celebration together with its umbrella organisation UPF.



The 5 finalists of Fashion on the Field

Elijah Buol, the president of QACC, came on stage to express their gratitude to WFWP and UPF and presented Mamiko with a beautiful flower arrangement. We also had a display of WFWP and UPF promotional material in one of the stalls. WFWP Members, promoting WFWP at one of the stalls. There were many federal, state and local politicians and community leaders. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know them and particularly leaders of the African community. We believe this was an excellent beginning to working together with the large and ever growing African community in and around Brisbane.



Sudanese dance



QACC's president Elijah Buol and vice president Fatuma Elmi present a flower arrangement to Mamiko Rattley, Vice President of WFWP Australia and chair of WFWP Queensland.

Mother's Day Lunch with Lisa Newman, wife of Premier Campbell Newman, May 9th

Some members of WFWP Queensland attended a Mother's Day lunch organised by WFWP supporter Freya Ostapovitch, MP.

The guest speaker was Lisa Newman, wife of the Queensland Premier. She encouraged mothers in audience to have confidence in their own core values while looking after husband and children.

Your own core values need to mesh with your husband's, she said. Our grandmothers were strong and taught us respect and appreciation of parents. We need to follow their strength.

We enjoyed some entertainment and tasty Malaysian food.



WFWP members with Mrs Lisa Newman (3rd from left) and Freya Ostapovitch MP (far right).

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To donate go to WFWP Website
www.wfwpaustralia.org

National

WFWP National Meeting, March 2014

Committee members of WFWP Australia chapters met in Sydney during March this year. WFWP members had the chance to listen to reports on activities held in Queensland, NSW and Victoria since the previous meeting in August of 2013. A brain storming session between the two organisations of WFWP and UPF Australia discussed how to so-sponsor seminars and Ambassador for Peace awards. The afternoon coffee meeting allowed members to give feedback on the development of the WFWP Australia newsletter type set by Lea Smith, the national website and facebook page, the Island Lights and Water Project and the roles of chapter chairperson and the national president. Just to have the chance for committee members from the three cities to physically meet, listen to each other's adventures and stories filled our hearts and spirits with hope and gave a renewed commitment to the goals and mission of WFWP.



Island Lights & Water Project Developments

WFWP Australia president, Anne Bellavance, has had the opportunity to present the Island Lights and Water project to a number of Rotary clubs around Melbourne. In the presentation, Anne showed the vision of WFWP through a power point and explained our Island based service projects, as an introduction to our most recent Island Lights project. Pictures were shown

from Anne's recent trip to Lamnutu Village when Anne

met with the women leaders of the village to empower them as trustees of the project.

WFWP is grateful for all the support that the Rotary clubs offered to make this project a financial reality. The project is now completely organised and only the financial commitment needs to be fulfilled.



International Women's Day

This year WFWP was invited to participate and speak during the International Women's Day celebrations with the Chinese Women's Association and the Shri Lankan Women's Association in Melbourne. WFWP members participated in the celebrations and Anne Bellavance, representing WFWP Australia, had the opportunity to speak about WFWP's vision and goals to the participants. She emphasised that a leading philosophy of WFWP is to empower women and support them in serving their community. Women have a unique position as the cornerstone of the family and are entrusted as peace makers and role models for peace within their families. Anne encouraged the women to take a leading role in peace building within their communities, explaining that in our new era, women will be the central axis in peace building. It is our time to lead.



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themselves visibly to soak up the energy and enjoy it in our hearts.

Congratulations on such a successful event. I enjoyed chatting with my sister. I appreciate the time and effort that would have gone into preparing such a special day; and also that of those who performed, gave speeches and provided us with delicious refreshments. Please pass on my gratitude to all those wonderful people too.

I was very happy to see our gentlemen friends of the community take part in the Bridge of Peace. I thought the men "exchanging vows of friendship" added to the sharing of loving energy. It is amazing to see such wonderful brothers in humanity take part and help support "the sisterhood".

Wishing you every success and a multitude of blessings for all your good works to come.

Karen Sullivan, Melbourne

The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



"History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service and sacrifice. Today's problems cannot be solved by the logic of power. ... Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love."

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon
Founder, WFWP International

Regional

Cooking Pots for Village, Tanna Island, Vanuatu – put pot picture from Sydney

In December, 2013 when Anne Bellavance (national WFWP president) visited Imaelone Village; Tess Natuman, Wife of the president of TAF AE province asked if WFWP could support them with 3 large cooking pots so the village women could cater for provincial level conferences. Large pots are extremely expensive and unavailable on Tanna Island.

WFWP Australia is happy to announce that the Sydney chapter raised these funds and organised the transport of the pots in April, 2014.



Rev. Jong Deug Yoo who instigated the New Village Movement for the Villages in Vanuatu presented Tess (left) and the community with the pots during a village celebration in their new Community Centre.

The women who cater for the provincial functions were ecstatic. Just this small gift will make such a difference to the labor required by the village women to cater for their large functions.



To donate go to WFWP Website
www.wfwpaustralia.org



<https://www.facebook.com/wfwp.australia>

International

The Global Women's Peace Network

The Eighteenth Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

“Women's Partnership in Achieving Peace and Harmony in the Middle East and the World”

May 9 – 12, 2014

Landmark Amman Hotel, Amman, Jordan

“Dialogue and Co-operation for Peace and Development”

Dan Hotel, Jerusalem May 12 – 16, 2014

I was invited to attend this amazing conference by the Women's Federation for World Peace, Australia. I met the President of this organisation, Anne Bellavance, last year at a Community Forum and she invited me to join as she could see my passion for community work and advocacy for women.

This opportunity was life-changing in such a way that I can't actually pinpoint exactly how I have changed, I've just noticed I am doing and seeing things slightly differently now. I expected to return from this conference in a cloud of white light since I knew I would be networking with some really inspiring women. What I didn't expect was that I would return with a feeling of anger at the crazy world we live in and a sense of injustice for the general community worldwide whose only wish is to live in harmony side by side. Not in war.

Returning to Australia from a country such as Jordan, who has taken in 1 million refugees, made me angry at the detainment of our refugees. While



Jordan is setting up camps to house, feed and protect people from war, Australia is detaining refugees in prisons. This lack of compassion in comparison to Jordan made me feel ashamed.

The Women's Conference was attended by representatives from 30 countries. I was the only Australian and I had travelled the furthest to attend. My presence was much appreciated by all and women

on many occasions commented that they were so happy to know Australian women care about the Middle East.

WFPW International President, Dr Lan Young Moon opened the conference with the comment that “The 21st century is the time of the Global Village. The world is now one family, peace in the Middle East should become a reality. In order for women to bring peace they must organise a global network.”

What struck me most about this Women's Conference was that the conversations and speakers were all focused on grassroots community work. While peace negotiations are a political minefield with the major majority of participants being men, women on the other hand skirt around the subject



of politics and talk about the impact on the ground at the community level. The resounding agreement amongst all attendees was consistent and it was repeatedly addressed – Women and children should and must be included in peace negotiations if peace is ever to be achieved in warring countries.

Women need to be in leadership roles at the highest level of any society. The crisis in the Middle East is led by men but born by women and children. Women need to seek leadership positions as a fundamental right. To strengthen women's rights, women over the world in leadership positions need to work jointly to implement change as necessary.

The numbers of civilians dying in war are far more than the military. It is more dangerous to be a woman in war than to be a combatant. Women and children are displaced. Women suffer violence in the refugee camps. Women suffer trying to find food for children and elderly family members. 80% of millions fleeing their homes are women and children. Rape is a constant feature in any conflict. The worldwide problems are still violence against women, female circumcision and early marriage.



Dr Abuelaish a Palestinian Gynecologist and obstetrician, author of the book: "I shall not hate" who was the main guest of honour together with the Minister of Social environment of Jordan Mrs Reem.

Ambassador Merval Tellaway, President of The National Council for Women in Egypt said "Men are arrogant and selfish. Why not bring women to the peace table? As if we don't have a brain!"

Peace begins within the family. Peace cannot exist without full respect for human rights. Peace cannot exist without women's rights. Community projects are vital to help those to create their own initiatives and projects at the grass roots level.

When the community are consulted about the meanings of what they believe are their rights, the answer is child care, legal protection, pay equity, counselling, education with legal literacy and human rights.

Mrs Maha Elbana, External Relations Officer of The Palestinian Medical Relief Society says "The problem with men is they suppress and bottle emotions until they explode. Women express issues as they come up."

How should women play a role in the peace process?

1) Education – especially for girls – education starts at home, education paves the way for respect, every school should teach the basics of all religions and all perspectives of history not just the perspective that serves that country. This gives the opportunity to be independent.

2) Participate in the peace process – no man will offer it to you, you have to seek it yourself, laws must give women fair quota.

3) Peace can only exist if justice is for all – marrying girls as young as 9 years old is not acceptable.

Who is qualified to bring peace?

1) Those who know the value of peace should be involved in designing it.

2) Peace-able people are qualified to participate in negotiations.

3) Human rights must be fulfilled to create a culture of peace.

4) Emotional intelligence, the ability to control oneself, self-control/self-discipline and empathy are vitally important qualities.

One of the most surprising highlights of this trip was the many women I met from the Middle East who are highly educated and empowered and respected within their own countries. We hear a lot about women being disempowered but the religion of Islam is extremely empowering to women and women's education is a great theme in the Quran. In fact, education is highly respected as the best way out of poverty and those who have access know the value and they work hard to achieve top results. I wish my children had half the dedication of these kids. There are children in Gaza and Syria studying by candlelight while the bombs fly overhead right now.

I visited a hospital in Israel near the Syrian border. Children are handed over at the border to the army and with no identification they are taken to the Israeli hospital without any family members. These are children who have stepped on a landmine while walking to school or hit by a mortar while they clear

snow off their roof. Children are trying to live ordinary lives within a war zone. A quote that stayed with me was from the hospital surgeon who said "Always waiting for peace is not living.....living with conflict is the only way for life to go on." It is better to accept the conflict as normal life than to wait all your life in limbo for a day of peace that may never come.

I had thought that it was a shame for immigrants to be ripped away from their homes to come to a country like Australia where the culture is so different but after talking to refugees I discovered this was not something they did for themselves. They do this for the future generations and working as a taxi driver, although he may have an engineering degree in his own country, is something you do for your children and your children's children.

The women working in community organisations in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Austria, Israel, Japan, Korea etc. are no different from us. They are delivering emergency relief, up-to-date counselling methods, helping to break the cycle of poverty, family therapy, micro-finance and education and so on. If you look at all these programs across the world you will find women are covering at ground level. Women are working for peace at the grass roots level. If only the men at the top would allow these women with these skills to participate in the peace negotiations. If the women I met at this conference ran the world, I can tell you now, there would have been peace a long time ago.

Lisa Elliott

*Manager, Mornington Community Information & Support Centre
WFWP member, Victoria*



UNITED NATIONS 8 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger



2 Achieve Universal Primary Education



3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



4 Reduce Child Mortality



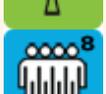
5 Improve Maternal Health



6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases



7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability



8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

For update on the Millennium Development Goals go to www.mdgmonitor.org/

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United Nations Affiliation

WFWP International became a "NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations" in 1997. This status has continued to be renewed based on the preparation of the quadrennial report.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States.

There are only one hundred and thirty-nine NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- ❖ Applying organization's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
 - ❖ The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least 2 years in order to apply
 - ❖ The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
 - ❖ The major portion of the organization's funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components
 - ❖ NGOs granted General Consultative Status must submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, in particular regarding their contribution to the work of the United Nations (Quadrennial Report)
- General Consultative Status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach

The benefits of receiving this status include:

- ❖ The NGO may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC
- ❖ Organizations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies

WFWP International maintains a UN office in New York City. WFWP International has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.