

## WFWP UK's Annual Christmas Celebration and Fundraising event in aid of Jordan

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WFWP UK held their Annual Christmas Season Celebration and Fundraising event in aid of the WFWP Refugee Project in Jordan. It was a wonderful end of the year event, held on 8 December 2018 in London. Christa Rennie emceed the event and gave warm welcoming remarks expressing how this time of year is full joy and blessings.

The keynote speaker Dr. Zoe Bennett, WFWP International Vice President and President of WFWP Middle East, gave a presentation on the WFWP humanitarian aid project in Jordan. She shared that although it has been seventy years since the Declaration of Human Rights, there is still a great challenge of respect for human values regardless of race and religion. Jordan is the country most affected by the Syrian crisis, they accept refugees but are not able to give them all the resources for good living. WFWP works tirelessly to empower Jordan women and their family, by educating them. For the past four years, WFWP Jordan has organized an after-school class with a variety of classes and activities.

Dr. Bennett read a touching letter from Fusayo Irikura, Representative of WFWP Jordan.



WFWP Jordan moved to one of the poorest areas supporting kids in need. More of support is needed, apart from classes, WFWP is working to help maintain a well-kept environment through a cleaning campaign. Youth are being taught to take care of their neighborhoods and spread awareness to their community. With a heart of compassion, Mrs. Irikura continues to extend her efforts to help the needy beyond tutoring, and through important courses for empowerment, family and health. Jordan does not allow funding for NGOs; therefore, funds have to come from abroad, 3,000 pounds is needed for one year of tutoring, therefore a little goes a long way. We were reminded that we are one family and one humanity.

Following her presentation Alex Herzer shared two heartfelt poems. One titled "Love in Crisis" about the children suffering in Jordan who are in need of love.

Mitty Tohma, WFWP UK President and WFWP Europe Vice President, began by sharing her reflections about her recent experiences with the founder of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. She was grateful and moved by her firm values and deep heart to fulfill her promise to God.

Mrs. Tohma also shared some highlights from the year for WFWP UK:

There were 15 guests from the UK who attended the 18th Annual WFWP-Europe Conference, Tirana,

and they were inspired by the content of "Women's active participation in decision making, development and sustainable peace."

On the 28th November in the UK Parliament, WFP and UPF held a conference to mark the UN day ERAW. It was hosted by Baroness Sandip Verma, along with another two members of Parliament, NGO leaders and members of civil society. They heard some very painful stories about the horrors of honour based crimes, and realized how important cooperation between government and civil society is. Critical lessons were also learned from the essential work the grassroots groups do to help tackle these crimes.



On the 3rd of December, the European Parliament Brussels was held addressing the question "How is reconciliation important for peace negotiations, prevention and sustainable development?" This was a significant year for WFP UK and they are looking forward to blossom in 2019.

Asma Ahmed talked about the success of this year's WFP UK Young Women's Speech Contest, a platform to empower confidence and leadership through speaking. Women choose their own topics ranging from poverty, to empowerment, and employment issues. Mrs. Ahmed encouraged everyone to participate and replicate it in their own communities.



Patricia Earle gave a testimony. She has been hosting Women's Peace Meetings for the past 25 years. In the last peace meeting, "The continuing conflict in the Middle East," a Syrian refugee shared her remarkable story and collected donations for Jordan. The peace meeting program is well respected by people in the community. Mrs. Earle shared that late long-time friend of WFP, Marjorie Saunders' family, gave a tremendous support with donations in her name and memory.

The program ended with joyful entertainment and fellowship. The event was well received by all who attended, and everyone is looking forward to many wonderful programs and developments to come in 2019.

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