



Women's Federation for World Peace

Oceania Newsletter 2/2017

From the Regional Office

In this edition we have reports and photos from the Oceania delegates who attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York. Not only did we have the opportunity to connect with other wonderful NGOs from all around the world,



WFWP International guests were also invited to WFWP events in the evenings and weekend. The evening highlight of the week-long stay was the 25th Anniversary Celebration of WFWP with our international president (Prof. Yeon Ah Moon) and most of the international vice-presidents, past and present. A highlight for our youth was the week-end retreat in upstate New York.

We are pleased to announce the launching of two new Oceania service project initiatives: Endeavour Credit to assist start-up businesses run by Pacific Island women; and the Pacific Island Scholarship Fund. With the proceeds from our March walk-athon we are now supporting a newly married woman from the Solomon Islands to attend university. We will hear more from Jenny in later editions.

If you ever feel that your efforts are just not enough, remember Margaret Mead's message: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful concerned citizens can change the world." Yes we can! C.S. Lewis explains how this is achievable: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less." How incredibly profound, and yet so simple! Making this a daily mantra is the key; then our environment and our families would be happier places. The founders of our incredible organisation, Rev Sun Myung Moon and Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, shared and ignited within us a fire through their philosophy of 'living for the sake of others'.

Warmest wishes, Anne Bellavance

Reflections from the Field

Gail Ker in New York

What an absolute pleasure and honour to attend this International CSW61 NGO Forum in New York! My initiation commenced with the "Consultation Day Program", a session providing a broad overview and framing of what was to come over the following days/weeks of the entire Forum program. Discussions and topics presented and discussed included:

1. Ending All Forms of Forced Labour (Modern-Day Slavery, Early Marriage, Trafficking)
2. Envisioning a Feminist Internet
3. Creating Equalities of Work (Equal Pay, Upgrading Domestic and Formerly Unpaid Work)
4. Mitigating Heightened Instabilities: How Climate, Conflict and Migration Impact Work
5. Tackling Gender Violence at Home and in the Workplace

These themes were explored and discussed in much greater depth and detail over the course of the Forum Program, but they set a strong and solid tone for how much work 45 years on is still needed in this space.

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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

Women are Empowered
Families are Strengthened
Communities are Connected

WFWP is founded on the belief that a peaceful world begins in the heart of each person and in each family. The family is the cornerstone of peace and mature couples are the foundation for strong and loving families. Our organisation encourages every woman to become a ‘woman of peace’ through cultivating her heart, the mother’s heart, to care not just for her own children, but for the children of others, the children of other nations, the children of the world, by developing and expressing the qualities of empathy, forgiveness, and unconditional love.

WFWP is committed to

- Serving communities – service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands
- Strengthening the family – workshops, forums, seminars and conferences
- Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past – Bridge of Peace
- Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – a global network of women leaders who are peace builders within their community

Philosophy

- Shine & stand up
- Action; starting in the family
- Transformation through teaching
- Impact with love
- Nurture self and others

WFWP Australia supports projects within Australia and the Island Nations of the Oceania region. Projects include: Global Women’s Peace Network; Dignity Project; Annual Walk-a-thon to support our Pacific Neighbours; Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Forums on Peace Building; Books for the Islands; Solomon Islands New Hope Kindergarten; Women’s Sewing Centres; Island Lights Project; Marriage, Family and Wellness education; Character education; and, reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies.

WFWP is a dynamic organisation committed to providing women with the opportunity to create lasting peace in the world by fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, and supporting projects that serve the community and overcome racial boundaries; all centering on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation.

Victoria

Support our Pacific Island Neighbours WALK-A-THON

Saturday March 4th 2017

A project of WFWP Australia to raise funds to support the Island Projects of WFWP

The “Support our Pacific Neighbours Walk-a-thon” has taken place for the second time at Silvan Reservoir Park, a beautiful location in the Dandenong Ranges on the outskirts of Melbourne.

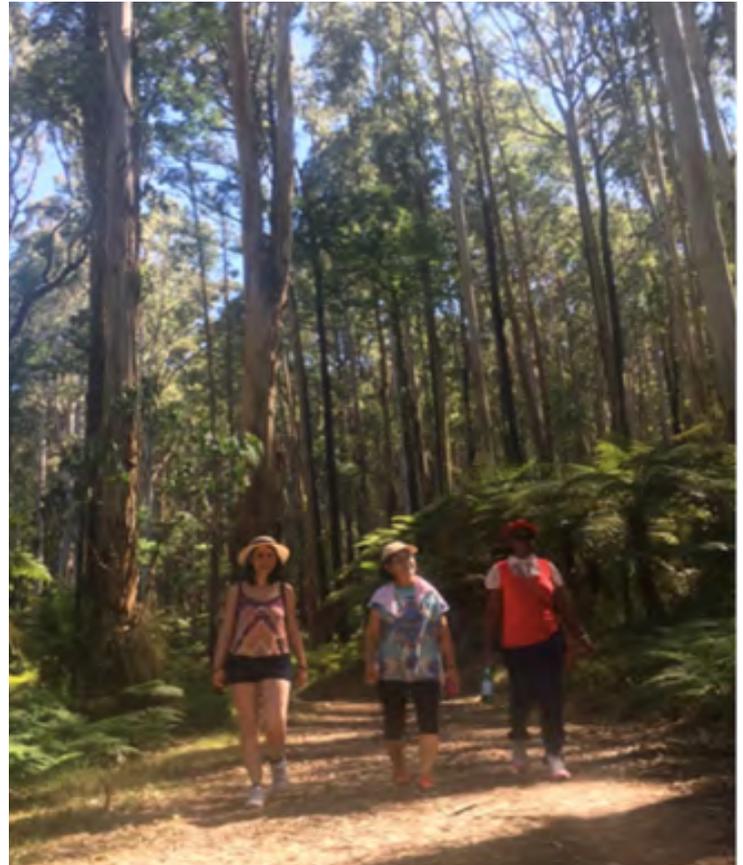
In partnership with FFWPU, UPF and WFWP, this community and family event was open to young, old and those with special needs, providing three different types of walks: gentle, advanced and special needs.

The purpose of the Walk-a-thon is to raise funds for WFWP Australia’s practical projects within the Oceania Islands nations.

Undertaken since 2003, successful projects include: supplying books; donating sewing machines to support the Women’s Sewing Centres; a solar panel donation for the New Hope Kindergarten in Honiara; and character education programs for youth.

“It was a great opportunity to talk to people who have worked with WFWP in the past and meet new people who just picked up one of our flyers!”

– Kosina (Brighton VIC.)



Walking the track



Walk-a-thon participants



Registration

We were blessed with beautiful weather. Upon arrival, Walk-a-thon participants registered for their walk and at 10.30 am the Walk-a-thon commenced. Participants left the park site well equipped with hats, water and a snack pack.

Back in a barbeque area, an activity table was set up and craft activities were provided for families with small children.

They enjoyed playing with our homemade non-toxic play-dough and colouring in the mindfulness illustrations.

We were so excited to welcome participants from different cultural backgrounds, walks of life and age groups.

After the walk, we all relished exquisite homemade salads and burgers, enjoying each other's company.

The overall atmosphere was very positive and participants were friendly and supportive. It was also very inspiring to meet new people interested in supporting our cause.



Children activities

“It was a fun day with nice walks and good food.” – Antoine (Emerald VIC)



Special needs



This year, funds raised from the Walk-a-thon will support the “Pacific Island Scholarship Fund”. This project, in partnership with UPF and FFWPU, is a not-for-profit development program that aims to provide young adults from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with opportunities to access empowering education programs in their own country.

The program supports young people who are passionate about getting an education and who align their heart with one of the values and goals of WFWP: “Living for the sake of others”.

In Solomon Islands, education is not free, so families can only afford sending their children to school until a certain age. As a consequence, youth and young adults do not fully complete their education and their place is therefore taken by foreigners.

This creates a tremendous social problem: Solomon Islanders become second-class citizens in their own country.

With this scholarship, WFWP allows young women to receive an education and feel empowered, thereby contributing to the resolution of this social problem.

A suitable candidate has already been chosen who is going to attend Early Childhood Education at the Solomon Islands National University. Her name is Jenny Quta Morehaa.

We are all very proud of Jenny and we are sure she will do well in university. We will be hearing a lot more about her as her studies progress. In the meantime, we wish her all the best. Congratulations Jenny!



Here is a picture of Jenny. She is in the back row in the fawn shirt.

Further WFWP projects include the launch of a microcredit initiative for small start-up and existing businesses in Solomon Islands. Through the Walk-a-thon funds, small-scale credit is provided to small businesses to develop an economic activity, thereby improving their financial status. Since legal forms are currently being created, this initiative will most likely be launched later on in 2017.

WFWP would like to sincerely thank all our sponsors, supporters and walkers who made the Walk-a-thon a successful event this year. We raised over \$1500 on the day and have enough funds available for Jenny’s Early Childhood education training. A big thank you also to all staff that helped with the preparation of the event: the cook; the photographer; and the coordinators.

We all had lots of fun and are looking forward to coming next year again!



Walking the track



We are back!



Children activities

Connecting Community Dinner Dance

An evening with WFWP

25TH Anniversary | April 8TH 2017

Kosina Hanson, our lovely MC, began the evening with a welcome to country and Anne Bellavance gave an introduction about the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) at the UN in New York where eight delegates from Oceania attended. Anne also highlighted the work of WFWP International, with this year's community dinner commemorating 25 years of our international activities, plus our activities in Victoria.

Giulia Iacono, our new secretary and co-ordinator of the Island Projects, gave an overview of ongoing Oceania Projects and two new initiatives: The Scholarship program and the micro-credit program.

This year, WFWP Oceania initiated the **Global Women's Peace Network partnership award**. This prestigious award is given to one organisation each year, in each of our Chapters. The Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) is a project of WFWP International and was established with the goal of creating a peaceful world, aiming to strengthen and enhance cooperation among Women's organisations beyond political, racial, cultural and religious backgrounds.

The GWPN adheres 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.



Giulia Iacono



(left to right) Dr. Mimmie Watts, Arfa Khun and Khatija Halabi

This year's recipients were the **United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley (UMSLV)**. Arfa Khan (President) and Khatija Halabi (Founder) are both WFWP members and received the award from Dr Mimmie Watts (WFWP Vic. Patron).

The UMSLV were selected to receive this award because both of our organisations have similar goals and work to empower women and foster peacebuilding within their communities.

The reading on the award sums up the purpose of the partnership: Women working together to realise one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace. Presented to (organisation) for your inclusive partnership with the Women's Federation for World Peace, Australia, that place people and the planet at the centre. Through this partnership both organisations will support each other's work and stand as advocates for our common goals.

The UMSLV began four years ago as a united women’s voice for all Muslim denominations in the Latrobe Valley, a region adjacent to Melbourne. The UMSLV have been instrumental in bringing the Muslim community and broader community together to better understand our differences, but most importantly to celebrate our likenesses. Through events such as Understanding Scarves and Understanding Journeys, a climate of acceptance, understanding and friendship has been established in the Latrobe Valley amongst a broad range of women.

Highlights of the evening were honouring our Board and volunteers who helped develop the activities of WFWP Victoria and Australia throughout the year. Our new caterers ‘Bay Leaf Kitchen’ provided an Australian and Indian 3-course meal. Vanitha Prabaeear and her husband are new Australians who originate from India. As a start-up company, Vanitha has become our official caterer for our events, offering exceptional service with healthy and tasty meals that cater for all dietary requirements. We are very grateful for her heart of service.

In the **Key of B Community Choir** began in 2012 as the Brunswick Neighbourhood House Community Choir, where they meet on Monday nights. Ruth Kennedy, the choir's director and conductor, is a member of WFWP Victoria and has performed at a number of our events over the years. We are



(left to right) Anne, Bianca and Mimmie. Time to thank our volunteers and Board members

very grateful that Ruth could bring the choir along to perform for us and be our primary entertainment during the evening.

The choir has performed at the Malthouse Theatre in “the Events”, at Brunswick Music Festival, Sydney Road Street Party, Moonee Valley Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Peppertree Place Garden Fiesta’s, SPAN’s Sustainable Living Festival, Food Pay Love for Women’s Health in the North, Peace Meals at the Social Studio, City of Darebin and Moreland City Council Citizenship Ceremonies, Moonee Valley City Councils Aged and Disability Christmas Dinner & Lights Tours, Brunswick and Coburg Libraries Saturday Sessions, Coburg Farmers Market and CERES Organic Market, Open Table dinners, BNH Annual General Meeting and at end of term events.



In the key of B Community Choir. Ruth Kennedy, the choir's director and conductor is on the far left.

Thank you to the City of Monash for supplying the Community Centre; all the supporting organisations who contributed towards the raffle prizes; our youth volunteers, Giulia and Ashley, for serving us during the evening with a happy spirit; Kosina who Emceed; our WFWP Board who pulled it all together; our volunteers on the night; our members who shared together during the evening; and to the In the Key of B Community Choir for sharing their fun and beautiful voices with us. It was a great night.



WFWP Vic. Board

UMSLV Celebrates their 4TH Birthday

The United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley celebrated their fourth birthday on April 22nd in Trafalgar, a regional city in Gippsland, East of Melbourne.

Members of the WFWP Victoria Board attended, along with local community leaders and residents.

It was an honour to support our new partners and link with the local community. UMSLV received the Global Women's Peace Network partnership award from WFWP at our anniversary dinner.

As an organisation, UMSLV works to bring unity and cooperation between all Muslims and foster goodwill and better understanding between Muslims and the broader society.

UMSLV represents and enhances the profile of the Muslim community by conducting programs and celebratory functions with the local community, this being a platform for social interaction.

UMSLV maintains contact with organisations that have similar objectives and raises funds to support charities favoured by the organisation.

Gippsland managers from Berry Street were the guest speakers and recipients of funds raised through the auction of goods, which were donated from local shops.

A lovely afternoon tea followed, which enabled participants to mingle and get to know each other.

WFWP Victoria and the UMSLV are collaborating to present Scarf Story on August 12th.

This exciting interfaith event of 'Conversations and Story Telling' will help to dispel some of the misunderstandings held by the Australian community about our Muslim Australians.



Birthday participants celebrating UMSLV 4th Birthday

Building a Culture of Values and Peace in Australia

Melbourne, Australia | April 29th, 2017

Ambassadors for Peace Leadership Training

The 2017 Peace Seminar series theme is: *“Building a Culture of Values and Peace in Australia”*. The series of seminars seeks to open a conversation about universally shared values that can be used to build peace. This seminar was the first for the year, in a series of four, held to explore the moral, spiritual and methodological principles that underpin the work of WFWP and UPF.

In addition, it was our great honour to have six new Ambassadors for Peace sworn in, working in areas of social development, community work and the Christian ministry.

Dr Yves Moreau, Assistant Director of UPF Victoria, spoke about the importance of realising peace on the individual and family levels. This is the foundation for peace in society and in the world. He emphasised the need for a revolution of character and a culture of love.

John Bellavance, Vice-President UPF Australia and director of UPF Victoria, spoke about peacebuilding as the battle between selfish love and unselfish love. Self-love is the source of the misuse of people, the misuse of love and the misuse of material wealth at the detriment of others. Peacebuilders must master self-centred love, pride, jealousy and anger in themselves.

IVP for the Oceania Region, urged leaders to go the path of *living for the sake of others*. A life of living for the sake of others opens the gates of peace. She noted the importance of learning from historical successes, when loving the enemy brought reconciliation and peace.

Anne had the opportunity to explain about the Island Projects of WFWP, particularly the Pacific Island Scholarship Fund, a partnership between WFWP, UPF, FFWPU and the YFWP. She explained that the Scholarship Program supports the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all, and promote lifelong learning.

In many Pacific Island nations, basic education is not free. In the Solomon Islands, 4/10 children drop out of primary school; and in Vanuatu, only 7/10 students enrol in high school. In Vanuatu \$500 Australian will send a child to school for one year. Anne shared with the audience, “By each one of us here today contributing \$20, we collectively, today, can achieve this for one child, and all your money will go to where it is intended to go, because we are all volunteers.” A money cup was passed around; \$240 was raised, enough for half a year’s education for one child!



Group photo showing new Ambassadors for Peace (front left): Rashidi Sumaili, Jennifer Hippisley, John Lenga, Placide Nkoso, Annick Kalirekinyana and Hellen Izvernariu.



Reflections from the Field ...

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These themes were explored and discussed in much greater depth and detail over the course of the Forum Program, but they set a strong and solid tone for how much work 45 years on is still needed in this space.

Apart from the program that was offered onsite at the UN Headquarters in New York, which Anne Bellavance representing WFP Australia participated in, I was excited to be able to attend some amazing sessions and workshops offered across a number of different locations located within New York City.

Even an extreme weather event like a blizzard, which resulted in the entire city closing down, didn't dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of the program or the participation of thousands of women who attended from all parts of the Globe.

I have to say I was inspired by those attending or presenting regardless of whether they were representing Government, corporate entities, women's groups and associations, community organisations or educational institutions – all were simply amazing women.

And, yes, even some men stood in solidarity with

us around the theme “Women and Girl's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”.

Of significant importance was the 25th WFP International Anniversary Celebration Dinner held at One UN New York Hotel in the Diplomat Ballroom.

To be in the room with some of the world's most eminent and influential women and men and to hear of their absolute commitment and dedication to ensuring that the needs, voices and aspirations of women and girls worldwide are being heard and addressed was a legacy that I will hold dearly in my heart for the rest of my life.

It was sobering to recognise that this is the 6th Anniversary of the Syrian crisis and to hear that this current event is being called the “Global Refugee Child Crisis”, a situation that I am sure my WFP sisters would agree is unacceptable and should be one of our call-to-arms actions to pursue.

By Gail Ker OAM
Group Chief Executive Officer
Access Group International Limited
Logan, QLD



AUSTRALIA'S SMALLEST CHARITIES 2015

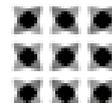
Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission



Australian Government



Australian
Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission



CENTRE
for **SOCIAL**
IMPACT

SPRC
Social Policy Research Centre

1. INTRODUCTION

This report explores the characteristics of charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) in 2015 with an annual income of less than \$50,000. We refer to these charities throughout this report as 'extra small charities' or Australia's 'smallest charities'.

In 2015, there were 18,892 extra small charities in Australia, accounting for 37.1% of all charities. Extra small charities are a significant subset of the ACNC's category of small charities (55.2%), which captures charities with annual revenues of less than \$250,000.

Australia's 18,892 extra small charities are of interest not only because of their numerical significance, but because they differ from the wider charity sector in important ways. Compared with larger charities, smaller charities have been found to depend more on volunteers (Morris, 2000) and on fundraising income (Van der Heijden, 2013). Further, while small charities are often considered highly specialised, flexible, locally embedded and responsive to localised or niche needs, they also face some risks. Small charities have been found to be more financially vulnerable for example (Backus and Clifford, 2013; Kay, 2016) and many find it hard to compete with large charities for government contracts or donor funds (Kay, 2016; Morris, 2000). It may be difficult for small charities to offer their paid staff opportunities for professional development, and they may face difficulties contributing to and influencing government reform, and in growing and diversifying their funding base (Cortis and Blaxland, 2014).

By providing a profile of Australia's smallest charities, the report shows how they compare with the rest of the charity sector, and underlines the importance of the contribution these charities make to social, cultural, and economic life in Australia and overseas.

Some caution should be used, however, when interpreting the findings. The extra small size categorisation used in this report is based on reported income for one year only (2015) and does not take into account assets or expenses. Future work should consider how the categorisation of charities by size may be improved.

The report should be read alongside the *Australian Charities Report 2015*. Like that report (which profiles all registered charities), data here comes from charities that were registered with the ACNC at the end of their 2015 financial year. The dataset uses the best and most recent data available for each charity. In most cases, data came from Annual Information Statements (AIS) provided for 2015, or from the 2014 or 2013 AIS (which ever was more recent) where 2015 data was unavailable. Additional data was taken from the ACNC Register and from the Australian Business Register. Where no AIS data was available, data was estimated, where possible using information from the ACNC Register.

CASE STUDY:

WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AUSTRALIA

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia is a chapter of WFWP International, and aims to advance peace through supporting families and children.

WFWP Australia's main charitable activities are categorised under the 'development and housing' sector. Only 5.3% of Australia's extra small charities listed their main activities in this sector in 2015.

The charity has a large range of support and service projects within Australia and across Oceania.

For example, in 2015 the charity donated sewing machines to an Australian rural town to help newly arrived migrants learn how to sew. In a separate project, it donated portable solar lights to families in a remote village of Vanuatu with no access to electricity.

WFWP Australia is a multicultural organisation drawing members across all ages, abilities, nationalities, faiths and cultural groups. This diversity of the charity's membership is mirrored on its Board.

The charity provides volunteers with many enriching opportunities. It has helped its volunteers to connect with others, participate in meaningful community development projects and cultivate a range of skills for their personal development.

WFWP Australia's two main sources of income are its annual fundraising walkathon and its membership fees. These membership fees support the charity's project work and its ongoing operation.

Like 83.4% of extra small charities in the 'development and housing' sector, WFWP Australia employs no paid staff. This helps it minimise operating costs and, in doing so, demonstrate the money it raises goes directly to the causes it supports.

WFWP Australia recorded total income of \$12,543 in 2015. In the same year, it recorded \$12,881 in expenses – a figure which is lower than the overall average spent by extra small charities (\$19,123).

WFWP Australia believes its structure as a small charity has clear benefits. Its reliance on volunteers results in them feeling a very real connection to the charity's visions and vision.

While it is small, the charity is part of a broader network under WFWP International. This means it is able to work with other international chapters, and support them to meet the needs identified in their local community. This provides WFWP Australia with further confidence that its efforts as an extra small charity can help those most in need.

WFWP Australia has plans to grow, but realises there are challenges in finding sufficient funding to support this growth. Given the charity is volunteer-based, it can be difficult to ensure sufficient time is given to both its management and increasing the awareness of its charity's purpose. The charity hopes increasing its volunteer numbers should help to address this issue.

Queensland

WFWP 25th Anniversary celebration

April 27TH 2017 | Brisbane, Queensland

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Queensland held the 25th anniversary celebration with WFWP members, distinguished guests and friends at a beautiful venue – the Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue in Griffith University Nathan Campus.

Since it was such a historical event for WFWP, we tried to make it a special occasion with entertainment and distinguished guests.

The MC was Sharon Orapeleng, the Project Advisor of WFWP Qld.

Special guest was Queensland Federal Senator Clair Moore who praised and encouraged WFWP's work of empowering women.

Another distinguished guest was honorary WFWP member, Gail Ker OAM, CEO of Access International Group.

She spoke about her background which led her to work in the refugee settlement field and shared her reflections on attending the UN CSW 61* and WFWP Parallel events in New York representing WFWP QLD.

She feels we need to work harder to improve the situation of women in the world even though it has been 45 years since the UN has started to host CSW.



Participants celebrating WFWP 25th Anniversary

Mamiko Rattley, President of WFWP Qld, shared the 25-year history of WFWP and emphasised WFWP's core mission: empowering women by education and support.



Cutting the cake

She also explained WFWP's project to raise funds to support WFWP Solomon Islands' Dressmaking business for their kindergarten.

Three beautiful songs were offered by the duet 'Signature'.

In the audience there were many leaders of different community groups and women's organisations, and several supportive husbands.

Everyone enjoyed a Japanese bento dinner and celebration cake.

It was an inspiring 25th anniversary celebration. We also raised some funds and had a few financial commitments for WFWP SI's project.

We, WFWP staff, were very happy that everything went well with a good response.

Report by Mamiko Rattley

*United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 61st Session



Management Committee Members

National

Pacific Island Scholarship Fund takes its first steps

Why does WFWP focus its projects within the Pacific Islands?

WFWP Australia focuses its Service Projects in the Island Nations of the Oceania region (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa). These regions are some of the poorest countries in the world.

The 2014 World Bank ranking of 181 nations according to GDP for the Pacific Islands is: Solomon Island (131), Micronesia (123), PNG (127), Vanuatu (119) Marshall Islands (113), Samoa (103) and Fiji (95). In these countries there is no social security and education is not free, even in public schools.

For these reasons, and especially being these regions our immediate neighbours, we feel responsible for their wellbeing and development.

Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund

The WFWP “Pacific Island Scholarship Fund” is a not-for-profit development program launched in March 2017 that aims to provide young adults from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with opportunities to access empowering education programs in their own country.

The program supports young people who are passionate about getting an education and who align their hearts with one of the values and goals of WFWP: “Living for the sake of others”.

Through supporting the scholarship Fund, you are supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all, and promote lifelong learning.

We firmly believe that people’s life and sustainable development can be improved tremendously by obtaining good quality education.

Today, 103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of them are women. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

WFWP Australia is committed to solving this social problem by providing these children and youths with education opportunities. Because education is not free, families can only afford sending their children to school until a certain age.

As a consequence, youth and young adults do not fully complete their education and their place is therefore taken by foreigners. This creates a tremendous social problem: Islanders become second-class citizens in their own country.

With the Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund, we allow young women to receive an education and feel empowered, thereby contributing to the resolution of this social problem.

Success for Jenny Quta

Jenny is 32 and currently attending Early Childhood Education Training at the Solomon Islands National University.



Jenny Quta on her first day at Solomon Islands National University (2017)

She enrolled in February 2017 and received the scholarship in March due to our annual walk-a-thon to support our Pacific Island neighbours. Her studies have been going well. She is very excited to learn new skills that will help her become a good teacher.

In her last report, she wrote, "I feel empowered. I can give back to my community. My goal for the future is to educate young children to become good citizens of Solomon Islands".

As a newly graduated teacher, Jenny will be employed in a local Kindergarten in Honiara, the New Hope Academy Kindergarten.

WFP Australia has been supporting this kindergarten for years. In 2016, with \$2500, we donated solar panels to provide electricity to the building.

Thanks to our efforts and our donors, the classrooms can now be cooled down with the help of fans during the hot summers, while teachers can make use of computers to read their emails and prepare their lectures. The school is now expanding into a primary school.



Staff and students receiving the Solar Panels Donation (2016)

With your help, WFP Australia will be able to effectively support many other young passionate adults with the development of their education and career.

Help us make a difference in the Pacific Islands!

New Zealand

Women's Federation for World Peace NZ celebrates UN International Women's Day

March 11TH 2017 | Parnell Peace Embassy, Auckland, New Zealand

Report by: Lia Goijarts & Felicity Cairns

The national theme for 2017 was **Violence against Women: An Equality and Human Rights Violation**. Felicity Cairns, President WFWPNZ, welcomed around 20 women to the WFWP NZ's International Women's Day function.

She gave an introductory message from Dame Patsy Reddy, the Governor General of New Zealand, and read excerpts from the statement "Women Fostering Peace and Prosperity" submitted by Women's Federation for World Peace International to the Commission on the Status of Women 61.

Pratika Sharma, the Primary Health Family Violence Facilitator from SHINE, was the first speaker. SHINE is an NGO of the Presbyterian Support Services. She explained the services and programs they offer.

They work with the police and counsel victims of abuse, run women's shelters, offer group sessions on the Power and Control Wheel and connect victims with legal help for protection orders.

Ms Sharma also shared that abuse is both physical and psychological, and that while the police will prosecute physical abusers, it is difficult for them to take action on mental abuse as they require proof. She recommended the research done by Janet Fanslow.

After questions and answers and morning tea,

Jit Kaur, Service Manager of the Sikh Women's Association, introduced the work of the NZ Sikh Women's Association to help South East Asian women and families settle into a new society.

She was approached by previous Prime Minister Helen Clark to help these women and families in difficulties. Their situation is more problematic because often the women do not have residency, restricting their access to health services.

She recommended the movie **Provoke** about battered women's syndrome.

The spiritual atmosphere was very much alive at this event, and all the women appreciated the great sacrifices made by the coordinators and their volunteers. It was a great opportunity to network and make lasting friendships.



Question and Answer session



After the discussion, the meeting concluded with a group



Left- Pratika Sharma (Primary Health Family Violence Facilitator)
Middle- Jit Kaur (Service Manager, NZ Sikh women's Association)
Right- Felicity Cairns (WFWP NZ President)

25th Anniversary Celebration Report

April 8TH 2017 | Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP)

Women's Federation for World Peace NZ Celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Parnell Peace Embassy, Auckland New Zealand on 08 April 2017.

WFWP NZ President Felicity Cairns welcomed everyone and highlighted the success of WFWP worldwide and how proud we can be of the founders, Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and all the WFWP members from around the world for their achievements and progress.



Mrs Felicity Cairns (WFWP NZ President)

Thirty-five women attended. Twenty-five were WFWP members and ten were guests. A beautiful dinner banquet was prepared by the WFWP members. Rev Adel Jamati NZ NL gave blessings on the food. The celebratory song was sung by Joonki Kim.

An inspiring DVD of the activities of WFWP chapters around the world was shown. We could all again reflect on the hard work and sincere efforts of all the WFWP members.

Testimonies followed: Ruth Cleaver, first Chairwoman and founding member of WFWP NZ gave a brief overview of the launch and of the activities following the launch in New Zealand.



WFWP 25th Anniversary 2017

Nita Wallace, one of the earliest WFWP members, gave words of encouragement on how WFWP supported her in many ways throughout the years and especially during the ill health of her belated husband and after his passing last year.

Jan Sawada gave a testimony on the 1994 Bridge of Peace Ceremony in New York where 500 Japanese women crossed the bridge with women from the USA.

Pauline Jamati who lived in Lebanon at the time of the Launch was able to share about the activities there.



Janne Sawada

Pauline Jamati

We concluded the event with the cake cutting ceremony. The beautifully decorated cake was prepared and baked by Ila Jane Anae.



Nita Wallace (left)

Following the cake cutting a Pacific Island dance was performed Josephina Suafoa, Ata Afu and Rachel, and Tupou Pogoni and her daughters, Anna and Moana.



Everyone else joined in the dancing and enjoyment.



Participants celebrating WFWP 25th Anniversary

International



WFPW Oceania delegates travel to CSW61

This year WFPW Oceania sent 8 delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held each year during March at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The delegates came from Brisbane, Melbourne and the Solomon Islands.

WFPW International (WFPWI) as an international NGO holds parallel events during the CSW with other NGOs who operate either at the national or international level.

WFPWI held two parallel events, and WFPW members from different regions participated as panel members in three other parallel events,



Australian minister for Women (Michaelia Cash) centre stage speaking at the UN on the issue of Indigenous Women

including myself. I had the opportunity to speak about the effect of climate change on the families in Kiribati.

I informed the audience about the concept of 'Climate Refugees', coined by the past president, Mr Anote Tong. Mr. Tong won the 2015 Sun Hak Peace Prize for his work to transition his people off the islands as skilled migrants, rather than climate refugees.

According to climate modelling, Kiribati will be un-inhabitable in 30–60 years and has a population of 100 000 people. I was surprised to realise how most people did not know about the fate of Kiribati.



CSW61 Parallel event on Climate Change and its effect on Families

During evenings of the 1st week of CSW61, WFWPI delegates had the opportunity to attend professional development sessions at the New Yorker Hotel. These were organised by the WFWPI New York office, led by Alexa Ward (Deputy Director, WFWP UN Office).



IVPs meeting

Topics included developing a Financial Foundation for WFWPI Chapters, Strategic Planning and Peace Studies as an Academic Discipline. Afterwards, WFWPI National Chapter Presidents, International Vice-presidents from each region (IVPs) and Regional Secretary Generals (SGs) met with our International President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon.

It was an opportunity to gather together as representatives of the International organisation to hear developments from each region, and share strategies and best practice for the organisation. On one occasion, each region shared dinner together at the New Yorker to brainstorm the three key goals given to us by Prof. Moon: partnership development with UPF to support the initiative, 'Parliamentarians for Peace' (a project of UPF); developing financial independence as a region; and, strategies for our service projects.

We were blessed to have five members of our WFWP Vic. Board around our table. Afterwards, the IVPs met with Prof. Moon to report back and make final decisions.

We were blessed to have five members of our WFWP Vic. Board around our table. Afterwards, the IVPs met with Prof. Moon to report back and make final decisions.

WFWPI celebrated its 25th Anniversary during the Celebration Dinner at One UN New York Hotel, located opposite the United Nations.

The room was packed with international guests and VIPs. Angelica Selle (USA President), Alexa Ward (Deputy Director, WFWP UN Office), Carolyn Handschin (Director, WFWP UN Office), and Professor Moon (International President) presented three Global Women's Peace Awards to international awardees.

Angelica Selle (USA President), Alexa Ward (Deputy Director, WFWP UN Office), Carolyn Handschin (Director, WFWP UN Office), and Professor Moon (International President) presented three Global Women's Peace Awards to international awardees.



Prof. Moon speaking at the Anniversary Dinner



Titi Alao presenting her books to Professor Moon

Titilope Alao from Melbourne had the opportunity to present two of her books to Prof. Moon after dinner.



Presentation of long service & dedication awards

A WFWPI Anniversary party was held on the Friday evening at West 43rd Street. We had the chance to unwind in a relaxed atmosphere and dance to upbeat music performed by 'Apple Heaven USA', as they entertained us wearing modern day cowboy costumes.

During the evening, awards were presented to long service WFWP members from each region. Representing Oceania, Debbie Bruce received an award for remarkable service, dedication, sacrifice and long service to WFWP Australia.



Kosina Hanson asking questions to Dr. Rima Sala (retired executive director of UNICEF)

A young women leaders retreat titled 'Horizon Summit' was held at East Garden during the first weekend of CSW61. We had the privilege of Dr Rima Sala (retired executive director of UNICEF) speak to us about the role of women in reconciliation and conflict prevention.

A very lively question and answer session followed. Many of the young women present took the opportunity to discuss the process of youth getting involved in this dialogue.



Karen Smith (at the podium) speaks on Advocacy and Leadership during the Horizon Summit in East Garden

Dr Sala explained about Resolution 2250, a UN resolution for youth, peace and security, enacted to protect the 2 billion youth of our world population—the largest number of youth on our planet ever!

Dr Sala stated that today the amount of conflict may be less, but the nature of conflict is different.

Now conflict is targeted at communities, and often schools are used as breeding grounds to recruit violence.

Dr Karen Smith gave professional development on the topic of Advocacy and Leadership, based on her working experience at the UN. Karin, a native born Australian, introduced the concept of 'transilience', meaning resilience to adapt and change. She asked participants: Is a challenge a barrier or an opportunity? Are we willing to learn something from the situation that now makes us feel uncomfortable; can we go beyond this challenge to learn and move forward?

Dr Thomas Ward led an interactive simulation activity by dividing us into groups representing different oil rich nations. It was a fun way to bring home the concept of establishing partnerships and putting aside differences for a 'win-win' benefit for all stakeholders.

Before we headed back to Australia, we did manage to do a bit of sight-seeing! Some of us visited Grand Central Station, Times Square and Ground Zero at the Twin Towers.



Oceania delegates enjoying breakfast (Monica, Anne, Monique, Bianca, Kosina & Charlotte)

Of course, we did a little shopping, and yes it was cold, with New York experiencing its biggest snow storm of the winter season in spring!

Anne Bellavance
WFWPI Vice-president (Oceania)
WFWP Australia President



Ground Zero, Twin Towers (Anne, Charlotte and Monica)



International Vice-Presidents with Prof. Yeon Ah Moon



To donate go to WFWP Website
www.wfwpaustralia.org



www.facebook.com/wfwpaustralia



CSW61 Side Event

Supporting Feminist Movement Building for Planet 50-50 by 2030

Date: Friday, 17 March 2017, 5 pm to 8 pm.

Venue: Great Hall of The Cooper Union, 7 East 7th Street.

Co-sponsors: UN Women, OHCHR, the City of New York's Commission on Gender Equity, ICRW, CIVICUS and Cooper Union; in partnership with Made in NY Media Center by IFP, Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) and 30under30 Film Festival.

Context:

For centuries the feminist fight for gender equality has been the fight for people to live their lives in freedom and justice and dignity. Women's lives tell the history of the fight for gender equality and the power of women's personal stories are the foundation of gender equality advocacy. Women's rights activists and civil society leaders who attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) every year have stories that offer important lessons in the history of the political advocacy of the women's movement. The CSW offers a unique opportunity to look at the lives and work of the women civil society participants and to highlight the way they are changing the world.

This is particularly important in the current context of a world beset by ever escalating inequality, intractable and relentless conflicts and discrimination. The increase, globally, of sentiments of conservatism and divisiveness has grave consequences for the ability to live in and shape a democratic, inclusive and plural political landscape. The impact of this divisive politics, which presents an overall threat to global solidarity and civil society activism, affects among others, women's reproductive rights; affordable healthcare; security for immigrants and minorities; civil rights based on race, gender identity and sexual orientation; environmental protection; scientific research and education; and social security and solidarity overall.



Notwithstanding this, a wave of progressive civic engagement, feminist resistance and solidarity is surging in the face of these politically challenged country contexts. Against all odds, including a famine of resources and threats to life and work, women’s rights and civil society groups relentlessly mobilize in countries and communities with creativity and resilience to demand public accountability for gender equality. It is crucial that this feminist mobilization and movement building is supported and strengthened.

The event:

Leaders and activists from civil society, global institutions, and local and national governments will reflect on these challenges and discuss emerging opportunities for strengthening movement building to ensure the achievement of gender equality and the women’s rights agenda – Planet 50-50 by 2030.

Programme:

1) Film and Arts Festival: “The Personal is the Political”

Thirteen young filmmakers and photographers from eleven countries will tell the stories of feminist activists and civil society leaders participating in the first week of CSW61 (13-17 March 2017), and produce short artistic pieces (in video and multi-media formats) that showcase their contribution to gender equality in their communities and countries. The multi-media pieces will be shown at this special event to celebrate the importance of supporting feminist movement building and the role played by civil society in achieving women’s rights.

2) From “Me” to “We”: A testament to movement building.

Testimonies from civil society leaders will elaborate how feminist movement building as an expression of political solidarity has advanced the gender equality and social justice agenda. Activists will share succinct, powerful testimonies in a TED Talk style.

This segment will include reactions/ interaction from the floor.

3) Leaders’ Commitment to Support Movement Building for Planet 50-50 by 2030

Discussion: representatives of global institutions including the United Nations and local and national government officials will reflect on the civil society leaders’ testimonies, and discuss their own commitments, in their roles as leaders and policy makers, to support movement building for gender equality and social justice at the global, national and local levels. This segment will have a panel discussion format and be followed by interventions from the floor.

4) Evening reception: Celebrating, sharing and friendship.

Overall outcome of the event: Ideas and strategies for the way forward for how the UN/UN Women and stakeholders can support feminist movement building for gender equality.

WFWP Horizon Summit Report

March 18TH 2017 | UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

On Saturday March 18th WFWP members set out on a cold spring morning in New York City to begin the Horizon Summit for WFWP youth members. Our destination on the first day of our weekend was Rev and Mrs. Moon's beloved home and esteemed church venue, East Garden.

WFWP USA President and Vice-President of WFWP International, Angelika Selle, who has participated in the past seven UN CSW's representing WFWP, introduced the program for the day. We also had our President of WFWP International, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, encourage musical entertainment from the participants.



Prof. Moon addressing participants during the Horizon Summit

The three inspirational speakers, Dr Rima Salah, Karen Smith and Dr Thomas J Ward, were thoughtfully selected based on their relevant experience.

Dr Rima Salah spoke from the heart, calling on youth to advocate for their inclusion in important decision-making processes.

In this way she spoke about the importance of intergenerational dialogue.

This is in line with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030. The agenda identifies the need to support children and youth within its vision.

Hearing from Dr Thomas J ward we did an activity to practise finding mutually beneficial ways to work with other people and resolve conflicts that may arise in this process. This was a fun, interactive session.

Karen Smith drew on her practical skills and knowledge derived from her work at the United Nations followed by her book titled United Nations Unlocked.

Karen discussed the goals we set, the mindset we have and the motivation that drives us.

This discussion was tackling the central question of how to effect change in ourselves and other people.

One point that resonated with me, and that summarises the work we can do through the CSW, is that societal change is three-dimensional. Within the UN, the CSW was effecting ‘top-down’ change by having agreed conclusions available for its’ member states, their governments and local authorities, to inform their policy-making processes and overarching systems.



Angelica Selle (president USA), Prof. Yeon Ah Moon (International President), Dr. Rima Sala (retired executive director of UNICEF), Alexa Ward (Deputy Director of WFPW UN dept.), Karen Judd-Smith (UN expert), Carolyn Schmidt (Director of WFPW UN dept.)

Furthermore, we had WFPW in attendance (along with other NGO’s and community groups) hosting ‘parallel’ events to communicate the goals and vision of WFPW.

In this way, WFPW’s work at the grassroots, community level was used to effect overarching local governance systems, like the UN, via a ‘bottom-up’ approach.

Most powerfully for myself, change occurred ‘sideways’ within the dialogue that occurred as I networked with passionate peers. These people challenged my current life constructs and thought patterns. Change in this way can be small and incremental, but it can also make a profound impact through the subsequent ripple effects.

The final day of the Horizon Summit comprised of an education tour of Franklin D. Roosevelt presidential library, museum and home, as he was the founder of the UN. We also heard about the life of his wife and human rights activist, Eleanor Roosevelt.

We gained insight into their purpose and vision for establishing the United Nations soon after the two horrific world wars. This built on my understanding of WFP and its' relationship to the UN through it's peace-building efforts.

The year the UN was founded was 1945 and on September 7 1993 Mrs Moon became the first Korean woman to give an address in the United Nations.

What's more, WFP has achieved General Consultative Status with the UN, the highest level of authority for consultation.

WFP is recognised as making substantive and sustained contributions in many fields that are directly relevant and valued by UNWomen.

As a result, WFP has access to UN grounds passes as well as entitlements to deliver oral presentations during the UN Council's meetings.

It was an honour to attend the CSW representing WFP. The Horizon Summit was the cherry on top of a great experience.

The weekend events were well-organised, informative and relevant. It was exciting to witness the significance of the work we do with WFP as it is emboldened by a strong foundation and prestigious network of influence.

Kosina Hanson
WFP Vic. Board member



Karen Smith (at the podium) speaks on Advocacy and Leadership during the Horizon Summit in East Garden



Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, International President



Kosina, Charlotte, Monica and Anne at Times Square during the snow storm



Grand Central Station (Monica, Charlotte, Kosina and Anne)



“Women and Girls Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”

NGO CSW61 Forum | New York

I felt so honoured and privileged to participate in this Forum as a Queensland member of the Women’s Federation for World Peace in Australia. It was indeed inspiring to be among the massive ground swell of powerful, dedicated and influential women drawn from all corners of the globe.

Individually and/or collectively they represented their areas of passion, interest and tireless efforts as members coming from a very diverse spectrum of International organisations and groups: including government; corporate and business entities; faith, community and welfare agencies; human and women’s rights and advocacy based organisations and groups; legal and judicial system; sporting associations; educational, learning, training and entrepreneurial institutions; health services and medical fraternity; the UN; and many others.

Along with four other Victorian based WFWP members, ably led by Anne Bellavance, I believe we individually and collectively represented the work of our Australian chapter with pride and passion.



Gail Ker and Anne Bellavance

It was pleasing to note the small but significant smattering of men participating and supporting this forum who were fully committed to the work being championed around addressing the ever-challenging issues impacting women in terms of equity, participation, leadership, inclusion, economic, educational and business opportunities, and the achievement of successful outcomes for women and girls within the ever changing nature of work in our world today.

It was clearly identified that the inclusion of men and boys into this important work is both keenly sought and desperately needed as we strive together to achieve the outcomes defined in the theme of this Forum, “Women and Girls Economic Empowerment”.

To mention a few of what I considered to be the key “Take Out Messages”.

I would refer to the framing of discussions around the need to re-think, re-imagine and re-invent the “Norms and Culture” of our global economy, considering a greater focus on “Feminist Based Economics” and the call for greater involvement of female economists in shaping and taking the lead in building a new focus of the purpose of our world’s economy.

Today 90% of economists are male and of the 10% who are female, the question lingers as to what percentage represent a feminist based framework. It was frightening to hear that half of the world’s wealth sits with just eight (8) men.

The SDGs are shaped around education, health, and the inclusion of women and Indigenous peoples, with the aim of reducing poverty, discrimination, violence and the abuse of human and basic work rights.

Where is this thread incorporated within the Global economy?

The frightening numbers of young refugee children being completely excluded from the educational system was alarming, with an estimated 3.5 million Syrian children today experiencing this plight. The additional impact of this situation is the consequential increase of children and women into the sex and slave trade.

It is estimated that around 67 million women and girls are involved in the Domestic Workers trade with some 30% performing these duties without any form of rights. I was horrified to hear of women and girls being locked up in cages along with animals without any form of pay, working merely for food and shelter.

The resources, aide and investments needed to alleviate these extreme and unacceptable levels of abuse requires the formation and commitment of an alliance of players, including governments, who bring greater political will into the process, the involvement and advocacy efforts from civil society, the media and the business and corporate sectors.

The point was made that 45 years on we are still talking about and fighting for these issues and rights. It’s time for action!

Of course, also presented were the great and inspiring stories and presentations showcasing where good work was being done and some amazing successes being achieved, particularly in the areas of entrepreneurs, innovators and business start-ups.

The emerging digital space is clearly playing a significant role in providing women with new and innovative ways of creating their own businesses and support mechanisms. One example shared was where a private Facebook site was being used as a means of Domestic Workers sharing experiences, providing support to each other and identifying job opportunities amongst themselves.

There was also the work being done in initiatives such as Rise Up, One Mama/Shaboom Products and Michelle Obama's organisation "Let Girls Learn" and many others offering investment, philanthropy, education/training and capacity building.

It was highlighted, however, that the terms "Micro Business" and "Micro Finance" were still being used when the work related to what women were doing in comparison to businesses started by men simply being referred to as "Business Start-ups" or "Finance Projects".

It was disturbing to also hear that an Innovation Centre established in one African country by Medgar Evers Institute was successfully producing some great entrepreneurs and innovators, but it was predominantly attracting and supporting young men and needed to reach out more effectively to ensure the engagement and participation of young women into the process.

Eliminating discrimination and gender based bias was noted as a key feature that impacted not only on third world nations, less human rights based countries and/or emerging economies but surprisingly continues to leave women workers behind even in the more affluent and progressive societies including the USA.

Some examples were provided, especially from within the medical and judicial systems, where inequity in pay and parental leave remain a concern.

A wonderful story concerning unconscious bias was shared where two computers were loaded with exactly the same information and capacity – one computer was named "John" and the other named "Julie".

Participants were invited to use and rate both computers. Overwhelmingly the "John" computer was rated as far superior to the "Julie" computer.

Do we have a long way to go – I would say yes!

Esteemed former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, now UN Secretary-General, attended the Forum held at the New York High Commission offices. One of his contributions to the forum was to hold a "Civic Town Hall" meeting to emphasis the important role civil society plays in this work.

Although I was unable to make this presentation, I have heard him speak previously and commend his views about having the voices, leadership and key positions/roles of women within the political, community, business and faith realms expressed, heard and represented fully and equally by women.

He posed the question at a previous conference I attended, an International UN NGO Dialog on Resettlement conference held in Geneva some years ago, that perhaps with a world experiencing an escalating rate of global conflict and the most alarmingly high numbers of refugee and displaced people since WWII, whether the lack of voices and positions of power and leadership by women was in fact a contributing factor impacting on this growing problem.

I am disappointed I didn't get to hear what he spoke about this time, but I am confident he would have strongly expressed views of this nature and absolutely sees the role Civil Society plays in mobilising effort and political, media and community will to address and reduce the impacts of war and conflict that almost always places the greatest harm, challenges and negative outcomes on women and girls.

Finally, I wanted to give a huge shout out to the World Federation For World Peace International for their 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner event held at the One UN New York Hotel in the Diplomat Ballroom as part of this Forum Program.

The Anniversary program contained an impressive list of guest and key note speakers including Opening Remarks by Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and other eminent speakers including many from the UN such as WFWP IVP & Director, UN Office Carolyn Handschin.

I am sure you join with me in especially congratulating "The WFWP National Chapter of Japan" on their Award as well as the other well-deserving recipients of Awards presented on the night.

We are part of a global sisterhood that recognises and supports the needs and aspirations of women internationally, and it is comforting to know so many powerful women such as us carry the torch for those who are in desperate need of our support, contributions and commitment to making our world a better place to live for all.

Gail Ker OAM
Group Chief Executive Officer
Access Group International Limited
Logan, QLD

Child Marriage

“Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”

61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

The priority theme of the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) was “Economic empowerment in the changing world of work”. At the opening session United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated, “We are all better off when we open doors for women and girls.”

This statement set the tone for what was to come in the coming weeks.

There were hundreds of sessions and round table discussions highlighting the challenges that women have faced historically and are still currently facing around the world today. Hundreds of NGOs from around the world hosted sessions highlighting many issues such as child marriage and FGM (female genital mutilation), sex trafficking and the gender pay gap, just to name a few.

One inhumane act taking place globally that was discussed at the UN, and is still regularly in conversation at a global level, is that of child- and early-forced marriage. After learning about this horrible act over the years I have grown incredibly passionate about it.

This is a human rights violation and has horrific and detrimental effects on the girls’ lives.

The very root causes of child marriage are embedded in gender inequality, tradition, culture and poverty.

This human rights violation partners with other forms of violence against women and girls, such as psychological, sexual, economic violence and physical violence. Marriage for girls can lead to pregnancy and child birth complications, which are the main causes of death of 15–19-year-old girls in developing countries according to Dr Babatunde Osotimehin in the 2012 Flagship Report.

Along with pregnancy and birthing complications, marriage for a girl can also mean an end to education, exposure to sexually transmitted diseases and the inhibition of the girl from living a life of free choices and having access to a career.

Fifteen million girls are forced to marry each year. Women’s rights are human rights. Attacks on women are attacks on all of us.

In a 2012 Flagship UN Report it states that by 2020 some 142 million girls will be married by their eighteenth birthday if the trends in place continue. Child marriage persists especially in poorer and more rural parts of countries in the developing world.

The decision to marry should be freely made. “No society can afford the cost opportunity, waste of talent or personal exploitation that child marriage causes.” (Dr Babatunde Osotimehin)

Although the focus of this year’s CSW 61 was in fact ‘Economic empowerment in the changing world of work’, global challenges for women were still very present in the UN conversations. The issues of gender equality and economic empowerment are intertwined with the other issues that women and girls face globally.



Monique Joyce, Bianca Joyce and Kosina Hanson

Child marriage affects the access young girls have to education and career growth impacting the global input girls and women have to the economy. On the opening day of the 61st CSW, Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres stated that “Women’s equality can add 12 trillion dollars to the global economy in the next decade.

Economic empowerment is hand in hand with the overall empowerment of women and girls.”

This year’s completion of the CSW 61 saw thousands of NGO representatives from all over the world advocating to delegates for change. Change has begun, but there is much more to do.

The CSW gives people from around the world the ability to contribute to the agreed conclusions and advocate for issues they face in their own country to their delegates.

It’s an inspiring, informative and enlightening experience, and I am incredibly grateful to have experienced this magnificent life-changing event twice. Thank you to WFPW for this opportunity.

I left this year’s CSW more inspired to contribute to change in the world than ever before. Until next year’s CSW62, let’s keep being the change we want to see in the world.

Bianca Joyce
Vic. Chapter,
WFPW Board Member

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Support the efforts of WFWP volunteers in Oceania



New Hope Academy Kindergarten
(Solomon Islands)

Women's Sewing Centres

Island Lights Project

Character Education

Books for the Islands



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 139 NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- ❖ Applying organisation's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
- ❖ The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least two years in order to apply
- ❖ The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
- ❖ The major portion of the organisation'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
- ❖ Organisations 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.