

# Report: Moscow

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6th-9th October 2016

*by Gabriele Zoehrer*



**This is my report about my participation at the annual Euro-Asian WFWP Conference in Moscow. The conference was organized by the „Global Women’s Peace Network“ and the title was „Moral & Family Values as a Foundation for Prosperity of Society & World Peace“.**

When I arrived at the Moscow Domodedovo International airport on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. I was warmly received by Misha and Lilia Shurshilin with a huge flower bouquet. Family Shurshilin was my host during my stay in Russia.

Right from the airport we went to the UM HQ.

The sisters had prepared a sumptuous welcome dinner for Dr. Pak, Dr. Moon, Gabriella Mieli, her husband and myself. Among the attendees were some of the Angels of Peace ensemble, their parents and teachers. The Angels of Peace sang a few songs and Olga Vakulinskaya, ballet teacher and WFWP leader of the Russian Federation, told us that the name of the ensemble derived from Raissa Gorbacheva, when she said: “These are really Angles of Peace” after the performance of the Korean Little Angels. Dr.Pak explained about the beginning of the Little Angels, when Korea was in a state of poverty and misery. At that time the dancing children showed the beautiful Korean culture to the world. Dr. Pak had accompanied the Little Angles when they travelled to all the different places.

Gabriella and myself expressed words of gratitude for having been invited on the occasion of the annual Eurasian WFWP Conference.



The next day we (Gabriella, her husband and me) together with some sisters visited the Christ the Saviour Church, a huge Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

At 4pm the conference started in the Moscow Alpha Hotel. Before the event, the guests could buy handcrafts, made by down syndrome affected persons.



**Olga Vakulinskaya** opened the conference. **Mrs. Valentina Vladeslavleva**, academician of the Eurasian Academy of Television and Radio, film director, member of the Board of the Central House of Cultural Workers, gave the welcoming address and showed a video to the audience of approximately 80-100 persons.

The family ensemble "Spring Flute" moved our hearts with their performance.



Olga Vakulinskaya



Valentina Vladeslavleva

**Prof. Klara Mansurova**, the president of the International Social Movement “Parental Care” gave a report with the title: *“From the Cell of Society to the Community of Nations”*. She stressed the significance of the family for the society and its influence on the nation.

**Mrs. Gabriella Mieli**, the vice president of the Italian Woman’s Federation said, *“The Bridges of Peace can Unite Hearts”*. She reported about the visit of the Angels of Peace in Turin. The Russian ensemble also performed for charity purposes. At different schools and even in a Jewish synagogue they organized Bridges of Peace ceremonies.



After Gabriella’s speech the **Angels of Peace** delighted everyone with their songs.



The key note speech we heard from **Dr. Lan Young Moon**, the president emerita of the WFWP. The title was „*International Co- Operation of Women for Peace in the Family and in the World*”. She pointed out the decline of morals and family values. Dr. Moon emphasized the importance of character education. In order to achieve the UN millennium goals, the national WFWP should collaborate with other NGOs, she said.

### Other speakers were:

**Mrs. Irina Bogacheva** , President of the Foundation “Revival and Hope”, Secretary of the Expert Council of the State Duma Committee on Education, member of the National Coordinating Council for the support of young talents in Russia under the RF Government:

“*Family in multinational Russia*”, was her topic. Exemplary families would make a great impact. We should learn how to love each other. Therefore it would be necessary to get to know the traditions of other families as well.

**Mrs. Zoya Krot**, honored peacemaker of the Belarusian Peace Foundation spoke on “*Peacemaker Rank Entails great responsibility*”. The voices of mothers were decisive for peace. But already small children could contribute to this high ideal.



### The **Creative Family Bakanov-Arapova**

(of three generations), winners of Moscow Intercultural Contest “World of Family 2014”, gave a performance with poetry, music and songs.

Mrs. Miwa Komata, chief of the International Cooperation Department of Niigata prefecture, Japan:

“*With a Motherly Heart about most Important Things*”

She introduced an education program on values at schools for teachers, parents and students.

Mrs. Lyudmila Zyuzina, head of Relations with educational institutions of the All Russia public organization "The Common Cause", presented *"Healthy Lifestyle as a Condition for the Development of a Moral and Harmonious Personality"*

A lifestyle without drugs, alcohol and premature sex would prevent many problems, she said. Through this program, which is taught at schools, young people learn, that they themselves are responsible for their lives.

I, Gabriele Zoehrer, was the next speaker, talking about *"What's wrong with Waiting?"*

At the beginning of my presentation I apologized as a German citizen, for what my country had done to the Russian (and other) people during two World Wars.

My speech was about character education and the purity ring ceremony where young people promise to themselves and to their future spouse to wait with intimate relationships with someone of the other sex until they are ready for the commitment of marriage.

Before Mrs. Flora Vafina, a singer from Tatarstan, presented her song: *"Women from Russia"*, Olga Vakulinskaya gave the closing remark: *"Moral Education as a Chance to be Guided and Helped in Time"*. She reported about many activities of the "Angels of Peace", their visit in old people homes, where the residents felt so much joy about their young visitors, as they would sing and even dance together with them!

Another example, Olga mentioned, were family competitions with art performances.



For the next day, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of October, Olga had organised a work-shop where the different WFWP chapters gave their reports and shared with each other.

## Ukraine

The WFWP vision encompasses three points

- To build Women's Abel UN branch up to 2020
- To become the most powerful women's organization in Ukraine in order to influence the society with TP ideas.
- To educate Ukrainian women through women's national idea and three key virtues.

### Their activity is based on key women's virtues as:

- Piety toward parents — —> Working with elder people
- Fidelity to spouse — —> Working with women's NGOs
- Sacrificial love to children — —> Working with children

The Ukrainian WFWP is cooperating with the Kiev city administration.

**Dr. Lan Young Moon** gave her moving testimony: *"60 years of attending True Parents"*. By power point presentation she showed us many fotos even of her childhood and youth as well as of the beginning and development (including all the different activities in various countries) of the WFWP, founded by True Parents in 1992.

**Gabriella Mieli** shared with us the activities of the **Italian WFWP**. She told us again, what a great impact the Angels of Peace had made, when they visited Italy in spring this year.



Furthermore she informed us about the collaboration of the Women's Federation with the UNICRI – United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Intitute, that has its HQ in Tourin. There are programs for women, who became victims of violent offences. Another issue this office is dealing with is cyber crime. Gabriella is also teaching students. Additional activities are conferences referring to the International Day of the Family or the International Day of Peace.

Our Italian women helped together with IRFF to distribute aid supply for earth quake victims after the first help organisations had left.

Another interesting activity is to congratulate the parents of their new baby that is born on the first day of the new year.

## Japan – Tadzhikistan

Four years ago a project of Japanese and Tadzhikistan women started. They read books with fairy tales and stories from different countries to the kindergarten- and school children. Together they learn to sing international songs and celebrate intercultural holydays.



## The Russian Federation

The Angels of Peace ensemble create friendship between the members of enemy countries from the past. The singing and dancing children are welcomed wherever they go and perform. Olga stressed the point to get started with WFP activities on a small scale, eg. with small projects, getting to know other women groups etc.

## My report on WFP Austria

encompassed the conferences at the UN in Vienna: the sessions on Education for Global Citizenship and the cooperation with experts in the field of education. I mentioned the problems that we face in western society: the gender ideology and especially - since last year - the refugee issue.

After having heard the reports we ate lunch and then we visited some tourist place with typical colorful houses that were very popular as a background for wedding pictures. We then continued the sightseeing by bus.



Kremlin



On the Red Square

In the evening Olga let us experience a big surprise: an invitation at Elena Povelina, a famous Russian fashion designer and Ambassador for Peace.



We had lots of fun, trying on the wonderful clothes, all made from natural fibres. Elena spoilt us with delicious Russian tea and homemade cakes. Inspired of being in such an environment we discussed the possibilities of inviting Elena and the Angles of Peace ensemble to our western countries to connect them with artists and the members of the high society and diplomacy to strengthen the relationships between former enemy countries and to foster peace.

I feel deeply enriched for having had this opportunity to attend the Eurasian annual WFPW conference. To meet the sisters of Russia and other parts of the world and to share with them was a great stimulation.

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