

# 30 YEARS A REMARKABLE JOURNEY



WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

1992  
/  
2022

*In Celebration of the  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's  
Federation for World Peace  
International*

*30 Years of Development  
and Prosperity*



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*WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE*

*30 Year Commemorative Issue*





世界女性時代到來

COMING OF THE GLOBAL ERA OF WOMEN





***30 YEARS,  
A REMARKABLE  
JOURNEY***



**CO-FOUNDERS,  
DR. SUN MYUNG MOON AND DR. HAK JA HAN MOON**



## WFWP PLEDGE

*We pledge to become true daughters,  
attending our parents with purity  
and a heart of filial piety,  
true wives, supporting our husbands  
through self-sacrifice and faithfulness,  
and true mothers,  
nurturing our children with love and devotion,  
thereby creating true families of true love  
who attend God;*

*We pledge to become true women leaders,  
pioneering the peaceful world of original creation  
by actively serving society.*



# FOREWORD



Dear respected leaders, beloved colleagues, friends and volunteers,

Congratulations to all of you on the auspicious occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace.

It is my distinct honor and highest privilege to lead this international platform for women peace leaders and educators at this time and to celebrate together 30 years of dedicated service. WFWP was launched in 1992 by our visionary Co-Founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Today it is a global organization for all women peace-builders who seek to embody a mother's heart of unconditional love to realize the vision of "One Global Family." Our Co-Founders knew that the time had arrived for women to take leadership in creating a world of peace. On behalf of our worldwide organization I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for their vision, inspiration and loving example.

I would like to warmly acknowledge all those outstanding leaders and volunteers who have invested in this exceptional organization throughout the last 30 years. I humbly extend heartfelt gratitude and respect for their unforgettable work which continues as a legacy of true love in the hearts of people around the world.

WFWP, which began working on the global level in 1994 with 1,600 Japanese volunteers, has now grown to 127 national chapters and over 173,000 members. We are proud to be part of a community of leaders, volunteers, members and friends united in the common goal of creating an environment of peace and happiness for future generations and people of all





racess, cultures and creeds. As WFWP national chapters matured and were shaped by local customs and culture, the core values and teachings of WFWP were adapted to serve its members by guiding and bridging them while practicing a mother's heart of service and sacrifice.

Throughout its history, WFWP has made significant contributions to education for the empowerment of women and youth, support for the development of local communities through sustainable humanitarian projects, programs for a safe and prosperous environment, and the promotion of peace and reconciliation through international dialogue and cooperation.

This year we are celebrating together our achievements by reviewing the last 30 years and looking forward to the next 30 years of impact and service. In addition to the history of the organization and its major accomplishments, the "WFWP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book" includes heart touching life stories from volunteers around the world, exciting interviews with people who have been involved with WFWP, loving memories of departed leaders who devoted their lives to building the foundation upon which we now stand, and words of gratitude and expectation for further development of WFWP. It is my hope that this book will serve as a motivation to remind each of us of the vision and goals we all started with, and that this book, filled with wisdom and guidance, will become a valuable teaching tool for the next generation.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for your invaluable contributions and for your continued support of WFWP.

Dr. Julia H. Moon

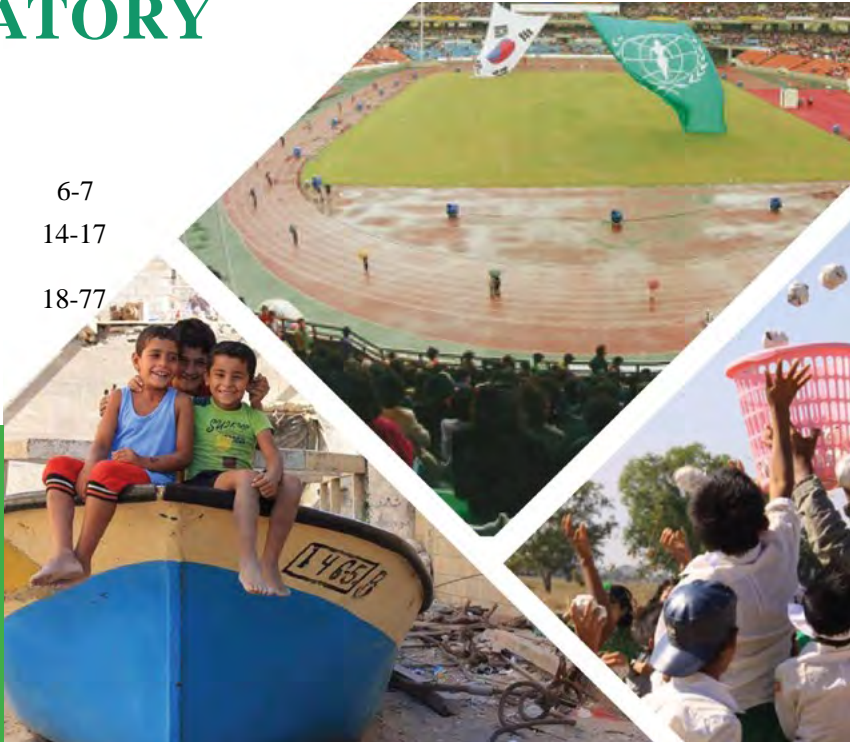
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia H. Moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

President, WFWP International  
Publisher, WFWP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book

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The background of the page is a soft, abstract watercolor wash. It features a mix of light pink, pale red, and hints of yellow, with the colors blending into each other in a gentle, organic pattern. The overall effect is warm and celebratory.

*Congratulatory  
Messages*

## MESSAGE FROM DR. SUN JIN MOON

I want to express my deepest congratulations to WFWP for 30 years of promoting peace on our beloved planet Earth. Since 1992, WFWP members have made progress far beyond what seemed possible, and it was through the power of women working together to serve others. Inspired by the vision of my dear parents and WFWP's Co-Founders, Father and Mother Moon, hundreds of thousands of people have participated in WFWP's projects over the years. My parents called on women to save this world with the heart of mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and friends, using our God-given feminine instincts to nurture and create a better environment than what a masculine-dominated world had achieved.

All the achievements of WFWP volunteers have shown the power of giving and serving, which sustains peace far more effectively than military might or government mandates. I wish I could thank each one of you individually. How extraordinary that WFWP volunteers have given so much over the years! On their grassroots foundation of service in over 100 countries, WFWP was granted General Consultative Status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

WFWP chapters contributed to the UN's sustainable development goals by creating schools and training programs for children and women in under-served areas. Economic assistance through micro-loans have been especially helpful for entrepreneurial women. Free medical clinics have served remote villages, and nutritional support, AIDS-prevention programs, and other efforts have helped thousands of people. Educational programs for stable family relationships, as well as preparation for marriage and parenthood seminars have been held around the world. WFWP has been a strong participant in the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City, promoting loving families as the foundation for world peace.

WFWP's beautiful Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremonies have facilitated friendships among people from former enemy nations. In all parts of the world, women and men have been moved to tears in these symbolic ceremonies of respect, forgiveness and reconciliation. On the heart-to-heart level, racial, ethnic and religious differences have begun to melt as people cross the bridge and meet in the middle with an embrace.

More than twenty-one Middle East Women's Conferences have brought people together to share and understand one another. WFWP is encouraging women to play a special role in that fractured region of the world by creating relationships and standing up for peace for their own descendants.

WFWP's remarkable "WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love-Share Project" has delivered assistance to women and children in the poorest regions of North Korea (DPRK). International WFWP leaders were even invited to a women's conference in the DPRK where they held a beautiful candlelight ceremony for peace in 2007.

My late father understood the importance of women in leadership. His last public speech was

to an international group of women gathered in Korea in 2012. He urged them to create what we now call the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN), which is a project of WFWP. The Global Women's Peace Network involves leaders, organizations and governments to utilize practical and creative means of addressing social issues and establishing true equity based on heart.

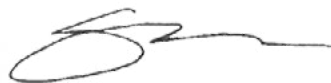
The COVID-19 pandemic has ironically brought us to a higher level of communication via the internet. WFWP and GWPN have launched multiple online seminars featuring speakers from various areas of knowledge and expertise, creating conversations with fresh ideas. The amazing power of technology has allowed us to pool our hearts and minds to focus on peace in new and exciting ways.

The project closest to my own heart is Giving for Good International, launched in spring of 2020. This program utilizes what is called "circular fashion," by reusing, recycling and repurposing clothing and textiles to keep them from going into landfills. In this way, Giving for Good is contributing to the protection of our precious Mother Earth. People have been mistreating the environment because of ignorance and insensitivity, but we can – and we must – stop it. My beloved mother has spoken often about the necessity of restoring this world to the pristine condition which God created in the beginning. Giving for Good has organized very effective fundraising efforts which have brought in more than a quarter of a million US dollars to support humanitarian and environmental causes across the globe.

My eternal gratitude goes to my beloved parents, whose example and words of inspiration have changed lives in every part of the world. Their total dedication to the dream of world peace is bearing fruit today. I want to thank each and every person who has contributed to the work of WFWP over the years because you have worked faithfully to bring the dream into reality. It takes all of us, everyone pulling together like in a tug-of-war contest, except we are engaged in a "tug of peace." Our tools are persuasion, perseverance, education and, most of all, loving hearts of service. When we all pull together as one human family, recognizing our common Creator, the Heavenly Parent, we can bring our world into the realm of sustainable peace and prosperity.

The motto of WFWP is "Humankind is one family living together in our Home, the Earth." Mother Earth needs us today, all of us with our own talents and strengths, pulling together to restore ourselves and our planet to the original purpose of our Creator, God. Thank you to all who have joined in the cause so far. I know we are going to see even greater success for peace in the future.

Dr. Sun Jin Moon



Senior Vice President, WFWP International



## MESSAGE FROM DR. LAN YOUNG MOON

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Women's Federation for World Peace on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Having spent 22 years in the field of Women's Federation activities since its founding in 1992, I cannot deny that my interest in and expectations for WFWP, as well as my wistful nostalgia and beautiful memories of the members with whom I became familiar, have felt even more new and precious with the passage of time. In particular, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's speech at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September of 1993, which led to the WFWP becoming a UN NGO and gaining General Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council in May 1997, laid the foundation for the women's peace movement around the world, which I still remember with great emotion.

In addition, I will never forget the inter-Korean exchanges and unification activities along with the "WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project" that have developed since 2001. The Geumgangsán World Women's Leadership Peace Conference was held in October of 2007, with 720 women leaders from 50 countries who gathered at Geumgangsán, together with North Korean women leaders. I will never forget the excitement of the event.

I am especially proud of and remember the Middle East Women's Peace Conferences and the 2004 Jerusalem Peace March; these are shining moments for WFWP, which had convened every year since 1997 under the exceptional guidance of the Co-Founders' initiatives for interreligious reconciliation and peace.

In March 2012 at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of WFWP, we invited Mr. Andrei Abramov, Chairperson of UN NGO Committee, to Korea where we held the 1st Global Women's Peace Network world assembly in Muchampo. Six hundred women leaders from 33 countries were in attendance. I think it was also very significant that we started to have a closer relationship with the United Nations.

It was on this foundation that the "Abel Women's UN Founding Convention" was hosted on July 16, 2012, which was Dr. Sun Myung Moon's last official event on earth. Since then, WFWP has continued to carry on this work, now known as the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) movement.

It is reassuring and gratifying to see the various activities that WFWP has developed so far, spreading and developing even more vigorously with the united strength and passion of the global members, led by the current international president, Dr. Julia Moon.



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
WFWP Leaders*

I send my deepest gratitude and love to the leaders and members of the WFWP International, who have together shed tears of joy, and to all the volunteers of WFWP Japan who have toiled in the field in 160 countries around the world.

In commemoration of the 2022 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace, I wish that all of us become even more proud members of WFWPI together with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and are able to leave even more proud achievements under the banner of "one family, one peaceful world, and one new unified world."

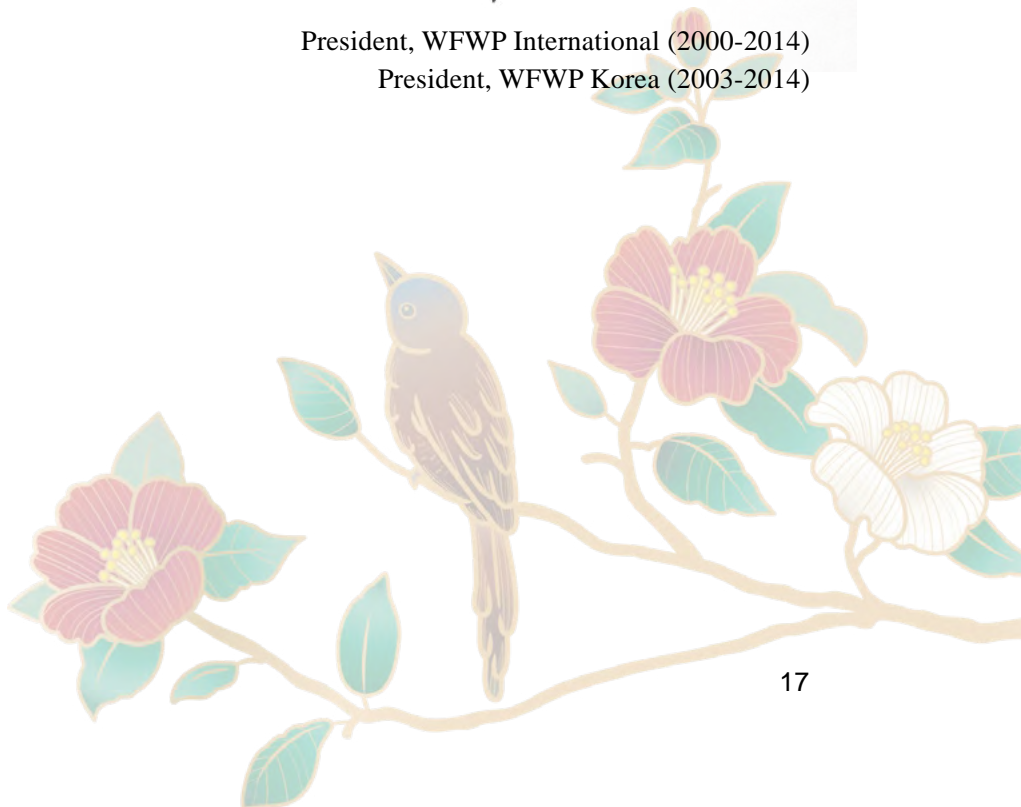
Thank you very much.



Dr. Lan Young Moon

*Lan Young Moon*

President, WFWP International (2000-2014)  
President, WFWP Korea (2003-2014)



## **WOMEN INNOVATING A PEACEFUL SUSTAINABLE WORLD**

Wishing WFWP a happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was introduced to WFWP in its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2021, and together we formed a great partnership working toward a sustainable future for the vulnerable. The pandemic brought about economic devastation, especially to those who were already impoverished. Limpopo province in South Africa is mainly rural and far from the economic hub of the country. As traditional leaders, we always try to find sustainable ways to bring our people out of poverty, while at the same time maintaining the family structure. We wish to minimize the trend of parents becoming migrant laborers, because it is the children who suffer.

WFWP's pursuit to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 tackles these issues directly. Our partnership with WFWP has brought forth an environmental project which can help us to turn our area into a "green village." We have started by reducing the pollution of disposable nappies through the Cloth Nappy Project. So far, this project has given work to seamstresses to earn some money, and on a bigger scale, it is helping families and mothers to save on the cost of disposable nappies. These mothers rely on social grant money, and now this money can be used for healthy nutrition for their children. This has truly been a big boost to maintaining the dignity of women and children while preserving our environment, and this is just the start.

Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is not only the Mother of Peace, but she is also setting an example on how peace can be achieved by allowing women to change their communities using their feminine strength and passion. She has proven that this kind of strength knows no boundaries and is not limited by language or distance. The culture of motherly love is universal. These are the principles we strive to instill in our young people as we teach them to build a better world.

I would like to wish WFWP 30 more fruitful years and look forward to a long partnership.



HRH Hon. Makgoshi Clarah Dikgale  
Queen of the Dikgale Traditional House  
Member of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa



## **FOREVER GRATEFUL TO DR. HAK JA HAN MOON**

I am pleased to contribute a few thoughts on this occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace International.

It was during the events of the World Summit 2020 in Seoul that I could discover more about Women's Federation for World Peace International and its Co-Founders. The inauguration of a very special new association of the Universal Peace Federation, the International Association of First Ladies for Peace, was co-hosted by the Women's Federation. Through the women leaders I met, as well as the International President and Senior Vice President of WFWP, and hearing the speeches of the prominent women in attendance, I became interested. Many ideas and impressions for such a global network of women leaders resonate with my own vision and my work for peace and development.

Since then, I've had the opportunity to collaborate with the Women's Federation network in Europe, preparing several important events. I very much appreciate the serious team of WFWP leaders. The quality of speakers and the relevance of the topics to current global priorities are reflected in the leaders and mandates of the organization. Each event's discussions brought very timely and realistic practical solutions and a deepening sense of solidarity among women and women leaders. I want to thank Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband for envisioning such organizations that give life and hope to the peace culture we all work for.



H.E. Anneli Tuulikki Jäätteenmäki  
Member, Centre Party, European Parliament (2004-2019)  
Prime Minister, Finland (2003)  
Chairwoman, Centre Party of Finland (2000-2003)  
Minister of Justice (1994-1995)



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **WISDOM SHARED WITH MY FELLOW FIRST LADIES FROM ACROSS THE PACIFIC**

Alii, and warm greetings from Palau. Today we celebrate 30 years of WFWP. This is a wonderful achievement made up of years of selfless service to our world.

To begin, I would like to congratulate the Co-Founders for working together as a couple to achieve the important aims of WFWP. I would especially like to acknowledge Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Mother Moon, for carrying the work forward since her husband passed away in 2012.

To have compassion, to promote love, reconciliation, service and sacrifice are such high ideals. I believe that to lead an organization with such ideals, people must come together with pure hearts to do the right thing for our planet and peoples. Only then can such goals be achieved.

I would also like to congratulate the WFWPI team worldwide for their tenacity, perseverance and continuous positive investment into the organization. I am proud to say I have been involved with the organization for 21 years now. As I reflect back on why I support this cause, I can see some themes that have kept me involved for such a long time. There is a sense of divine unity and heartfelt acceptance at the center of WFWPI's activities. Together we work in harmony, across many nations, toward the same goals of peace. We all share the same purpose: to make the world a better, more compassionate place.

Love for humankind is not something you can just think about. It requires daily action. And most of all, it requires us all to work from our hearts, for that is what the Divine power asks us to do on this earth. I relate to the logic of love this way. The wisdom I learned from my elders in Palau is that we must always care for each other and our environment. We are humble stewards of the land and ocean and we must leave behind a healthy and peaceful environment for the generations that follow us.

In 2019 I had the honor of hosting the inaugural WFWP First Ladies Summit in Palau. That was an uplifting experience which was felt by all guests, and especially by my fellow first ladies from across the Pacific who were in attendance. Many first ladies joined me at that meeting as an expression of service to our fellow islanders.

*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

In the island context, when a woman harvests her taro, it means she not only thinks of her immediate family, but also thinks of extending the harvest to friends and neighbors. In this spirit, outreach to other first ladies was not just governmental, but a desire to share our wisdom and knowledge with all.

I want to thank and congratulate President Dr. Julia Moon for her calm and generous spirit, which helped bring that successful meeting together. I'd also like to acknowledge the UPF Korea President, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, who came to Palau to represent Mother Moon at that time. Once again, I appreciate the commitment of Mother Moon for choosing our island home for such a prestigious occasion, and for entrusting me with the responsibility of hosting it. I would also like to thank the team of international UPF members who came to Palau to help my team create such a memorable meeting. This is the kind of global service that bridges barriers of language and culture.

Amidst this COVID pandemic, it has been much harder for us all to gather in person to continue the work we have started. Nevertheless, we must continue to make progress. For the sake of our children and future generations, we must come together in the spirit of hope and harmony.

In the Pacific the ocean is the center of our life. Every day I have to collect trash that has washed up on our shores from other nations. It is heartbreaking to see. In order for Palau to sustain its pristine environment, we have to reach out to larger nations across the world and ask them to be good stewards of their environment too – just like our elders taught us to be. WFWPI helps us to achieve this aim.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the organization over the last 30 years. The work WFWPI does is incredibly valuable to this planet, and we honor your work and service today.



Mdm. Debbie Remengesau, First Lady, The Republic of Palau (2001-2009, 2013-2021)

*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## FOR A HOPEFUL WORLD

I, like millions of other women around the world, would like to congratulate Women's Federation for World Peace International on its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. In such a world where girls are banned from education, where mothers are illegally detained and tortured, where women, although not fighting on the front lines, find themselves being weaponized on the front lines and their bodies becoming instruments through which unspeakable crimes of war are committed, it makes the achievements of the Women's Federation for World Peace over the past 30 years all the more remarkable.

I have always believed that for us to be truly at peace, we need not solely reside in a country absent of international conflict. No, for us to be truly at peace, we need peace in three vital areas: peace in the community, peace in the home, and peace in our hearts. WFWP has provided peace in the community; all over the world literacy and education centers have been built where thousands have been taught to read. Women have seen their families thrive upon being issued vital loans under a micro-credit initiative. WFWP has provided education for "peace in the home" through the Eliminate Violence in Families Through the Practice of True Love initiative, which raised awareness about the various types of domestic violence, and has taught both men and women coping strategies to eradicate this horrible scourge. WFWP has also provided peace in our hearts through the Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremony, which has united thousands of women across the globe in a celebration of peace and unity.

However, it is not in the past where I feel WFWP has done its best work; I feel its best work will be done in the future, as its trailblazing and inspirational leadership programs bloom and bear fruit with the leaders of tomorrow. It is not only at the grassroots level where we will win the war on poverty, but we will win the war on poverty in the promotion of women into leadership roles-leadership roles in the boardroom, leadership roles in the courts and leadership roles in parliament. It is through equality, and equality of opportunity, that we will finally find world peace. It is my hope that Women's Federation for World Peace will be at the forefront of this fight for another thirty years.



Mdm. Dr. Callista Mutharika  
First Lady, Republic of Malawi, (2010-2012)

## LET US GO FORTH AS PROVIDENTIAL WOMEN

On behalf of myself, my family and the entire membership of the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP)-Africa, I wish to congratulate our dear Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of the International Association of First Ladies for Peace and other associations, on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP).

We salute her untiring advocacy for world peace.

Let me also specially congratulate our women and the entire network of Ambassadors for Peace for their very warm support for world peace projects. This level of support has really strengthened this work toward world peace. Peace is not an end in itself. It is a work in progress; therefore, we have to continually remain vigilant, and watch out for new conflict dynamics as we make progress daily.

As we know, women are critical stakeholders in peacebuilding and development in any society. The role of women in peacebuilding cannot be overemphasized. Women are the greatest catalysts to peacebuilding in the world. Peace is the only platform upon which development and social harmony stand. Without peace, nothing can be achieved. There would be no prosperity, no development. Most conflicts in the world are always settled by women—from home, to organizations, and in the society at large. These thirty years since the foundation of Women's Federation for World Peace have proven this to be so.

As critical stakeholders in the peacebuilding process, we must therefore discharge this role with grace so that together, we can break new ground and enthrone the world of our dreams.

While I congratulate our women under the aegis of Women's Federation for World Peace for the work these 30 years, I also challenge us; there is still more to be done. Let us do better in our continuous support, prayer and advocacy for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. This is a task that must be done.

As was said earlier by my husband, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, "The unification of the Korean Peninsula is the unification of the world." Let this go down in history as one of our major contributions to the world.

Once again, 30 happy cheers to our women, and God bless our efforts.

Dame Dr. Patience Faka Jonathan  
First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria (2010-2015)



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO WFWP**

I congratulate Women's Federation for World Peace on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding and for all the investment that its members have made. I hope that you can continue with your noble mission and encourage women everywhere to be proactive peacemakers. I fully agree with and fully support the peacebuilding work of WFWP and wish you all the best.



Hon. Nayla Moawad, First Lady, Lebanon (1989)  
Founder and Honorary Chair, Rene Moawad Foundation  
Minister of Social Affairs (2005-2008)  
Member, National Parliament (1991-2009)



## **GOD BLESS WFWP**

The Bible tells us through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah, “How beautiful are the feet of those who announce peace, of those who announce the good news!”

And it is in this sense I appreciate the work and commitment of Women’s Federation for World Peace, which for thirty years has been working to build, strengthen and empower the oldest, noblest, and most important institution in the world: family.

On the occasion of its 30<sup>th</sup> celebration, I unite my voice with those of all Haitian women to wish a happy anniversary to Women’s Federation for World Peace.

May the Almighty God continue to bless you and use you in the construction of world peace, and may He bless your leader, Mother Moon.



Mdm. Dr. Ginette Michaud Privert  
First Lady, the Republic of Haiti (2016-2017)  
Diplomat, Embassy of Haiti to the Dominican Republic (2012-2016)

## **MAY THERE ALWAYS BE PEACE**

I warmly congratulate Women's Federation for World Peace International, and in the Middle East, and to each of its members for completing thirty years of operation and actions taken on women's mobilization for peace, solidarity, and conflict prevention.

For all the years that my husband, the late Dimitris Christofias, served as president of the Republic of Cyprus, I had the opportunity as first lady to work with the Federation. We hosted officials of WFWPI in Cyprus for the initiative referred to as "hugs for the children of Gaza," as well as the 14<sup>th</sup> conference of Peace in the Middle East. We also supported children who lived in places that were hit by the tsunami in Japan, and children from the country of Libya.

There is no doubt that important work has been done by the Federation all these years. This is because there is strong motivation among its executives, having concern and taking action to promote reconciliation and peace. This effort is very important, especially at this time when threats of new conflicts are being made, when many parts of the world still have open, bloody wounds from wars and aggressions. This is despite the fact that for the past two years humanity has been experiencing unprecedented situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of the solidarity and cooperation required by the conditions created by the pandemic, we have escalation of conflicts, the escalation of threats, the increase of violations of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

In this context, the role of all those who fight for peace, solidarity, and cooperation of countries and peoples is doubly important. I hope that WFWPI will continue the commendable effort it has been consistently making for three decades for peace and cooperation at the local and international levels.

I wish you every success in every subsequent initiative for this great cause!



H.E. Elsie Christofia  
First Lady, Cyprus (2008 – 2013)

## OUR BEACON OF HOPE

I wish the co-founder of Women's Federation for World Peace International, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, its president, vice presidents and all teams a happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On this occasion, I want to pay tribute and homage to each one of you for your tireless efforts, dedication and sacrifice to advance the ideals of the organization, that "humankind is a family living in one global home, the Earth."

Your work in many countries of the world has inspired and empowered millions of women of all ages and transforms their lives. They are the beacon of hope that will guide us in building a world of peace, justice and development.



Hon. Dr. Rima Salah, PhD  
Assistant Professor at Child Study Center, Yale School of Medicine  
Assistant Secretary General, United Nations (2004-2007, 2008-2011)  
Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF (2004-2007)

## **WOMEN ARE THE KEY TO PEACE**

Any anniversary is an occasion to celebrate, but for Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) there are many special reasons affirming its brilliant record of achievements and to observe rightfully the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. The organization was founded in 1992 in the Republic of Korea and quickly expanded globally with active chapters in 115 countries, as well as offices for UN relations in New York, Geneva, and Vienna.

In its inspiring vision statement, WFWPI asserts: "Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace." It believes in and works for promoting women's roles and for their equal participation as the essential ingredient in creating a peaceful global society. It makes me proud, as the organization is united globally by this vision, while addressing the unique issues and barriers in each region on both the grassroots level and through high-level events. For its good track record, the organization was granted the General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations within five years of its formation as a deserving non-governmental organization (NGO).

WFWPI's mission statement also asserts that of "empowering women as peacebuilders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world." It outlines its activities to be undertaken "through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation, and humanitarian service..." It is refreshing to find from the statement that WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

Interacting with them, I have found members of the WFWPI to be alert, motivated and intelligent. I am particularly impressed by the collaborative mutuality among its members who make remarkable efforts for the good and benefit of humanity. I have found the younger members, in particular, enthusiastic and eager to learn. WFWPI members are keen on reaching out to people from other parts of the world. They seem to feel a sense of responsibility to contribute meaningfully to making our world a better place to live for all. In addition, they seem to believe that the issues of advancing the culture of peace and women's equality are the perfect bridge connecting them and the rest of the globe, particularly with the nations of the developing world.

WFWPI believes that a society that fails to involve its women as equal partners in all its endeavors, fails altogether. There can be no mistake more serious than ignoring or neglecting 50% of humanity. In my work at the United Nations for the most vulnerable countries, I have observed again and again that a country that values the involvement and empowerment of women progresses confidently on the road to peace and development. WFWPI's strong emphasis on the need for the true participation of women has accorded the organization a meaningful mission. I recall that my first active involvement with WFWPI took place two decades ago in 2002 when I spoke in my capacity as the chief advocate for the United Nations, upholding the legitimate interests of the most vulnerable countries of the world on "Building a Partnership between the UN and Civil Society" at an event to follow-up on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held that year in Johannesburg, South Africa. In my

presentation, I emphasized that WFWPI's ethical focus on family values is important for sustainable development.

Since that time, I had the pleasure of interacting often with the members of WFWPI as they reached out for advice and guidance on the culture of peace as well as the equality and empowerment of women and girls. Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) USA launched the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) in New York in November 2018 with women from diverse professional and personal backgrounds, joining to learn and share with each other about how women are the key to turning the world toward peace. I was very encouraged participating at an event on "The Role of First Ladies and Women Leadership in Building Bridges of Peace and National Cohesion."

Earlier in March 2018, I was deeply moved by the honor bestowed on me as the recipient of the 2018 Global Women's Peace Award presented by the WFWPI during its Horizon Summit. I was touched by what the Board of Directors of WFWPI, conveying the decision, mentioned that the award was being presented "in recognition of your lifelong commitment to the empowerment of women and for your leadership in the UN that resulted in the adoption of the groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women and Peace and Security, in 2000."

I am impressed that WFWPI has made a serious commitment to support the work of the 1999 UN Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace, as this area resonates with WFWPI's mission and focus. It was very meaningful when WFWPI decided to select "Advancing The Culture of Peace" as the central focus for the theme of their 2019 Horizon Summit in March in New York, attended by participants representing 19 countries, including many of the younger generation. The president of WFWPI conveyed her appreciation for my keynote address, noting that it introduced and provided valuable context for the theme. She also underscored that my emphasis on the importance of personal transformation as well as the role of women in advancing the culture of peace were especially appreciated by all. I was happy to present the Horizon Summit awards at the event to those recognized for their contribution in advancing the culture of peace.

I recall that during my introductory statement as the moderator of the panel discussion at the UN High Level Forum convened by the President of the UN General Assembly to observe the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Culture of Peace at the UNGA, it was a pleasure for me to formally recognize WFWPI's role in promoting the culture of peace at its 2019 Horizon Summit in honor of the milestone 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I congratulate WFWPI and all its members on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization and wish them at least another three decades of success and achievement!

Bravo, WFWPI!

H.E. Anwarul K. Chowdhury  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2002-2007)  
Founder, The Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP)



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **TO WONDERFUL WOMEN**

On the occasion of WFWP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I greet you with joy. This is to celebrate with and congratulate you, Mother Moon, and all the wonderful women of WFWP on the occasion of your 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We worked closely together on the issues of women and religious freedom throughout my tenure in the Obama administration and now work together with Women on the World Stage (W.O.W.).

Wishing you continued success in all your endeavors.

Blessing on our friendship and partnership.



Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook  
US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom (2011-2013)  
The Obama Administration



## MANY THANKS TO WFWP!

In times of constant attacks on the main fundamental values of society, I come as an Ambassador of Peace, and with honor and joy wish on this date the sincerest congratulations to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Women's Federation for World Peace. It was established as an important and essential route for the everyday protection of the family, for the maintenance of peace and moral and ethical principles, assuming the leading role in the participation of women in the maintenance and reconstruction of modern society.

This day represents another year of hard work, a lot of dedication of all, and many achievements. Let's celebrate and thank the dedication of an organization that works enthusiastically for the greater good. Congratulations to all people who are part of this success!

Mrs. Carla Zambelli Salgado de Oliveira  
Federal Deputy, Sao Paulo, Brazil  
Chair, Environment and Sustainable Development Committee (2021-2022)  
Ambassador of Peace



## ALWAYS WITH YOU

I want to send a big greeting to WFWPI from Rapa Nui for the 30 years of work, support, training, and providing tools to women around the world.

Knowing of the work that you develop as a federation has been a big example and great learning.

As a woman from the ethnic group of Rapa Nui, I will give you my support, and availability, to help in the objectives that the federation wishes to carry out in the world.

Congratulations WFWP!

Hai Mahatu, Hai Here

Mrs. Maria del Carmen Icka Araki  
Councilor, Rapa Nui, Chile  
Founder, Fundacion Mujeres Activas (*Active Women Foundation*)



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **A LIGHT IN THE WORLD**

Dear Women's Federation for World Peace,

On this special occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Women's Federation for World Peace, I send my warmest and heartfelt congratulations. WFWP has been empowering women around the world for several decades and has played an important role by bringing various organizations of different cultures and backgrounds into unity. I am delighted to see that the activities of WFWP have encouraged many people to be brave and to raise their voices on today's global issues. WFWP has done an exceptional job in helping solve these issues, including education and support for family as a way to create a peaceful global society. Moreover, I believe all of these qualities above have shown that WFWP values everyone without any discrimination.

In previous years, WFWP launched many excellent campaigns, such as the "Giving for Good" campaign that sold second-hand clothes to reduce emissions from mass production and used the contributions to further help those in need. Some of the funds raised supported suffering children in Thailand as well, for which I am deeply thankful. Your work is not only meaningful to many lives but has also brought so much joy and smiles to this world.

Lastly, I am very pleased to see your organization pushing forward for world peace and continuously following your vision of a non-profit organization that ensures every voice has significance, upholding a balance of power and being a representation of women.

In the future, I look forward to further cooperation with your organization to develop, promote, and empower women all around the world: to be bold and confident, to be able to proudly voice their opinions, and to exercise their rights and abilities in a just environment of peace and well-being.

Sincerely,



Dr. Wandee Khunchornyakong Juljarem  
President, The National Council of Women of Thailand (NCWT)  
Under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (2015-2018), (2019-2022)

# **YOUR ESTEEMED WORKS ARE IMPRESSIVE**

Dear Madam President,

On behalf of the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand under the Royal Patronage (NCSWT), I wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of its founding, which will be celebrated in 2022.

WFWP is a non-governmental women's organization that promotes women as essential factors in creating a peaceful global society, with the motto of humankind being a family living in one global home, the Earth. WFWP has achieved a great deal in its work and has assisted children around the world to gain access to education, hygiene, and youth development. WFWP has inspired and encouraged women all over the world by empowering them to become peacemakers and leaders of communities, by enabling them to work together in many ways to make a difference. WFWP provides a remarkable service in bringing the love of mothers to the world and focusing on eradicating poverty worldwide. Women are given more opportunities than ever before because of the efforts and programs of WFWP.

WFWP is one of very few NGOs to have received General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

I would like to thank WFWP for its commitment and dedication to women worldwide in promoting global harmony through sisterhood. May WFWP continue to be a leader in contributing to the welfare of women and humanity. I am confident that the scope and reach of your wonderful organization will only continue to increase and expand in future years.

Sincerely yours,



Maj. Gen. Khungyinh Asanee Saovapap President,  
National Council of Outstanding Mothers, Thailand

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Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **WITH LOVE, FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

We rejoice in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WFWP's founding, for carrying out activities in countries around the world and particularly in the Dominican Republic.

WFWP works with men and women, dedicating their best efforts to seek peace in the societies of the world, even in places of armed conflict that is incomprehensible to those in opposition. Particular emphasis is on the family, because if in the family we teach its members to resolve their conflicts, this education will further contribute to bringing solutions to society about how to resolve conflicts in civil and military organizations.

In the Dominican Republic, this foundation carries out multiple activities that favor world peace. They impact educational centers with presentations and various activities that encourage children and young people to live in peace with the citizens of the country and with those of other countries.

We congratulate all the board members, its president, Dr. Julia Moon, and all those who work day-by-day in favor of world peace.



Hon. Carmen Evarista Matías  
Vice Minister, Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dominican Republic

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Messages from  
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## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WFWP!**

On the occasion of this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of WFWP, a recognized international NGO, allow me to offer my sincere congratulations to Dr. Moon and the leadership who ensure the success of this important platform, with the focus on the role of women toward attaining world peace.

I firmly believe that world peace can be achieved if world leaders, visionaries, women, and communities can work toward that goal.

May the coming years see this movement that involves women's leadership in peace and peacebuilding activities create a world where everyone can live in a just, fair, godly, and peaceful world.

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, WFWP!!!



Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine  
Fairness Commissioner, Government of Ontario, Canada (2007-2015)  
Parliament, House of Commons (1993-2006)  
Founder, Jean Augustine Centre for Girls

## LET THERE BE PEACE

Some years ago, I was introduced to Women's Federation for World Peace International, Asociación de Mujeres por la Paz Mundial en España, by Marcia de Abreu, president of WFWP Spain, and whose admirable work I would like to highlight.

Both when I was actively working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain and more recently as a retired ambassador, I was invited by Marcia de Abreu to participate in activities, locally and abroad, such as in conferences, seminars, and Bridge of Peace ceremonies, where I could speak on topics of shared concern and those related to women's commitment to peace in the world and in favor of human rights. I felt attracted not only because of the selected topics but also because of the quality of the speakers and, of course, for the fact that it was an international organization.

I also had the chance to attend a "side event" organized by WFWP at the UN in Geneva during the Human Rights Committee Session. And I keep a fond memory of our visits to the Center of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo and to the House of Lords in London after a session at the British Parliament. I will never forget my participation as a speaker at a conference organized together with WFWP of Italy and Portugal about conflict resolution, nor will I forget when I was a judge at a young women's speech contest held in Madrid. Most recently, I participated in a webinar organized by WFWPI in Korea about "Women, Peace and Security" and UN Security Council Resolution 1325, together with two magnificent speakers. I am also very grateful for having been recently nominated as an Ambassador for Peace, together with other relevant people.

Within a few days, there will be a webinar to discuss the possible reunification of Korea, organized by WFWPI.

I wish to continue to have this privileged relationship with WFWPI in the future, and now that Women's Federation for World Peace International is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I pray that WFWP continues to harvest the best results in its work, with full respect for human rights in the world and with the understanding that peace may reign everywhere with the invaluable help of every woman.



H.E. Silvia Escobar

Founder and President, Amnesty International of Spain (1977-1982)

Director, Social Services, Spanish Red Cross (1982-1984)

Director, Human Rights Office, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1984-1989)

Human Rights Ambassador of Spain (2005-2011)

Vice-President of Association Helsinki-Espana



## PRAYERS OF LOVE

Congratulatory message to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as “Mother Moon”:

As the Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it gives me great pleasure to continue my support of such a worthy organization, in offering my hearty congratulations to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, often referenced as the “Mother of Peace.”

Dr. Moon has traveled the world for 30 years, distinguishing herself as a visionary for peace. She brings her universal, inclusive and inspiring messages of peace to all nations, and to all people in her quest for a better, more peaceful world for the human family, one family under God. Having founded WFWPI 30 years ago, she has kept up the pace in traveling the world to share her vision for world peace. She continues her relentless mission, raising awareness about issues that jeopardize, contradict, distort and threaten world peace. She is a beacon of light and an instrument for change in a world filled with turmoil, strife, war, grief and unimaginable ills.

Mother Moon has engaged world leaders, including women leaders, politicians, professionals, members of the clergy and other visionaries in pursuit of her vision for a better, more peaceful world. Her vision of our world is one in which humankind exists in peace and harmony, one loving and functional family under God.

Dr. Moon,

I pray that God will continue to bless you with good health; I pray that God will keep you safe in your global journey; I pray that as you open your mouth to speak, spreading your messages of peace, God will fill it with words of wisdom and love that will resonate peace throughout the world; I pray that your hard work and dedication to dismantling the separation of North and South Korea will culminate in you being a witness to the reunification of your homeland of Korea, with North and South Korea becoming one again, during your lifetime! I pray that you will continue the work of WFWPI in countries throughout the world, bringing together women of multi-diversity, to “lead by the heart and in the logic of love,” as you have so elegantly demonstrated and effectively taught, in furtherance of your vision of a better, more peaceful world.

Thank you Mother Moon for your unwavering commitment, love and dedication to making our world a better, more peaceful world!

Blessings and love,

Hon. Dr. Margaret Best  
Member, Provincial Parliament, Province of Ontario, Canada  
Former Minister of Health Promotion, Minister of Consumer Services



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Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## PARABÉNS WFWP!

First of all, I want to congratulate Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) for its 30 years of activities creating a global network of women leaders who have invested all their talent, creative ability, and affection, to bring about significant changes to the much suffering human society.

Women's Federation for World Peace, co-founded in Seoul, South Korea, in 1992 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, is a philanthropic, educational, and non-profit organization present in more than 127 countries, with a definitive aim to search for solutions to social problems in each of the places where it operates.

Based on first-hand guidance from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace and co-founder of WFWP, since its founding WFWP has been empowering women around the world, elevating the value of women, and creating mechanisms for female participation to be greater and more expressive in society, both in public life and in its participation in the economy, education, and family formation and family structure, which is the place where women are queen.

Especially at this time of the pandemic, WFWP has sought to be with women and mothers, to strengthen them in times of anguish and concern, involving them in social activities or simply in activities to share hope, to overcome the critical times we are living. Even online, WFWP has promoted webinars addressing topics relevant not only to women but to society as a whole.

It is also worth mentioning that WFWP's "festival of nations," a fraternal commemoration of cultures of different nations of the world, was combined with the calendar of celebrations of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and is celebrated together with the anniversary of the city of Sao Paulo.

To conclude, WFWP also works cooperatively with men for the strengthening of families, especially in the education and preparation of young people for the future, since it is the family that must provide the basic and most important education for the formation of character and personality of our young people, preparing them to be future parents and for the responsibility of bequeathing values and principles to future generations.

Congratulations to WFWP and God bless you!



Hon. Luís Claudio Fernandes Miranda  
Federal Deputy, Federal District, Brazil  
2019-2023, DF, DEM  
Entrepreneur, Communicator, Consultant

## **PLEASED WITH YOUR SUCCESS**

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace, as an Ambassador for Peace, I feel compelled to write a few lines in honor of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of this organization and co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, which has accomplished so much for world peace. It has recently established the Sunhak Peace Prize, which honors activities that seek peace for a better world, and has recognized and awarded exemplary activities for peace that are being carried out around the world.



Hon. Antonieta Rosa Gomes  
Researcher at the Center for International Studies - CEI-IUL  
Minister of Justice and Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,  
Guinea Bissau (2001-2003)



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## TO MY LOVELY WFWP FAMILY

Greetings,

My recognition, respect, admiration, and appreciation goes to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for her altruistic work worldwide and on a spiritual level, dedicated to the well-being of families and world peace. She highlights harmony and non-violence in her dialogue as the basis to achieve the dignity of human beings. To this great woman, I offer my respect and congratulations.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is a woman noted for her worldwide and very spiritual service dedicated to families and world peace. These will leave footprints in the world for achieving humanity's well-being. She is admired and respected. God multiplies many women with great gifts for the sake of others. Another thing that I want to add is that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is a tireless and unconditional woman who has spent 30 years setting clear goals for the well-being of families and world peace. Her legacy of service to humanity will never perish.

In commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace, I am very grateful to know this wonderful organization that is working hard around the world to succeed in humankind's dream, which is world peace.

Women's roles in our 21<sup>st</sup> century are acknowledged and highlighted in most of the world's countries, and my country is not an exception. Thanks to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for being a great example for us. Fortunately, in our region of Central America, we have had the honor to have women presidents of the Republics; they are another great example of leadership.

Women's Federation for World Peace, as an NGO recognized by the United Nations, is giving the opportunity to more people and groups of people to create new programs or projects for the benefit of society. It is working in non-profit areas, such as through culture, art, painting, languages, etc., to create a world-peace vision and establishment of "worldwide brotherhood."

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is for me a motherly example, a wife, and fighter woman with strength and high spirits who embraces everyone who listens to her. When I was in Brazil in 2018, I was able to participate in a Family Festival, and I was impressed by her very inspiring words given. I was also able to perceive her determination and strength.

Later in 2020, I also had the privilege of going to Korea, and I was able to understand much more about the scope of her work and the important role she is playing in bringing about world peace. I feel very grateful to have been awarded as an Ambassador for Peace in



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my country, Panama, and it is a great privilege for me to be part of this important occasion in which Women's Federation for World Peace celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a former magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice in Panama and current family magistrate, I realize that her vision is in accordance with the principles for which I have always worked and fought—to strengthen the institutions.

I remember her words that I read in a magazine that touched my conscience and my heart: “History has called for reconciliation, compassion, love, service, and sacrifice. The problems of today cannot be solved by the logic of power. The current problems can only be solved by the logic of love.” Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent my country and express my words of appreciation, admiration, and respect. Wishing you success and that our Heavenly Parent's desire to build a beautiful world of love and peace comes true.

Since I have known your work, I have considered it very important to support the causes promoted by WFWP; that is why, despite my busy work schedule, I always feel motivated to collaborate in the activities organized by WFWP.

Congratulations, my respect, and my appreciation to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.  
Thank you very much.



Magistrate Nelly Cedeño De Paredes  
Presiding Magistrate, Superior Family Court  
Former Justice, Supreme Court of Panama

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## **MOTHER MOON, MY MOTHER OF PEACE**

It's for certain that building peace is a process which starts inside ourselves. But when a group of women from different countries gather with the goal to reflect and act for peace, it shows we have a powerful source of hope for brighter days in our lives and for creating sustainable development for humanity.

How have I experienced WFWP during the last three decades? Our meetings during the Middle East Women's Conferences were memorable. We talked about women's roles in achieving peace in many fields: in leadership, education, decision-making, coordination and cooperation. The discussions went far, creating an atmosphere of reconciliation and peace but also became material to empower us to talk to our own countries' ministries and NGOs.

We exchanged experiences on how to bridge the gap between the people of our countries despite the differences in religion, skin color or political orientation, not only with words but also with action.

When our voices as women reached the UN under the umbrella of WFWP, it had an impact. We urged an end to conflicts and wars, with the resulting suffering of women and children; we recommended means to promote a culture of peace, and proposed projects to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

I have so many good memories from my encounters with the members of WFWP, and I have developed a great respect for Mother Moon, who is inspiring this organization.



Ms. Fatemah Alakrokah  
President of WPPI 1325 team Kuwait  
Member, Board of Directors, Arab Women's Council, Lebanon (2016-2022)  
Councilor, Ministry of Higher Education, Kuwait (1995-2016)  
Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Kuwait, Dubai (1972 - 1990)

## **PEACE CREATED BY WOMEN**

Dear Women Peace Leaders,

From the bottom of my heart, I congratulate Women's Federation for World Peace on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It has long been clear to me that peace around the world has and will come primarily from women. For 30 years, as your mission statement has defined, I can see that you have been taking your mandate seriously-to be peacemakers and leaders in your families, communities, in the nation of Switzerland, and vigilant as well in Europe and at the United Nations.

As you have been “educating, advocating, reconciling, and serving humanity,” the world has come a few steps closer to the culture of peace and well-being that we are all committed to. Future generations are depending on us, and it is my honor to have worked with you for this noble goal.



Mrs. Barbara Schmid-Federer  
Member, Swiss National Council (2007-2018)



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Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **MAY THERE ALWAYS BE WFWP**

I am immensely grateful for the invitation of UPF Argentina in February 2020, which gave me the opportunity to participate in a wonderful experience and to represent Argentina together with other leaders from my country at the World Summit of leaders under the Universal Peace Federation. Held in Seoul, South Korea, it was an occasion during which I could meet Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-Founder of UPF and WFWPI, who has been carrying out responsible, committed and permanent work with Women's Federation for World Peace over the last 30 years, with the goal of achieving a united global family centered upon universal values.

At the meeting, I was able to share, debate and learn together with leaders from other parts of the world about different problems to which we are exposed, such as poverty, hunger, lack of water, climate change, inequality, insecurity, terrorism, violations of children's rights, violations of women's rights, and social conflicts of various kinds. All these problems affect humanity, and women play a fundamental role in resolving them. Women, international organizations, and leaders from all over the world have joined in the great initiatives of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. It was a moving experience to witness the blessing of marriages performed in Gapyeong, South Korea; even at the magnitude of such an event, one could appreciate Dr. Moon's grace and charm as well as her sensitivity.

During the last 30 years, Women's Federation has contributed toward women enjoying the same rights as men, trying to eradicate all forms of discrimination to which they are subjected, and it has worked for equal treatment.

It is for me a great pride to be a part of the Women's Federation for World Peace family, created by Dr. Moon, which has received so many well-deserved international honors and awards.

Violence against women is a violation of human rights. It provokes a lot of outrage that today we continue to fight for respect, and for the right to life, health and freedom. Women are the fundamental pillars of the family, the creators of life. If women's roles can be valued in society, we will also be seen as role models of good men and women. A great responsibility falls on us.

Violence against women is widespread and knows no borders. It does not discriminate based on nationality, ethnicity, social class, culture or religion. In this context, the commitment is to investigate and learn how to assume responsibility for mediation and to join the titanic struggle that Women's Federation for World Peace is carrying out: to become aware and to put into practice all the resources for the prevention and eradication of such atrocities.

It is clear that there will be no peace, no progress without the involvement of women in



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decision making in the destiny of our societies, for participation in politics free of violence, and for the right to participate in public and political affairs in conditions equal with men. The empowerment of women is fundamental, and it is one of the tasks carried out by the Women's Federation, training women leaders prepared to face and transform this reality.

I had the chance to learn of the work of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and of her great faith and wisdom, that she showed from the beginning of her life, with strength and compassion, helping the unprotected. Her tireless struggle to see a united Korea, her continuous assistance in the face of natural disasters, and her fight against the expansion of AIDS has always inspired the pacification of the world, encouraging community service, and contributing in the areas of sports, dance and the arts, among others. From all this, my admiration for Dr. Moon was born.

I take this special opportunity to congratulate WFWP, the magnificent institution that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has been leading. The Women's Federation for World Peace is a needed, fundamental piece in building a better world for all.



Dr. Maria Cristina Elias  
Lawyer in mediation matters, Argentina  
President, Cultural Foundation "Integrando Culturas (Cultural Integration)"  
Councilor of the Honorable Deliberative Council – Municipality of Rosario de la Frontera

## TREASURE FROM HEAVEN

I want to congratulate Women's Federation for World Peace for its 30 years as an institution and for providing support of all kinds to the citizens of this noble nation, with the vision of women working together to make a global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

It also fulfills the mission of empowering women as peace educators and family leaders to transform the community, the nation, and the world through education, advocacy, association, reconciliation, and humanitarian service, as well as creating an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious beliefs.

It has not been easy in the 30-year time period to have people available who provide training, social support, and sometimes spiritual support. It is my wish that the federation will continue to fulfill these functions with great success, always holding the hand of God and having many more years of life.

I want to take the opportunity to greet and congratulate Mrs. Roswitha de Giuliano, of WFWP Paraguay, and her noble husband, Mr. Gustavo Giuliano, for having come to this country and investing all their knowledge in favor of those most in need. May Almighty God bless them always with lots of health, love, happiness, joy, and unlimited abundance.

LONG LIVE THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR PEACE!!

LONG LIVE PARAGUAY!



Dr. Enrique Castro Rodríguez  
Director of Culture, Chamber of Deputies, Republic of Paraguay

## ONE FAMILY MAKES ONE WORLD

I would like to congratulate the Women's Federation for World Peace, and especially its cofounder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I also would like to express my deep appreciation for the work its members do to promote and give visibility to the important role women have as agents of peace in the world.

And of course, I thank Mrs. Marcia de Abreu, a great friend, and president of Women's Federation for World Peace in Spain, for making me part of this great work that you do in this non-governmental organization of which I have the honor to be an Ambassador for Peace. I wish to thank you for letting me participate, together with world leaders, former heads of state and governments, and civil women leaders, in the great events that you have organized both in Spain and in a variety of countries of the international community. I was able to offer my experience, knowledge and work as a member of the Spanish Parliament and as a 19-year senator and also as the president of AFAMMER, the main organization for rural women and families in Spain.

I hope that the pandemic soon becomes something of the past and that we can gather in person at summits where we can analyze and promote women as agents for peace in war and conflicts, as today it is more important than ever to work on the eradication of gender inequalities that have increased during the pandemic.

Thanks to the internet, we were able to discuss these topics, as we did in the webinar "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Society," held on June 30, 2020, in Madrid on the UN International Day of Parliamentarians. But it is true that we miss human contact and even more so when the pursued aim is to continue to advance women's participation in the coalition of world peace, especially to obtain greater protection for women, that human rights not be violated and that there is more justice and more access to services in the fight against discrimination.

Our societies need, more than ever, for important civil society organizations to work together to reach real and equal opportunities for men and women, the greatest challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have to work hand in hand. To conclude, I would like to reiterate my congratulations, together with 195,000 rural women who are members of AFAMMER.

Happy Anniversary!

Hon. María del Carmen Quintanilla Barba  
National President, AFAMMER  
(Asociación de Familias y Mujeres del Medio Rural)  
Member, Congress of Deputies, Spain (2000-2019)  
Vice-President, European Seniors Union (ESU)



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## **BLESSED JOURNEY WITH WFWPI**

First, I would like to congratulate the Women's Federation for World Peace on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The organization is known for its public charities and continuously supporting and highlighting women's impact on our society.

Throughout the years, I had the honor to participate in and support events held by the organization, both in Thailand and internationally. I have witnessed the growth of WFWP, working in alignment with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals to enhance female potential in multiple dimensions and to provide space for female leaders across regions.

Congratulations on achieving this milestone! I hope that we will continue to work together to support the work of WFWP in the future.



Hon. Huwaidiyah Pitsuwan Useng  
Member of Parliament, Kingdom of Thailand (2001-2005)





# ONE FAMILY MAY YOU SHINE BRIGHTLY

Peace is not a choice. It is the only option left for global survival. The driving thought of the Women's Federation for World Peace International is that of humankind as a family living in one global home, the Earth, which reflects universal tolerance based on mutual respect, and respect for the environment. This resonates with the Indian philosophy of Vasudaivam Kutumbakam, that "the world is one family." And who better to nurture the family values of mutual respect and care than women who are deeply invested in peace and are natural peacekeepers?

The mandate of WFWPI is to harness the agency of women for world peace; this is precisely what Guild of Service North India does to ensure that women can realize their full potential and aspirations for nation-building. Peace is not just absence of war, but the absence of unjust inequality and inequitable access to resources. Both WFWP International and the Guild work to remove the multilayers of injustice that have marginalized communities.

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of WFWP International, it is our pleasure and privilege to acknowledge and congratulate the organization for the exemplary work it has done. We would not be wrong in saying that WFWPI is a beacon that shines bright, showing the way to many organizations and individuals working for peace on our beautiful planet.



Dr. Mohini Giri  
Founder and Chairperson  
Guild of Service  
New Delhi, North India



Dr. Meera Khanna  
Trustee and Executive  
Vice President  
Guild of Service



Ms. Ranjit Jayanti  
Main UN Representative  
Guild of Service



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# TO THE TORCHBEARERS OF HOPE AND PEACE

Congratulations to WFWP on your 30 year anniversary, for your efforts to make the world a better place, for improving the welfare of the disadvantaged and the poor, for creating a new leadership paradigm for sustainable peace, which includes compassion, humanity, and love, invaluable to peacemaking. You have become a beacon of sustainable peace and have empowered civil society.

WFWP in Jordan is a totally volunteer NGO. All activities are done with love and care in a spirit of camaraderie, by volunteers either from within or from outside. The morale is very high. Everyone is always ready to help and with a smile. Examples are:

- Children have participated in a drama performance, sports events are organized and community services performed, like cleaning of a playground.
- A bazaar was organized to make money for activities, and organizers always take time for you when you visit.
- Volunteers provide training courses in beauty care, sewing, or some other skill, teaching diligently.
- Students teach Arabic to those less fortunate and who require tutoring; they teach with creativity and love.

They are all very happy to be at the center, including the director, Ms. Fusayo Irikura, a lovely, kind-hearted Japanese woman who has only a very modest room on the premises, preferring to share what little money she has with the less fortunate. You can feel the love. You know everyone is well cared for. In the words of the poet Khalil Gibran: “If you work with love you connect yourself and your individuals to each other and each is connected with God.”

Because of my advanced age and related infirmities, my only connection with WFWP is as a donor. I know the Director of the WFWP Jordan, who is a very caring and honorable woman, and it gives me great pleasure to provide whatever financial support I can to the center.

To all the volunteers of WFWP for all your hard work and sacrifice in making the world a better place, please accept my sincere thanks and congratulations and those of my late

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husband, Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber, honorary president of WFWP Jordan since 2014. May he rest in peace.

May God bless and protect Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP, and all followers, volunteers, and supporters.



Mrs. Loretta Pacifico Abu Jaber  
High School Teacher, Counselor  
Widow of Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber (1932-2020)  
Former Senator, Parliament of Jordan  
Minister of Foreign Affairs (1991-1993)



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# TOGETHER, A HEAVENLY COMMUNITY

Dear WFWPI President, Dr. Julia Moon, and the WFWP Family,

On the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WFWP, as an adopted daughter of this wonderful family since 2005, I am more than happy to join all the members of our family in the well-deserved celebration and to contribute some congratulatory words of my own.

The amazing fact about WFWP is that while growing in years it did not become old-aged and slow; on the contrary, it is transforming and becoming younger and more invigorated, not only by the age of its new members, actors, and contributors but also by its fresh and timely new ideas and actions. The ability of WFWP to turn the unfortunate limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic into an advantage by turning a new page and adopting, in no time, the digital environment to provide a new and enlarged framework of action and collaborations, deserves all praises.

Webinar events enabled WFWP to host women leaders, specialists, professionals, actors and partners from all over the world and across sectors, together with both adult and many new and young participants, to hear presentations and share ideas, to exchange viewpoints and proposals, and also to enjoy uplifting and authentic cultural entertainment in a way that would have been very difficult to achieve in “normal” times. So in difficult times, new and important platforms were provided for leaders, volunteers, partners, and initiators; problems and difficulties were presented, with solutions discussed, and commitments and collaborations were made. Indeed, it seems to me that what happened with WFWP is “a blessing in disguise,” which reflects a shared positive and optimistic vision that all is for the best. This in itself is a true source of pride for WFWP.

In the last year, more than five virtual events were held, touching on important subjects, among others—dignity and well-being, peace and humanitarian work, civil society support, influence on governments and on the well-being of countries, families as a treasure and hope, the empowerment of youth, woman’s vision and impact on tomorrow’s MENA [Middle East and Northern Africa], and women’s impact on reconciliation and peacebuilding. These events included two Rallies of Hope, one for the GCC countries [Gulf Cooperation Council] and one for Jordan and Lebanon.

For me, as an Israeli, these Rallies of Hope were a source of unbelievable joy and a real sense of living, in spite of the adverse times. For the first time, I could meet with and be impressed by many women leaders, thinkers, and participants from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Iraq. Thinking about the 2020 Abraham agreements of peace between Israel and some of the important Arab countries, I



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was filled with an unusual sense of hope and real kinship with my sisters from the region. I sensed I could really touch them and felt so much at home listening to the familiar music, singing, and dancing. It gave me a real feeling of what future we want and can have and how peace can change a life.

For all of these, my heart is fully grateful to WFWP. I am proud to be a member of such a great family, and I bless all those who enable it to happen and who make a difference in the world: Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Mother of Peace, co-founder of WFWP International; the leadership: President Dr. Julia Moon and Senior Vice-President Dr. Sun Jin Moon; and all those who make the organization work, to mention but a few: Zoe Bennett, Carolyn Handschin Kobayashi-san, and Kato-san.

May joy and love be with us in the future.  
Humbly yours,



Dep. Atty. General Judith Karp  
Deputy Attorney General, The State of Israel (1978-2002)



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## TO OUR MOTHER MOON

It is truly an honor to congratulate Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI). The sacred character and blessed devotion of Mother Moon is reflected in her strength of service to humanity, and her fierce dedication in pursuit of world peace, which offers unrelenting guidance for all of us.

Mother Moon's role as a woman leader in creating an environment of peace and well-being for the present and future generations leaves an indelible mark on the world and on everyone who is fortunate enough to have been in her presence. Her steadfastness in her spiritual work is a benchmark toward which we all continue to practice, an example of great honor and wisdom for our own leadership roles.

As a university professor and CEO of an educational foundation, I work to follow these same goals for elevating individuals. While in my early career, I developed and delivered programs to individuals on the front lines through education directly in the classroom and beyond. Today, I teach teachers and work with administrators and board members alongside corporate leaders in defining new educational solutions for helping our young people prepare for an unknown future. Together we value the potential of all individuals, expressed through cultural diversity and inclusion, integrity, honesty, responsible stewardship and the free exchange of ideas that foster knowledge, understanding and wisdom. World Connections Foundation (WCF) and the mission of those who work with us inspires character development, consistent with ethical accountability, by fostering connectedness, individual freedom of self-expression and fulfillment.

The World Connections Foundation leadership envisions a world transformed by connecting empowered local leaders through dynamic growth, productivity, expansive marketplaces, new experiences, social action, and by creating dynamic inter-cultural collaboration. We reach across international borders and into the local communities to advance inter-cultural leadership and transform survival into prosperity by educating, empowering and connecting leadership ambassadors, researchers, students and volunteers.

WCF responds to the needs of developing countries where individuals, especially women, are making a difference in their communities and who require leadership training and other types of business and managerial education. This is academic in nature, with a community centered focus. Additionally, WCF targets affluent and progressive countries seeking alternative learning platforms such as online and hybrid courses. These interests are in multiple single

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track academic courses such as Global Business English, Math, Leadership Training and others. We work to unlock the human potential in every individual, with a focus on young girls and women in under-served communities, because they have the unique power to reshape communities. Our mission is the advancement of human potential using education, creativity, community engagement and dynamic role models. The future of attaining success is shifting. Educational organizations will focus on identifying potential rather than solely managing potential. Tomorrow's leaders will require a repertoire of rich experiences, broad cognitive abilities, an exploration mindset, collaborative skills and the ability to attract talented people. We are the catalysts for unearthing the human potential in those who will lead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The cultivation of female leaders and empowering women through education produces far reaching economic and social benefits. There is an increase in organizational effectiveness and collaboration leading to a competitive edge for corporate performance and higher economic growth in communities, paving the way for positive change. Most importantly, gender diversity ensures that the best minds, both men's and women's alike, are brought together to undertake the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Educating women and girls is a task we are committed to owning because what ultimately matters is leadership that triggers broad, sustainable change for all.

In alignment and as a working partner with the Women's Federation for World Peace International, which has General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, today, through our united ongoing efforts and continued shared support, we can maintain the empowerment of women everywhere.

It is with great admiration, humility and pride of effort that the World Connections Foundation is a friend and partner with Women's Federation for World Peace International and the Global Women's Peace Network project. Thank you again for the enduring commitment, and heartfelt congratulations to Mother Moon, WFWPI, the Global Women's Peace Network and all who work alongside our beloved Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Mother Moon, in her mission!

Many Blessings!



Dr. Susan Taffer  
Founder and CEO, World Connections Foundation



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## WFWPI'S UNDYING FIRE OF LOVE

To Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of WFWPI, and to all those who have contributed toward the success of WFWPI's work around the world, CONGRATULATIONS on this auspicious occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> year of your existence. Thirty years represents lasting durability and strength, as well as the ongoing fire of love for the women that you serve. Your work with and for women over the years has deeply impacted the terrain of women and their role in building sustainable peace and development in their communities. Moreover, your work transforms the whole of humanity!

In these years, you have attained a lot. In particular, being a UN NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, you are in a position that has enabled you to bring substantive women's issues to the UN. Moreover, in this status, you have been able to create an environment of peace and well-being for future generations through advocacy, partnership, education, reconciliation and humanitarian service for people of all races, cultures and religious creeds. WFWPI has been a leader in the achievement of the SDGs. The philosophy of SDGs is that "no one will be left behind." In line with its call for "people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people," WFWPI has been at the forefront in implementing initiatives geared toward working with women of all races, cultures, and religions.

Over these past 30 years, WFWPI's work has demonstrated its stand for world peace and partnership, its value for the natural environment, and its deep desire to create stable societies where all people can thrive and live lives of dignity. Ultimately, your work has shown that "solutions" come when true partnerships between men and women are established at all levels of society. Once peace and a thriving culture are established at the family level, peace and growth then expand into our communities, nation and world. It is evident that WFWPI's work has provided women worldwide with the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, in our communities, our nations and our world.

WFWPI has tirelessly worked toward the noble goal of reunifying the Korean Peninsula. In this endeavor, over the years, WFWPI has carried out a series of events that brought together world thought leaders to share ideas on ways peace and reunification could be brought to Korea. These initiatives boldly ground the aim of WFWPI, "to realize a peaceful and harmonious global family" in real day-to-day needs of humanity.

Additionally, the organization has sent volunteers all over the world to serve in order to help achieve freedom from poverty and to implement development and cooperative



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activities based on local needs. The impact of the initiatives carried out by WFWP over the last 30 years is evident in the improved lives of women around the world. In Africa in particular, the social impact from the Green Solar Energy project is numerous, as all the recipients were overjoyed and deeply grateful for the green energy solar lamps that have greatly improved the lives of families and communities by creating a cleaner environment for their well-being, peace and happiness.

WFWPI's humanitarian projects enabled the establishment of schools, vocational training programs and other educational support, including scholarships for students in need. Education on hygiene and nutrition has been provided all over the continent. This became the foundation for women leaders to create their local chapters and develop activities according to their country's unique needs. This unique approach has enabled the creation of sustainable programs where women on the ground level have ownership, thus nurturing and growing their leadership and agency.

I have participated in a number of WFWPI's peace events, and they are truly transformative! Your work reminds us that when we work together as a family, united by a culture of peace and holding the intention of building sustainable systems starting from the family level, there is nothing that can stop us from attaining our goal for global peace. Indeed, your work has demonstrated over and over again that for humanity to realize a peaceful and harmonious global family, women need to be an integral part of that equation.

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS! To another 30 years of lasting durability, strength and the undying fire of love for the women that you serve!



Dr. Karambu Ringera  
Founder and President, International Peace Initiatives  
and the Tiriji Foundation, Kenya



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## **MAY YOU BLOSSOM AND GROW**

As I say Felicitations on your 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, let me start by quoting Walt Disney: “All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.”

It has been a delight to observe the growth and evolution of the Women’s Federation for World Peace since its inception, thanks to the vision and passion of the co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. It has been a personal pleasure to be associated with Women’s Federation for World Peace. Over these years, I have been heartened by the vitality and energy of the volunteers; the high quality of empowerment of women; the reinforcement of family values; sound upbringing of children; and building partnerships for peace through cooperation between women and the rest of their family members, as well as the commitment to explore the diversity and complexity of humanity. Your work remains a significant and needed influence for the many of us “out here,” refreshed and inspired by the vision of the Federation.

Empowering women as peacebuilders and leaders in the family transforms the community, nation, and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, an environment of peace and well-being is created for future generations and for people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

At one point in time, the idea of an airplane was just that, an idea. But with an immense amount of drive and passion, that idea is now a reality. As an organization you have that same drive and passion. What you’ve been able to achieve for the last 30 years shows that. I am so excited to continue to watch you make your aims and ideas soar!

It takes guts to stay true to your goals, especially when the odds of success are stacked against you. But each time I watch you achieve one of those goals, I see that stack of odds getting smaller and smaller. Congratulations on this accomplishment. I can’t wait to watch you continue to succeed in your service to humanity, especially with women and the vulnerable in our society.

Women’s Federation for World Peace is like a sowed seed that grows underground, pushing its way through the earth to find the light of the world above. Just like that seed, you push your way through to find successes in humankind and embrace civility for all. With your sense of hard work and dedication, I know you will only continue to blossom!

It is rare to find an organization that has achieved your level of success but has been able to stay so true to the objectives and goals of the Co-Founders. It is a quality that deserves a celebration in itself. Congratulations on this continued success. I am privileged to get to watch you reach your goals!

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I am thrilled to see all you have achieved for the last 30 years and could not possibly be any prouder of this organization. The dedication you have shown demonstrates a work ethic that few institutions possess. I wish you continued success in all you seek to achieve in the years ahead. Well done.

Let me conclude by quoting Napoleon Hill: “Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.” I wish Women’s Federation for World Peace God’s blessing as you celebrate your 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Prof. Dr. Jared Akama Onyari  
President and Founder, Peace Society of Kenya





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## THE PEARL ANNIVERSARY

In our Universe, it is imperative that everyone can be given a chance to make a meaningful contribution to live in peace, harmony, and love.

The questions we should ask ourselves are, why are there are so many people suffering, and why are there so many conflicts, injustices, and wars in society? In South Africa, the government recognizes the need for the commemoration of “16 Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children.” The government also adopted the theme “The Year of Charlotte Manny Maxeke 16 Days of Activism,” moving from awareness to accountability. As we look out into the world with its seven continents, 195 countries, and a population estimated to be around 7.79 billion people, it is estimated that 49.6% of the total population, which is 3.826 billion people, are women. They have a desire to live in a world which is not ravaged by pollution, violence, and war but rather seek peace, security, and stability.

It is not by mistake that Women’s Federation for World Peace was formed. Its aim is to realize “humankind as a family living in one global home, the Earth,” where there is no violence or crimes. We pride ourselves in Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of WFWP, for her vision in establishing and recognizing the need for such an organization that has brought awareness, consciousness, passion, and love to humankind. In her founding statement, Dr. Moon said, “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.”

In South Africa, the Organization was founded during Apartheid, a tumultuous period marred by political unrest, political killings, and injustices specifically centered on racial segregation, with policies that subjugated the majority racial group as second-class citizens with an outcome that favored the minority racial group. In South African context, black people (Africans), especially women and children, were mainly affected by the unfair racial laws and legislation, which resulted in unrest in townships where black South Africans resided. These injustices led to international pressure and sanctions calling for the end of Apartheid in South Africa.

Many of the injustices around the world have been based on hate and unfair prejudices, which pushed Dr. Moon to make a clarion call stating that today’s problems cannot be solved by the logic of power; however, they can be solved by love. The fact is, where there is injustice, there is poverty and continuous conflict, but according to the Global Peace Index, which was discovered by Steve Kilelea, there are about ten countries that are regarded as peaceful countries in the world. South Korea is ranked 57 out of 163 countries. It is stated

that Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, as the country does not have a standing army; even the police are unarmed, and people treat each other equally despite their sex or belief. The behavior and principles shown by the people of Iceland are something that should be emulated the world over and is something that the Co-Founder of WFWP would aspire to see.

The UN describes peace as dignity and well-being for all, not just the absence of war. SDGs are adopted as a universal call to action to end poverty, to protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. WFWP is heeding the call of achieving SDGs through its founding statement; by walking in the footsteps of Dr. Moon, it is possible to reach the said goals. Walking in the footsteps of WFWP, we can see many achievements reflecting the role of this organization and what it is doing in the world. We encourage other women, young and old, to do the same humanitarian works and advocate for fairness, justice, equality, and access.

In marriage, the 30 year anniversary is represented by pearls. We wish and congratulate WFWP for walking the journey this far and beyond. Most importantly, having visionary and futuristic leaders such as Dr. Moon, with the principle that women work together, take initiative, and empower one another across traditional lines of age, race, culture, and religion to create healthy families, is seen as a way to resolve the complex problems of our world. We further thank the many women who work so tirelessly in an effort to live in a better world, which is achievable and will be attained.

Charlotte Manny Maxeke shared the same attributes as Mother Moon and said, “This work is not for yourselves. Kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them; and if you can rise, bring someone with you.” These are very powerful words that fit very well in the celebration of the 30 years of WFWP-in realizing the true spirit of humankind as a family living in love.

Congratulations.



HRH Princess Dr. Debbie Dineo Raphuti  
President, World Women Leading Change, South Africa  
Co-Founder, Executive Director, Mangwana Global  
World Women Leading Chage



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## **MOTHER MOON, A TRUE MODEL OF PEACE**

I got to know the Women's Federation for World Peace while attending a conference in France several years ago that was chaired by Mrs. Brigitte Wada.

Our association, France Euro Méditerranée (F.E.M.), participated and collaborated in various events organized by WFWP in the cultural, educational, and social fields. Our two associations respect universal values, such as equality, true liberty, and family.

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Algerian independence in 2012, WFWP and F.E.M. organized a sisterhood ceremony between Algerian and French women. We brought the former first lady of Algeria, Mrs. Anessa Boumediène, to our event as the main speaker, along with representatives from civil society.

I had the pleasure of being invited by WFWP in 2011 to the United Nations in Geneva when Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife gave an impressive speech on peace. I really appreciated this beautiful initiative, which was very well received by the audience.

In August 2018, I was honored to be invited to Seoul by the Women's Federation for World Peace of France to attend an International Leadership Conference. Representatives from multiple countries were present. I took the opportunity to warmly congratulate the organizers for the success of that beautiful meeting and had the privilege to meet Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. She made her audience feel at ease. She is an exceptional Mother of Peace and a true model who brilliantly continues the work of her late husband, pursuing tirelessly the path for peace and the colossal work of bringing harmony and lasting peace between religions.



Mrs. Lila Boukourt  
President, France Euro Méditerranée (F.E.M.)

## PEACEMAKERS WHO SOW PEACE

Cordial greetings, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. As an Ambassador for Peace, I join the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace. I extend my congratulations, admiration, and respect to you for leading this wonderful organization that works hard throughout the world to achieve world peace.

Thank you, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for your tireless and unconditional work during these 30 years. The Women's Federation for World Peace, led by a great woman and recognized by the United Nations, is giving the opportunity to create more projects for the benefit of society.

I wish you much success, health, and well-being to continue carrying out this exemplary work, which stands for gender equality and the sustainability of the planet. May this organization you founded continue to reap the fruits of peace, which is the only instrument to guarantee the mission and vision of Women's Federation for World Peace.



Dr. Nejama Bergman Padilla  
President, University of Commercial Sciences, Nicaragua



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## WITH LOVE, PEACE AND HARMONY

Congratulations, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Dr. Sun Myung Moon, affectionately known as Mother and Father Moon, for being fearless examples of delivering a vision that inspired the creation of Women's Federation for World Peace, which in turn started the Global Women's Peace Network.

It is my personal honor to be a part of the WFWP Global Women's Peace Network and to be selected as a GWPN 2020 HerStory Award recipient. This award inspired me to learn more and to get involved. I began this journey in February 2020 by attending a special introductory luncheon hosted by Dr. Susan Taffer. When the pandemic hit and we were unable to meet in person, I wanted to keep the momentum going, so I made it my mission to connect with every HerStory recipient in the GWPN-AZ HerStory Magazine (Fall 2020). What amazing women and stories! I was in great company. With the help of Glenda Lambert, we started the virtual gathering of GWPN of Arizona, called "Tea with Intention," a monthly virtual meeting that features women who share their grit and grace, following Mother Moon's example. With her hosting and event planning skills, Myrna

Atha truly helped us set the stage for a dynamic series.

As I read *Mother of Peace*, a memoir by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, events throughout the past decades came to mind, and I had no idea that they were a part of Father and Mother Moon's great works and dedication. This within itself inspired me to get even more involved by helping women find their grit, and to become stronger as a result. To stay with Mother Moon's mission, at our gatherings we share a "Grit and Grace" reflection and how "Women are the Turning Point for Peace."

Our HerStory presenters share:

- How they have encountered challenges and obstacles in achieving their goals or dreams.
- How their determination and perseverance make them into the woman they are today.
- How their experiences and good works are helping make a difference to other women.

Sharing of vulnerability and courage creates bonds and offers encouragement. This is another powerful way to inspire others to make a difference through good works around the world! I plan to continue this journey of helping women go beyond their obstacles by utilizing the image and interpersonal skills that I have mastered over the past 35 plus years, and share how I have used my grit power to survive a near-drowning, divorce, cancer and a senseless act of violence. These survival experiences made me the woman I am today.

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There is a certain sense of pride that all women should harness as they find a way to get beyond setbacks and keep moving forward.

As we closed our virtual gathering, Romina Rahman led a sharing of a favorite excerpt from Mother Moon's book. A couple of my favorite excerpts include: "Peace means that all the energies in the entire world, and in the entire universe, are in harmony," and "... history shows that all great achievements have come from difficulties." What is your favorite excerpt? If you haven't read Mother Moon's book, make it your next read.

You will be glad you did!



Ms. Gloria Petersen  
Executive Director, Global Protocol Academy, LLC  
Phoenix, Arizona, USA



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## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

I am pleased to extend my greetings and congratulations to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of Women's Federation for World Peace, for her altruism in these 30 years of excellent work, for being dedicated to alleviating racial differences as well as religious, social, and cultural prejudices in societies around the world.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as the Mother of Peace, has continued the legacy of her husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and has represented WFWP and created models of good governance, strengthened interreligious dialogue, and focused on the empowerment of women and their importance in society. Furthermore, important values were transmitted so that people would become harmonious, peaceful, and respectful. Guidance was provided on how to respond, to somehow ensure social order.

Since 1994, Dr. Moon has done excellent work helping communities, focusing on families in our society, with an emphasis on moral, social, ethical, and religious values.

I congratulate you on the vision of a human family united by the love of God, based on universal love, unity, and the philosophy of interdependence, and therefore, always striving for the collective good.

Congratulations should be reinforced; may peace spread in the world. Thus, we take the opportunity to extend blessings and for continuity of your work.



Dr. Clediane Areco Matzenbacher  
Attorney, Brazil



## **OUR VISION FOR A PEACEFUL GENERATION**

As the daughter of an international icon representing quality family television, my father, Michael Landon, passed down a “legacy of love” to me. This legacy of love is to raise a healthy generation, creating an alignment to heal our world. I am deeply honored to be a part of WFWP’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and for the many years I have served WFWP’s mission!

There could be no finer-quality foundation, with outstanding determination to align with my father’s vision, than serving Mother Moon’s WFWP!

I am honored to be a part of Mother Moon’s visions!

WFWP has given me great pleasure to be an active member pursuing Mother Moon’s empowered light and magnificence of God! We have hope and faith to raise a healthy generation because of WFWP!

Go with God!



Ms. Cheryl Landon  
Radio producer and hostess  
Daughter of TV star and producer, Michael Landon



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **EMBRACING THE JOURNEY WITH WFWPI**

It is my pleasure to be a part of the many generations and cultures worldwide that desire to know, be aware of, and be a part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI).

Congratulations are not enough! And sometimes words are not enough.

Over the years, I have had occasions to use the WFWPI name proudly because honestly, I cannot imagine how we lived without it. These five little words pack so much power, prophesy, potential and history, that it is simply an octave, a "jubilee" concert across the oceans without rehearsed music. The vision that Dr. Moon gave to this world and to those in the world beyond has a destiny that can reside in the hearts of all throughout the ages. Like others, I have so many memories, good times and favorites attached to my times with WFWP. But most importantly, I have seen meaningful change, with women moving forward into leading roles of power with all the gusto, intellect, confidence and faith for the journey. Around the globe and right here in America with our first female vice president, women are rewriting the script and breaking ground affirmatively for world peace. Over the years, I have had several passions centered around women's issues, children and music. I am proud of my proven service and very proud to be part of WFWP.

In July 2011, my good friend and traveling partner, Laura Hornbeck, and I traveled to Costa Rica. As is well known, we are both from Texas. I wrote a two-part article upon my return to Dallas almost completely without my notes. The entire trip was etched in my brain and embedded in my soul. Both articles with pictures were published. Serving on one of the panels were six ladies representing New York, Panama, Texas, Mexico and Costa Rica. I was the "excited" one from Texas. There was the forever emotional Bridge of Peace Ceremony, where the stage unfolded into a peaceful floral bridge. Two women from different parts of the world walked circumspectly onto the bridge, embraced and descended victoriously down the bridge steps. I noticed that some of the embraces were longer than others. There were soft tears, smiles and a noticeable, unexplainable "something." I wrote, "This sounds very mundane in print, but its deep significance sits vicariously in your spirit for only seconds, then, it begins to flow like a blizzard with no direction. The announcer calls your name and your country; the applause was there, but I do not recall hearing it."

In Costa Rica, I received an award for accomplishments in print and broadcast media,

*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

covering local to international communities. In Texas, for two consecutive years, I was “Texas Best Host.” From Texas to Costa Rica was a “bridge far to cross,” especially when you adorned it with distinguished women from around the world. Participants included a female UN Commissioner on Human Rights; the first woman president of the New York Association of County Legislators; Congresswoman Pilar Porras Zuniga, San Carlos-Alajuela, Costa Rica; Kim Simplis Barrow, Belize, founder/director of one of Belize’s most acclaimed NGO’s; Alexandra Loria Beeche, Lawyer of Defense, Costa Rica; and Diana Elizarraras, President, Council of Women’s Rights, Mexico. To complete this well-planned WFWP odyssey was our keynote speaker, Dorothy Bush Koch, daughter of former President George H.W. Bush and sister to former President George Bush.

I know I am out of time and space with this congratulatory message. These are my wishes for 30 more years of inspiration.



Dr. J. Ester Davis  
Writer, Host, Producer and Owner,  
Ester Davis Show





*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## CONGRATULATIONS WFWPI!

Women's Federation for World Peace International is 30 this year. Founded by the late Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWPI is a good partner to the United Nations, and focuses on peace-building worldwide, promoting a sisterhood movement and poverty eradication through its International Service Projects (ISP). In a world that is characterized by war, conflict, poverty and disease, an organization like WFWPI is an undeniable blessing that promotes love, compassion, reconciliation and sustainable peace. The revolutionary idea to add the voices and efforts of women, who are considered original building blocks of the society and true peace ambassadors, makes achieving a peaceful world much more realistic.

The philanthropic and indefatigable devoted service of Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is truly laudable. They have championed a world peace crusade by preaching a world of peace that is multilingual, multicultural, diverse, multireligious and yet unified. This has so far been done through the organization of international seminars and conferences where all ethnic, religious and gender groups are invited to participate and exchange ideas. During the conferences, networking is encouraged, and assistance is given to vulnerable populations and families. As the saying goes, when a mother hen is eating, her chicks are watching her and will emulate her.

Since the MDGs were introduced in the 2000s and the SDGs in 2012, WFWPI has focused on Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7. That is how women all over the world, accompanied by men, are copying the good work of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

In the African region, for instance, WFWP Kenya has engaged in two important activities: (1) Eradication of poverty and hunger and (2) the Anti Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) program. For the first program, WFWP sponsored and supported thirty orphans. They were provided with basic food items and school needs, and on an annual basis the orphans' guardian families were given seeds to plant and fertilizer to help these families with food security. WFWP Kenya has also educated the population on the ills of FGM, especially in the Bomet region in Kenya. The practice of FGM means that girls are also sent into early marriages, which implies that these girls abandon school, affecting many aspects of their lives. Workshops to help girls understand the value and meaning of life and how they grow to maturity physically, psychologically and spiritually also are organized.

Also, Patricia Earle, the representative for the Midland regions of the U.K., visited the state of Andhra Pradesh in the south of India and witnessed a large number of orphaned children whose parents had committed suicide; these children were in the street begging.

When she returned to the U.K., she rallied ladies of the Women's Peace group, which is composed of women from all faiths, races and ethnicities, and they raised money in their different churches, mosques and temples to support a project to build a Children's Home that could cater to the "Dalit" (untouchable communities) in India. The Children's Home has become well recognized for its realistic contributions to communal harmony and good relations between people of different faiths. Kudos to WFWP U.K. for this laudable initiative.

The above examples emanate from WFWP Japan who, through the ISP that today functions in over 100 countries the world over, carried out fact finding missions in war-stricken regions. The women volunteers from Japan witnessed the consequences of war, conflict and poverty firsthand. They saw how women and children suffered tremendously without husbands and fathers and were impassioned to start projects to help and support those in need. Their determination and compassion was the inspiration behind people-to-people grassroots activities that are making a real and positive impact today.

We can say that the success of WFWPI is mainly due to the method they use to support and maintain projects to keep them successful. The keyword for the success story of WFWPI is "seeing and believing," which is why WFWPI organizes study tours in developing countries where WFWP projects are located. During these tours, people bring and donate gifts such as medical supplies and needed school supplies to the vulnerable population. Tour participants also offer teaching skills and exchange knowledge and friendship with representatives of governments and other NGOs. It is generally believed that by traveling, one learns doubly.

Congratulations WFWPI.

Congratulations to its Co-Founders, the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Congratulations to all regional presidents.

Congratulations to all participants, irrespective of race, age, sex and religious beliefs.

Long live the Women's Federation for World Peace International.

God bless us all.



Dr. Helen Manka Ntonifor  
Lecturer, University of Dschang, Cameroon



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **IN GRATITUDE TO DR. HAK JA HAN MOON**

Letter to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Congratulations on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace.

Many times within those years I was able to hear about you from Reverend Moon, and only once was I able to hear you speak. It was a pleasure to listen to your memoirs on such a harrowing journey and yet without anger toward human beings in general.

Because of the experience I had in 1989 with the Women's Federation, I was encouraged to further my experience in other directions, such as with the Ambassadors for Peace movement in 2006. Over the years I was able to continue attending the breakfast meetings and also was introduced to the International Sisterhood ceremonies. I even had a Japanese sister who interacted with me for several years.

Another special event was the renewal of marriage vows sponsored by the Women's Federation for World Peace; this was very special for my husband and me. We remained married for a total of 43 years until his death, seventeen years ago. Thank you for your leadership, and encouragement to follow our dreams.



Mrs. Annette Dixon  
Editor and Publisher,  
Village View Publications, Inc. Chicago, Illinois

## THE LOVE THAT BINDS US

I am honored to be invited to participate in the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WFWPI. It is an opportunity to remember the many occasions where I have been surrounded by the Spanish branch of the Federation, whose members are the actual likeness of its co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. When first meeting Mrs. Abreu many years ago in Madrid, I saw right away virtues of true friendship, upholding a simple search for peace, and having exceptional organization, where building bridges between women of the three monotheist confessions was the main objective. A few years later, also in Madrid, I took part in a roundtable discussion on the subject of women in the Arab world after the Arab Spring. This event was followed by an exciting occasion, where I fortunately had the chance to be the representative for the Spanish branch of WFWP at a Universal Peace Federation meeting in Geneva in 2018 with the European Leadership Conference, discussing such sad, universal events like the civil war in Syria that, unfortunately, is still ongoing.

Perhaps the highlight of my relationship with the Federation and its Co-Founder's ideology was on two other occasions. The first was in Portugal where I was invited to discuss a relevant topic on the role of women leaders and mothers to facilitate integration and cohesion in Europe; (that was in November 2017); the second was a webinar where we celebrated the event online, speaking in a roundtable format about challenges in preventing violence and in reaching peaceful coexistence. The context reflected the universal objective of the foundation—that societies are the bases for establishment of harmony and peace all over the world. We studied the many challenges encountered: how to prevent conflicts before the fact, how to engage with conflicts while they are happening, and how to resolve disputes after the fact, with reconciliation and reconstruction. We learned of “the conflict trap,” a new notion coined by UK development economist, Paul Collier.

Topics discussed were animated by the profound conviction of the Federation and Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, that peace is a deep need for humanity. The actual image of love that shines among the Federation members is transmitted throughout these meetings, such as with the celebration of the Bridge of Peace Ceremony when they assisted. Representatives of numerous societies from around the world could feel that love was in the air, a real and profound feeling of unity that could overcome the causes of conflicts everywhere in the world.

Congratulations to the Federation and its Co-Founder Dr., Moon. May the profound love which the Federation transmits be real all over the world.

Prof. Soha Abboud Haggar  
Professor, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies,  
Madrid Complutense University, Spain



*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **HAND-IN-HAND WE WILL GROW**

On behalf of Movimento Lírio Azul, I have the honor to extend to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Mother of Peace and Co-Founder of the Women's Federation For World Peace International, my warmest congratulations on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this great and most admired organization. This impressive and inspiring accomplishment is clearly a demonstration of trust and confidence in its work, vision, and dedication toward building a better world, and in empowering women.

As a WFWP Portugal Ambassador for Peace, I was blessed with the opportunity to participate in several events and activities, such as in 2020 as a guest speaker for an international webinar that included Italy, Portugal and Spain, called "Challenges of Preventing Violence and Reaching Peaceful Coexistence," under the main theme: "Rethinking the Society we want: Keys to the Establishment of a Harmonious Society." In 2021, I was invited to be the moderator for an international webinar titled "The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding." I accepted these challenges with great pride and humility and thanked God for the opportunity to serve. However, if I had to choose an event that most filled my heart, I would have to choose the day that Movimento Lírio Azul awarded Dr. Marta de Carvalho, president of WFWP Portugal, the "Mulher Inspiradora MLA 2021" (Inspiring Woman MLA 2021) prize in the city of Estoril, for her outstanding work in the community and her dedication to WFWPI.

Because of organizations like WFWPI, women are united in heart and mind in the quest for universal peace and reconciliation. Women of all races, cultures, and religious creeds are spreading the message: we must commit in order to transform! We have to engage civil society and the private sector to end violence and promote peace. We have to tackle discrimination and suffering and promote leadership and participation. We need to develop strong and effective partnerships with institutions and organizations. In conclusion, only through working together is it possible to achieve our goals.

I wish the Women's Federation for World Peace International continued success.



Dr. Odete Costa  
Founder and President, Movimento Lírio Azul  
Ambassador for Peace, WFWP Portugal

## WITH A MOTHER'S TOUCH

I am pleased to be associated with the Women's Federation for World Peace International, and on behalf of Women's Federation for World Peace of Trinidad & Tobago, I wish to congratulate Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and the executives on their achievements over the past thirty years. Your accomplishments are indicative of your commitment to excellence and your quest for the positive development of women around the world.

We have also taken up the challenge of encouraging our nation's women to maximize the opportunities available to them in today's pandemic environment where there is a need to adjust to new and creative ideas in becoming well-rounded individuals who will be able to adapt and stand out. It is in this context that I both applaud and congratulate WFWPI in taking a proactive approach to the holistic development of our women. Now that the seed has grown, there is a responsibility to continue and expand the range of seminars so that more women and communities will be affected.

This laudable initiative, a labor of love, continues to open new horizons and fresh opportunities for all women. Over the years the organization has continued to show compelling examples of its goodwill.

May your efforts and high ideals receive worldwide recognition, and may your future be filled with many successes.



Ms. Princess Lee Keith  
President, WFWP Trinidad & Tobago

*Congratulatory  
Messages from  
Friends of WFWP*

## **BEST WISHES FOR THE YEARS TO COME!**

I am delighted to extend my warm congratulations to Women's Federation for World Peace on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Facing the challenges of various social and environmental issues, humanitarian work is of tremendous importance for helping and empowering women to reintegrate into the community and enhance their quality of life.

Over the past three decades, the organization has provided a strong foundation for nurturing numerous women leaders, dedicated staff, and volunteers. It also provides unique learning opportunities for people who would like to learn and empower themselves, mainly women, teaching that we have equal opportunities as those given to men and that we can work together in order to achieve greater heights. Apart from its excellence in teaching, WFWP has also gained recognition for its actions in helping the underprivileged and in promoting environmental protection. I keenly look forward to witnessing the continuous achievements of WFWP, along with its mission of social commitment and its vision to provide peace, dignity, security, and fullness of life for all despite differences in faith, culture or race.

It is my great honor to be a part of this organization and to continue our partnership. Again, I wish WFWP every success in the years to come.



Mrs. Kamoltip Phayakvichien  
President, Women's Federation for World Peace Thailand (1996-present)



# WISHING WFWP MANY MORE YEARS

WFWPI President Dr. Julia Moon,

WFWP Suriname would like to take this opportunity to express its special and heartfelt congratulations to WFWPI in connection with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. This milestone calls for profound reflection on the lofty ideals of the organization.

WFWP Suriname would also like to express special thanks to the Co-Founders of WFWPI, our Mother Moon and Father Moon. WFWPI has conducted tremendous work throughout the world, notably in Suriname.

The coming of the Japanese volunteers in Suriname began a great effort in all the districts of the country for many years, especially promoting the aims of the organization in the fields of education and information. Promotion of world peace and the family have occupied a central place in the process. Recognition of the value of women in society has invariably filled an important role, especially in the creation of happy families. All these will result in a peaceful country as the basis for world peace.

Following is a summary of some significant service activities of WFWP Suriname:

- Elevating the social consciousness of Surinamese women
- Establishment of projects to care for children with disabilities and mothers of triplets
- Providing teen mothers with baby food and counseling
- Providing senior citizens in elder people's homes with food, relaxation, and education
- Fighting poverty through the distribution of food parcels and training to become self-supporting
- Having district meetings to promote peace
- Restoring of a school at Hannaslust following a fire
- Providing annual Christmas dinners, and Convening multiple conferences in Suriname

We wish WFWPI many more successful years for the constructive work that it continues to undertake throughout the world. Suriname has greatly benefited from this work, especially in regard to the socio-economic position of Surinamese women.

Ms. Ingrid E. Wouden  
President, WFWP Suriname  
Ambassador for Peace, Suriname



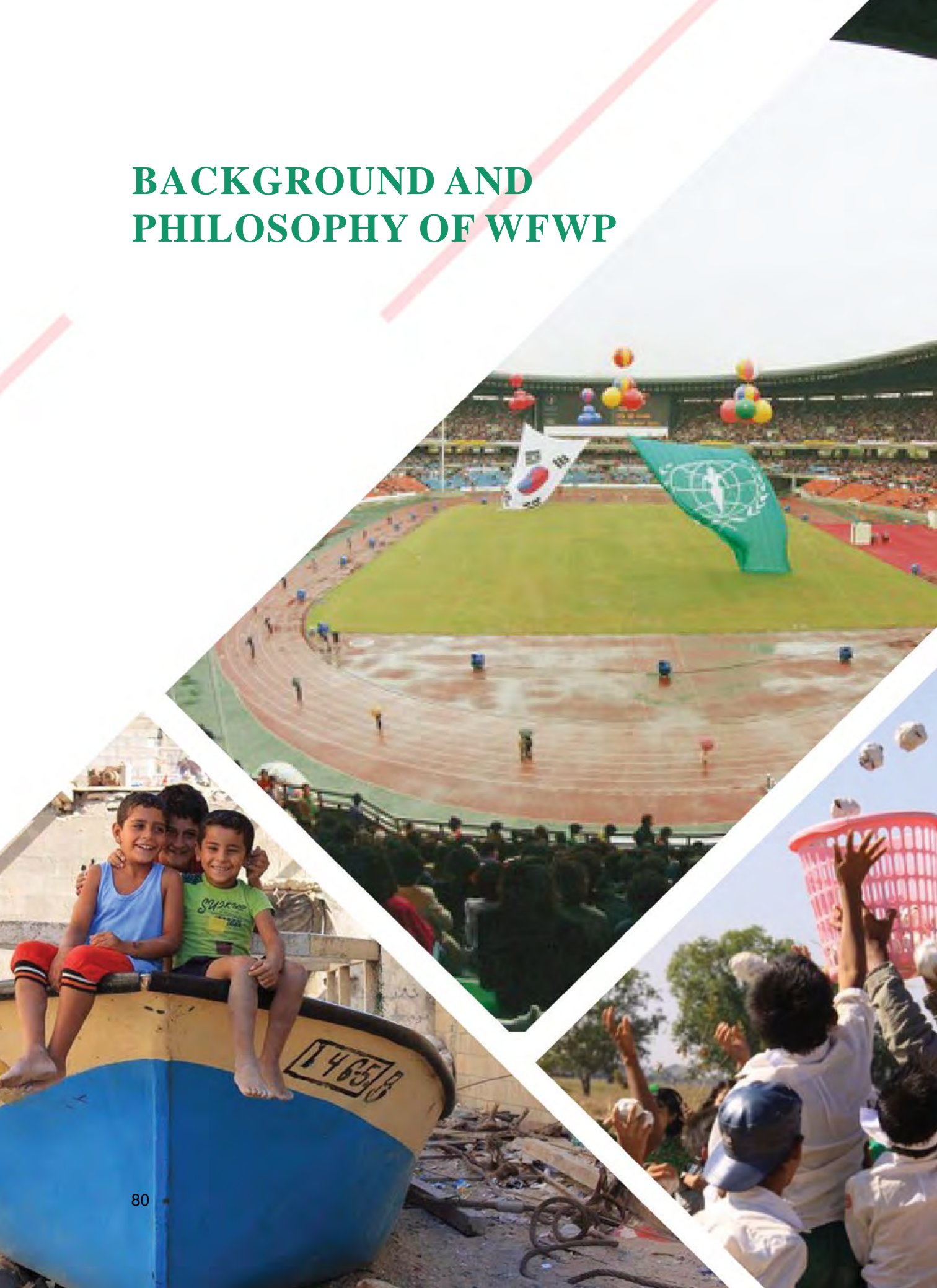


The background is a soft watercolor wash in shades of pink, purple, and lavender. Several flowers are scattered across the page: a purple flower with a yellow center in the upper left, a purple flower with a red center in the lower left, and a purple flower with a red center in the lower right. The overall aesthetic is gentle and artistic.

*Introduction  
to WFWP*



# BACKGROUND AND PHILOSOPHY OF WFWP



**T**he Women’s Federation for World Peace was inaugurated in Seoul, Korea, at the Jamsil Olympic Stadium on April 10, 1992. Over a hundred thousand delegates from seventy-two nations gathered for the opening address by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who co-founded the organization, along with her husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. This inauguration was made possible on the foundation of five years of successful activities started by the Asian Women’s Peace Federation of Japan, which began in 1987 in Tokyo.

In her comments to the attendees in Korea, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon spoke about trends in world history. She described the inevitable downfall of God-denying communism, but also warned against the abuses of freedom in democratic countries. A new kind of society was essential, she said, with elements of both the Eastern and Western culture—joining long-term, spiritual values with the more immediate, external focus. East and West both need to meet and unite, she said, like feminine and masculine aspects in a family, to form a healthy, balanced world. Just as a loving husband and wife are the foundation for a good family, the cultures of East and West need to come together as equal partners for a healthy world.

Dr. Moon furthermore described the separation of North and South Korea as a tragedy that symbolized the larger issue of division throughout the world. Since then, she has been bringing leaders together to support peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula to avoid armed conflict and reconnect the separated people of her native land.

The philosophy of WFWP affirms an essential need for humankind to connect with the Creator and live according to the laws of nature. Without a spiritual change, humanity can never establish lasting peace or enjoy true freedom. Women have a special calling at this time to utilize innate qualities of love, compassion, and service to bring new energy into the world.

Dr. Moon encourages women to work in partnership with men, rather than as their competitors. By utilizing what she calls the “logic of love,” women can influence and guide the future within their relationships as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and as a friend. Much more powerful than anything else, it is the heart of true love or “living for the sake of others,” a motto of WFWP, that will create harmony among people.

Beginning in 1994, 1,600 Japanese women responded to a call to serve worldwide as WFWP volunteers. These women, many themselves wives and mothers, traveled to under-developed nations and lived there for a period of time, caring for people according to local needs. In some places, volunteers started schools for children or career training centers



for women, even launching a micro-loan initiative for entrepreneurs. Much needed nutritional supplies and medical assistance was delivered to some of the poorest communities in Africa, Latin America and other developing regions. As a result, in 1997, the United Nations Economic and Social Council granted general consultative status to WFWP, which is shared by only 140 other world-level, non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The UN has renewed this status every four years because of ongoing work by WFWP chapters around the world.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon summed up the philosophy of WFWP at its tenth anniversary celebration in 2002 with these words, “Of all the problems burdening the world, spiritual ignorance which leads to the denial of God and the collapse of the family is the most critical issue.” Thus, a major effort of all WFWP chapters has been education promoting values of sexual purity before marriage, fidelity within marriage, and responsible, loving standards for parents toward their children. Frequently seen in WFWP literature and heard at seminars is the statement that “the family is the school of love.” Without children’s experience of unconditional, protective, true parental care, they are disadvantaged, no matter how materially well-off their circumstances; therefore, the focus is on true family values centered on the highest moral and ethical teachings. These values are universal, regardless of culture and religion, and thus WFWP has been welcomed in all parts of the world.

The power of women to nurture and care for others can melt hardened hearts, lessen resistance and overcome barriers that could not be crossed in the past, even in places such as the Middle East and other locations of long-standing animosity. One of the signature programs of WFWP is the moving “Bridge of Peace Ceremony,” which has brought thousands of people together from every race and ethnicity for the purpose of reconciliation and healing.

Grandparents, parents and children can be seen as representatives of the past, present, and future, so it is ideal if three generations are united in caring relationships. By going beyond self-centered individualism, which is prevalent worldwide, members of WFWP are encouraged to give of themselves and to practice respect and care for both the younger and elder generations. Through WFWP activities, many talented young women are gaining leadership experience while being mentored by long-term members in the spirit of intergenerational cooperation.

When WFWP was first launched, Co-Founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon stated that the era of women had begun. Further, he said that women are the ones who can put an end to a world full of war, violence, exploitation, and crime and realize an ideal world full of peace,

love, and freedom.

The final public speech given by Dr. Sun Myung Moon before his passing in September 2012 was at a gathering in Korea of women from around the world. He talked about the inherent limitations of the United Nations to create peace and called for the launch of what is now known as the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN), a project of WFWP that reaches beyond traditional NGO activities and brings together representatives of governments and organizations from all walks of life.

Necessitated by the global pandemic starting in 2020, WFWP online webinars have brought people together from every arena, including the arts, education, media and politics. Having a desire to serve, no matter the circumstances, opened a way "to meet" and feel connected, discussing topics of shared concern and finding ways to solve pressing social issues.

All the projects of Women's Federation for World Peace are aligned with the basic purpose of building a "culture of heart and peace," which is God's vision for humanity. As one human family living together on this precious earth, we must learn to respect one another and care for our environment. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has guided this organization for thirty years, calling for fundamental change, beginning within each person and spreading outward to the family, society, nation and world.

The following words of encouragement will continue to guide the work of WFWP:

*Now women and men should play a major role in world history  
by serving alongside each other like the wheels of a great engine  
pulling the construction of a peaceful world forward.  
Today I invite women to accept an important role  
and become the turning point in building a ...  
loving, peaceful culture.*

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon,  
"Women as the Turning Point for Peace,"  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of WFWP, Las Vegas, Nevada

# WHERE WE ARE







# WHO WE ARE

WFWP is a dynamic international women's organization that promotes women as the essential ingredient in creating a peaceful global society.

The organization is united globally by this vision, while addressing the unique issues and barriers in each region both on the grassroots level and through high-level events.


It has been carrying out diverse activities to help realize world peace.



 **127**  
**WORKING  
COUNTRIES**

 **35,000**  
**WOMEN AND GIRLS  
RECEIVED EDUCATION**

 **327,000**  
**PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED IN THE  
GLOBAL EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS**

 **160,000**  
**WOMEN PARTICIPATED  
IN THE BRIDGE OF  
PEACE CEREMONY**







orea



# OUR VISION

Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

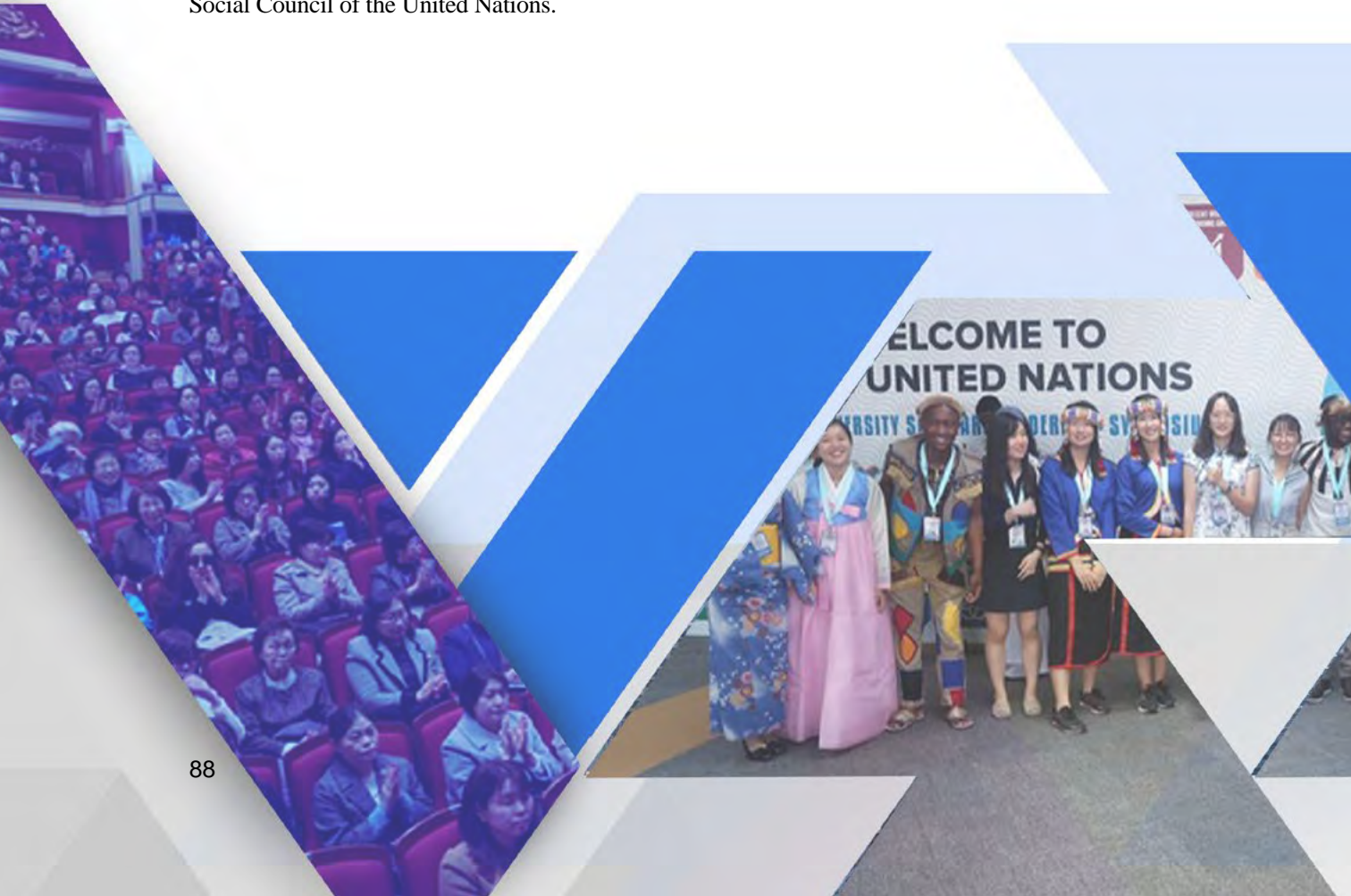
# OUR MISSION

Empowering women as peacebuilders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and well-being for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

# OUR STORY

Women's Federation for World Peace is a women's organization that promotes women as the essential ingredient in creating a peaceful global society. The organization is united globally by this vision while addressing the unique issues and barriers in each region on both the grassroots level and through high-level events.

WFWPI was founded in 1992 in the Republic of Korea and quickly expanded to over 100 countries. Only five years later, WFWPI was granted General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.





WFP is working on women's empowerment, education and poverty eradication to contribute to the achievement of the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" set by the United Nations.



More than 35,000 women and girls have received education that helped them become financially independent.



More than 327,000 women and girls have received education for building peaceful families.



More than 360,000 women and girls have received leadership training to empower and elevate their status in society.



More than 160,000 women have participated in Sisterhood Ceremonies to reconcile historical resentment and hatred.



# FORMER AND CURRENT WFWP LEADERS

<b>INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT</b>	Gil Ja Sa	1994-2000
	Lan Young Moon	2000-2014
	Yeon Ah Moon	2014-2019
	Julia H. Moon	2019-Present
<b>INTERNATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Sun Jin Moon	2019-Present
<b>INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL</b>	Paris Moon	2019-Present
<b>IVP AFRICA</b>	Hon. Erinah Rebecca Wangwa-Rutangye	1992
	Susan Kone	2010-Present
<b>IVP ASIA PACIFIC 1</b>	Lily Lin	2011-2019
	Merly Barlaan	2019-2021
	Vipa Thaveetermsakul	2021-Present
<b>IVP ASIA PACIFIC 2</b>	Jynene Helland	1992-2013
	Anne Bellavance	2013-Present
<b>IVP EUROPE</b>	Tina Coombs	2000-2010
	Carolyn Handschin	2010-Present
<b>IVP MIDDLE EAST</b>	Zoe Bennett	2004-Present

<b>IVP EURASIA</b>	Monika Kunde	1992-1997
	Angelika Birdsong	1998-2000
	Nina Izaak	2001-2005
	Marina Zhuchkova	2006-2008
	Marina Malova	2009-2010
	Olga Vakulinskaya	2011-Present

<b>IVP JAPAN</b>	Motoko Sugiyama	1992-1998
	Yasue Erikawa	1998-1999
	Tetsuko Kuboki	1999-2012
	Yoshi Tsuboi	2012-2016
	Moriko Hori	2017-Present

<b>IVP KOREA</b>	Won Pok Choi	1992-1994
	Gil Ja Sa	1994-1997
	Dae Hwa Chung	1997-2003
	Lan Young Moon	2003-2014
	Yeon Ah Moon	2014-2017
	Young Sun Choi	2017-2019
	Hoon Sook Moon	2019-2022
	Su Youn Kim	2019-Present
Young Sun Choi	2022-Present	

<b>IVP LATIN AMERICA</b>	Ezzat Ferabolli	2013-2019
	Roswitha Giuliano	2019-Present

<b>IVP NORTH AMERICA</b>	Nora Spurgin	1992-1999
	Alexa Ward	1999-2010
	Angelika Selle	2010-Present



# NATIONAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS



## EASTERN AFRICA

<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	Elizabeth Tilahun
<b>KENYA</b>	Susan Wambui Kone
<b>RWANDA</b>	Umubyeyi Georgette
<b>SEYCHELLES</b>	Betioux Suganda
<b>SOMALIA</b>	Albina Tanui
<b>TANZANIA</b>	Neema Elfin Uronu
<b>UGANDA</b>	Grace Namara

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

<b>BOTSWANA</b>	Evelyne Masika Chimfwembe
<b>ESWATINI</b>	Sabina Makhanya
<b>LESOTHO</b>	Francine Bereng
<b>MALAWI</b>	Judita Banda
<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>	Akiko Hozan (Vice President)
<b>NAMIBIA</b>	Milka Nkhoeses
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	Gwendoline Tshimbana-Mtiti
<b>ZAMBIA</b>	Annie Chaipata Mwale
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>	Rita Isabel Canga
<b>MAURITIUS</b>	Hawoldar Shakuntala
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>	Josée Michelle Ramaroson

## CENTRAL AFRICA

<b>ANGOLA</b>	Makiese Monica
<b>CAMEROON</b>	Akele Consoler Aza Angu
<b>D.R. CONGO</b>	Marie Louise Belongo Nsankolo
<b>GABON</b>	Bouanga Reine Leticia
<b>SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE</b>	Celmira Fernandes Trindade
<b>CONGO BRAZZAVILLE</b>	Zodji Lydia Chancelle
<b>CHAD</b>	Digmi Badjowa
<b>BURUNDI</b>	Bahati Francine
<b>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</b>	Zoumba Angeline



### WESTERN AFRICA

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<b>BENIN</b>	Marie-J. Loko
<b>CHAD</b>	Digmi Badjoua
<b>GHANA</b>	Marthe Whyte
<b>NIGERIA</b>	Risa Smart
<b>NIGER</b>	Josline Kwami Akouvie
<b>SAO TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>	Celmira Fernandes Trindade
<b>TOGO</b>	Flore Antonio

### NORTHERN AFRICA

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<b>BURKINA FASO</b>	Kabore Kilula Muanamputu Aimmee
<b>COTE D'IVOIRE</b>	Yessoh Helene Zinsou Mahousi
<b>GUINEA BISSAU</b>	Ana Maria Ca
<b>GUINEA CONAKRY</b>	Diakite Diaka
<b>MALI</b>	Diarra Catherine
<b>SENEGAL</b>	Paule Cécile Sagna



### GREAT CHINA REGION

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<b>HONG KONG</b>	Paris Moon
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### SOUTH EAST ASIA

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<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Yuka Takahashi
<b>MYANMAR</b>	Khin Khin Htwe
<b>THAILAND</b>	Kamoltip Phayakvichien

### SOUTH ASIA 1

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<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Mehreen Bhuiyan Mahmud
<b>INDIA</b>	Meenakshi Sharma
<b>NEPAL</b>	Blessie Gadon Dhakal

**ASIA  
PACIFIC 2**

**OCEANIA**

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Anne Bellavance
<b>FIJI</b>	Sharila Prasad-Lazarus
<b>MARSHALL ISLANDS</b>	Keiko Ito
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	Matapa Shelley
<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b>	Prisca Mauve
<b>SAMOA</b>	Moto'otua (Tua) Manase-Ale
<b>SOLOMON ISLANDS</b>	Selina Galokaniki
<b>VANUATU</b>	Annie Claude Nasak

**SOUTH ASIA 2**

<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	Grace Mayo
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	Siet Ling Cheng (Lina Cheng)

**KOREA**

<b>KOREA</b>	Su Youn Kim Young Sun Choi
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**JAPAN**

<b>JAPAN</b>	Moriko Hori
<b>TAIWAN</b>	Hou Mei-hwa



### **CENTRAL EUROPE**

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<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Renate Amesbauer
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	Veronika Goncalves da Costa
<b>HUNGARY</b>	Katsuyo Bendza
<b>GERMANY</b>	Maria Magdalena Haugen
<b>LIECHTENSTEIN</b>	Marion Burnegger
<b>POLAND</b>	Aleksandra Skonieczna
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	Ľubica Magnusson
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	Sonja Grčar
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Goya Ordoñ ez-Cheytanov

### **EURASIA (EASTERN EUROPE)**

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<b>ALBANIA</b>	Katarzyna Minollari
<b>ARMENIA</b>	Nora Barseghyan
<b>BULGARIA</b>	Michaela Sergeeva
<b>LATVIA</b>	Aleksandra Nikolaeva
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Roma Karagezian
<b>MACEDONIA</b>	Svetlana Peneva
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	Marcelina Rau
<b>RUSSIA</b>	Olga Vakulinskaya
<b>SERBIA</b>	Slobodan Randjelovic
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Tetiana Kotseba

### **NORTHERN EUROPE**

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<b>DENMARK</b>	Liz (Elizabeth) Bramsen
<b>FINLAND</b>	Anne Ripatti
<b>ICELAND</b>	Edeltrud Maria Mantel
<b>IRELAND</b>	Doris McCann
<b>NORWAY</b>	Johanna Emilie Toresen
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Britta Houston
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Mitty Tohma



**EUROPE**

**SOUTHERN EUROPE**

---

<b>ANDORRA</b>	Almira Hoxha
<b>GREECE</b>	Heidemarie Porfyris
<b>MALTA</b>	Myrabelle Corlett
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	Marta Maria de Carvalho Rodrigues
<b>SAN MARINO</b>	Theresia Feilmayr
<b>SPAIN</b>	Marcia de Abreu
<b>ITALY</b>	Elisabetta Nistri

**WESTERN EUROPE**

---

<b>BELGIUM</b>	Colette Cunningham
<b>FRANCE</b>	Brigitte Wada
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	Reinhild Frank
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Rita Salaris-Lichtenberg



**MIDDLE  
EAST**

<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>	Marilyn Angelucci
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Zoe Bennett
<b>JORDAN</b>	Fusayo Irikura
<b>ISRAEL</b>	Irit Mirzaiev
<b>LEBANON</b>	Hermine Shellen



**NORTH  
AMERICA**

**USA**  
**CANADA**

Angelika Selle  
Lilly Tadin

**CENTRAL  
AMERICA**

**BELIZE**  
**COSTA RICA**  
**HONDURAS**  
**MEXICO**  
**NICARAGUA**  
**PANAMA**  
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
**HAITI**  
**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

Lynda Moguel  
Yoko Miwatashi  
Rosa Margarita Alvarado Amaya  
Etsuko Sakata  
Maria Aparecida Soares de Souza  
Angela Aparecida De Souza de De Lora  
Diana Contreras  
Fujiko Paul  
Princess Lee Keith

**SOUTH  
AMERICA**

**BRAZIL**  
**ARGENTINA**  
**CHILE**  
**PARAGUAY**  
**URUGUAY**  
**BOLIVIA**  
**COLOMBIA**  
**GUYANA**  
**PERU**  
**SURINAME**  
**VENEZUELA**

Cui Yulan  
Rosetta Castellon Conti  
Sachiko Grange  
Roswitha Dueck de Giuliano  
Maria Rosa Neme  
Judith Sosa  
Andrea Fayad Betancourt  
Susan Rijkaard  
Maria del Rosario Lopez Balcona  
Ingrid Eugenie Wouden  
Liz Apiscope

# 30 YEARS OF DEDICATION

## 1992

Women's Federation for World Peace is founded in the Republic of Korea and incorporated in New York

On April 10 at Seoul's Jamsil Olympic Stadium in Korea, 150,000 women representatives from 72 nations gathered for the inauguration of the Women's Federation for World Peace.

World Assemblies of WFWP held throughout Korea May 11-June 2 and expanded June 10-30

1<sup>st</sup> World Assembly of WFWP, Seoul, Korea

WFWP launched:

In Japan (Sept 24-Oct 2); in America (Oct. 20-27); In Europe (Nov 11-18); in Russia, Asia & Oceania (Nov 22-Dec 23)



## 1994

Mrs. Gil Ja Sa appointed as the WFWPI President

1,600 WFWP Volunteers dispatched to 131 nations

Launched Korea-Japan Sisterhood Ceremony, 160,000 participate from each nation



## 1993

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is guest speaker at UN Headquarters in NY (Sept 7), delivering message to 500 leaders from various sectors, including UN officers and diplomatic envoys from 130 nations.

Founder's Speaking Tour Across 40 Nations as a 'Messenger of Peace'



## 1995

2nd WFWPI World Women Leaders' Assembly

Hosted "True Families and Moral Renaissance" conference during the World Conference on Women in Beijing

Japanese-American sisterhood ceremonies commence in Washington, DC

"True Family and I" speaking tour: Central and South America (17 locations); United States (15 cities); Japan (5 cities); Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania and Canada (16 locations)

Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon hosts former Pres. George H. W. Bush & First Lady Barbara Bush at Osaka, Japan.

**1996**

Initiated campaign "Sending Clothes of Love, Hands of Love" to Africa

Summit Conference for World Peace, Uruguay (Jan 14)

Seminar for women leaders of 33 nations, Central & South America (Nov 7)

Sisterhood ceremony joining women from Central & South America with women from Japan, held in Uruguay (Nov 24)



**1997**

WFWP granted General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

1<sup>st</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

Women's leadership conference for the Practice of True Family Life to Advance World Peace, Korea (Aug 7)

World Assembly of WFWP, Washington, DC (Nov 27)



**1998**

WFWP Korea joined the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation

Completion of New Hope Technical Institute, Rwanda

**1999**

Co-hosted the UN International Year for the Culture of Peace 2000

Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han's worldwide speaking tour titled "Global Expansion of True Families" (80 locations)

WFWP Korea registered as an incorporated association by the Ministry of Unification



**2000**

Seminar for women leaders in Uruguay (Jan 17)

4<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

Inauguration of WFWP International President Lan Young Moon

Inauguration of WFWPI's WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project



**2001**

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon awarded the Grand Prix Peace Prize of UN IAEWP

2001 World Peace Conference in Taiwan

Food Program established for undernourished Zambian children



**2002**

Celebration for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of WFWP

Building up of Women's Peace Network

# Historical Timeline



## 2003

- 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East
- Unification Field Trip in Korea
- 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Forum for the Elimination of Poverty

## 2004

- Women's Peace Parade in Jerusalem
- Playing Traditional Korean Games with Children from North and South Korea, check which location



## 2005

- WFWP Fellowship Meeting and Sisterhood Ceremony
- Women Leaders' Conference for Reconciliation and Cooperation in Palau
- 9<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East, with theme: Creating a Culture of Peace for our Children , Greece



## 2006

- The 50<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women
- 10<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East



## 2007

- 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of WFWP
- AMR Innovation Expo opened in the UN Headquarters in Geneva
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Women's Leadership Training Course
- The 8<sup>th</sup> World Leaders Workshop and World WFWP Women's Contest

## 2008

- 4<sup>th</sup> "Poverty Eradication" forum
- 2008 Doran-Doran Unification Camp in Korea





**2010**

Re-approval of General Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC

WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project delivery of donations



**2012**

WFWP Assembly for inheritance and accomplishment, Korea (Mar 4)

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Inauguration of the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN). (Mar 5)

GWPN Conference in Las Vegas

GWPN Conference in North East Region

16<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East



**2014**

Prof. Yeon Ah Moon becomes 3<sup>rd</sup> President of WFWP International

58<sup>th</sup> UN CSW: Commemorating Luncheon, WFWP Side Event

Cultural Exchange between Austria & Russia

**2009**

Parents-Children Peace Golden Bell

52<sup>nd</sup> UN CSW and related WFWP Forum



**2011**

International Women's Leadership Conference of the Americas, Costa Rica

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East



**2013**

13<sup>th</sup> World Leaders' Workshop

GWPN Asia Inauguration

17<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Global Women's Peace Network





# Historical Timeline



## 2015

- 65<sup>th</sup> UN CSW, WFWPI Parallel Event and Luncheon Meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary celebration of founding of WFWP
- 19<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East
- WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project

- 60<sup>th</sup> UN CSW in New York
- 66<sup>th</sup> UN NGO DPI Conference
- 20<sup>th</sup> Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East



## 2016

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of founding of WFWP
- 66<sup>th</sup> UN CSW in New York
- 2017 Horizon Summit



## 2017

- Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury Receives 2018 Global Women's Peace Award
- WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project for Philippines Livelihood Training Center
- Students for Peace Leadership Conference, Malaysia
- Educating of Culture of Peace, Paraguay



## 2018

- Dr. Julia H. Moon becomes 4<sup>th</sup> President of WFWP International
- 2019 Unification Marronnier Festival
- Dr. Paris Moon appointed International Secretary General
- WFWPI Hosts Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit in Palau













*A Look Into  
WFWP International*

# DR. HAK JA HAN MOON'S WORLD SPEAKING TOUR: THE HEART OF A PIONEER

*By Mion Tsuchiaka, International Administrator, WFWPI*







### **WORLD SPEAKING TOUR AND MESSENGER OF PEACE**

In the early 1990s cell phones were gaining popularity, but there were no global networks like today where you could easily connect to the world, with one click, and promote your activities through the convenient social networking tools of YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. Worldwide travel was common, but world tours were better known as something rock stars and celebrities would undertake to interact with international fans.

In many countries freedoms were not granted to women, and they suffered not being able to assert their ideas and rights. However, in 1992, Dr. Hak Ja Moon, co-founder of WFWP, broke away from the norm and tirelessly traveled the world to spread her messages of peace, giving speeches in 44 cities across the United States and in 40 countries around the world.

As an ambassador for peace, she became the first Korean woman invited to the United Nations to deliver a speech. Also gave a speech

at the U.S. Congress, expressing the importance of the role of women in realizing world peace.

In her keynote speeches, Dr. Moon conveyed that to save the society from the dangers of substance abuse, adultery, and family breakdown, people must seek out God's true love, learn how to become true parents, and create loving families, which are the building blocks for a healthy society.

"In most families today," she said, "parents cannot effectively guide their children, especially in such intimate matters of love and marriage. Yet my husband and I brought together young people from 131 nations and realized their most cherished dreams of love in a historic way....When we are able to realize such families, the symptoms of our decaying society will vanish. As confident children of God, we no longer will be enslaved by the temptations of alcohol and drug abuse."

Her emphasis was that families centered on God can come together and build ideal nations and an ideal world. Through understanding the



sacredness of love between husband and wife, a couple will have the moral power to stand strong against infidelity and promiscuity and will work as a whole to eliminate war, racial prejudice and world hunger. “Based on this foundation, we can realize a world of true happiness, freedom and peace.”

### **DR. HAK JA HAN MOON’S WORLDWIDE SPEAKING TOURS**

In 1992 Dr. Moon traveled to Western and Eastern Europe, Russia, the Middle East, South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania. From her initial speech in Frankfurt, Germany, on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to her last speech in Taipei on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, crowds filled the halls. Political leaders, scholars, and religious leaders responded with messages and congratulatory remarks. In attendance were many eminent figures from wide social circles, as well as representatives from women’s organizations. No matter whom the the audience, she urged to pursue a religious and moral awakening.

In Uruguay, the influential newspaper, *Ultimas Noticias*, labeled the speaking tour, “A new movement which restores values, protects the family, and urges altruism and

the love of humankind.”

The grand finale of Dr. Moon’s speaking tour was held in Taiwan, where she was invited by the Legislative Yuan’s director, Yoo Song Bun, to present her speech in the grand auditorium of the Legislative Yuan [the unicameral legislature in Taiwan, ROC—Ed.]. Director Yoo received her with full state honors and showed his respect in his introduction, “Founder Hak Ja Han Moon has established WFWP, awakened us to the importance of restoring family ethics, actively traveled the world to realize world peace, and is positively influencing the people of the world. Therefore, as my own interest lies in family ethics and world peace, I am looking forward with great interest to hearing her speech.”

### **DR. MOON’S SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

From May-July, 1993, Dr. Moon traveled to all 50 states in the United States and held the final speech at the United Nations in September. On September 7, 1993, speaking at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, Dr. Moon delivered a message on the topic of God-centered love and peace, and the importance of the role of the United Nations in leading



the world toward peace. The speech was titled “God, Women, and World Peace.” UN officers, 500 leaders from various sectors, and diplomatic envoys from 130 nations, including those from both North and South Korea, were in attendance. Introduced by Stoyan Ganev, president of the General Assembly, Dr. Moon explained that world peace and the future prosperity of humankind will be dependent on the collective actions taken by the United Nations; she emphasized that leaders representing the United Nations bear responsibility to guide humankind.

From September 11-30, 1993, Dr. Moon traveled to 21 locations in Japan—from Sapporo, to Sendai, and in such places as the Tokyo Dome, the Matsunoi Palace in Tottori, to Kobe, Nagano, Hiroshima and Fukuoka, and ending in Osaka. Portions of her speech were aired on major Japanese TV networks.

She emphasized the principles God uses to advance the providence: that endurance and sacrifices in response to persecution is God’s way to advance and is the way to solve hatred; and that uniting the desires of our body with the desires of our spirit exemplifies complete salvation. Dr. Moon spoke of the ages humankind has been in: the Old, New, and “Completed” Testament Age of today, with the

emphasis of restoration starting in the family, based on sacrificial love, expanding to the society, nation and world, with the mother’s role being crucial.

After the tour in Japan, Dr. Moon continued to Korea where she spoke at 40 universities. The Korean tour culminated with her eloquent address to the National Assembly on October 31, 1993, with about 200 people present, including former and current members of the National Assembly, and participants from religious, academic and women’s rights circles. She said that in order for South Korea to become a nation truly respected by the citizens of the world, the biggest task is the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula.

### MESSANGER OF LOVE AND PEACE

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s speaking tour conveyed a message of love and peace that reached beyond a particular faith; instead it was a wake-up call for all humankind to go back to its roots. She has empowered and paved the way for women around the world to take courageous actions for the sake of creating a better world for future generations, as true daughters, wives, and mothers.





## MOTHER OF PEACE

WFWPI Archives

*Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as Mother Moon or the Mother of Peace, has dedicated her life to the realization of peace during her 50 years of public ministry. Together with her husband, she has created non-profit organizations, businesses, educational institutions, conference venues, and awards that span all aspects of society and culture, helping to resolve the wounds of history and finding solutions to many of the world's problems. As one of few female religious leaders operating on such a global level, her powerful messages have inspired millions to transcend national, racial, and ideological boundaries.*



**D**r. Hak Ja Han Moon was born on January 6, 1943, (lunar calendar) in Sinri Village, Anju County, present-day North Korea. At the age of six, she fled to South Korea with her mother and grandmother, as they risked their lives to cross the border in the dead of night. From a very young age, Mother Moon developed a deep relationship with God in a close Father-daughter bond. When she married the late Dr. Sun Myung Moon in 1960, their mutual desire to see a true world of peace led her to join him on a pioneering course where her desire was “to complete God’s providence of restoration during her lifetime.” Mother Moon is a devoted wife, mother of 14 children, and grandmother to over 40 grandchildren.



## Our Journey

**A**s parents of peace, Father and Mother Moon present models for bridging conflict, division, and resentment. They have reached out widely, in the fields of the arts and sciences, education, politics, media, human rights, interreligious work, and with world leaders. The central focus of Father and Mother Moon’s lifelong work is the re-establishment of the family as the foundation of a harmonious society, with couples blessed in marriage centered upon God’s ideal, representing the foundation for world peace. Dr. Moon continues the legacy of her late husband; at the root of her initiatives is the desire to open pathways for strengthening families as a way to prevent the breakdown of society—through the Marriage Blessing movement that transcends race, nationality, culture, ideology and denomination.

Dr. Moon and her husband have founded more than 100 organizations. In 1992 they established Women’s Federation for World Peace, organizing women to play a major role in world history by serving alongside men, comparing their positions to being one of the wheels of a great engine, pulling forward the construction of a peaceful world.

*Mother Moon at Gorée Island with two of her daughters-in-law: Yeon-ah Choi Moon, left; and Julia H. Moon, right.*



*With President Mikhail Gorbachev*



*With President Kim Il Sung*





*Historic trip of Father and Mother Moon to North Korea in 1991, with President Kim Il Sung (center)*



This began a time for Dr. Moon to appear actively on the world stage. After the inauguration of WFWP she then began a world tour, making more than 600 speeches in her attempts to reach humanity, with great sacrifice of her family, almost every day being in a new city, region or country. She carried the view in her heart that all humankind is her family.







*With President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush*



Within Just a year of its founding, WFWP quickly developed, becoming today one of the most powerful women's organizations in the world—largely laid by prayer, sacrifice and service.

On July 28, 1993, Mother Moon was the first Korean woman to be a guest speaker at the United States Congress. Perseverance by many supporters and her initial investment eventually led to founding of National Parents' Day. In 1994, a Congressional Resolution went into effect with President Bill Clinton's signature, that Parents' Day be established as a nationally celebrated holiday, to be observed on the fourth Sunday of July, "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in bringing up their children."

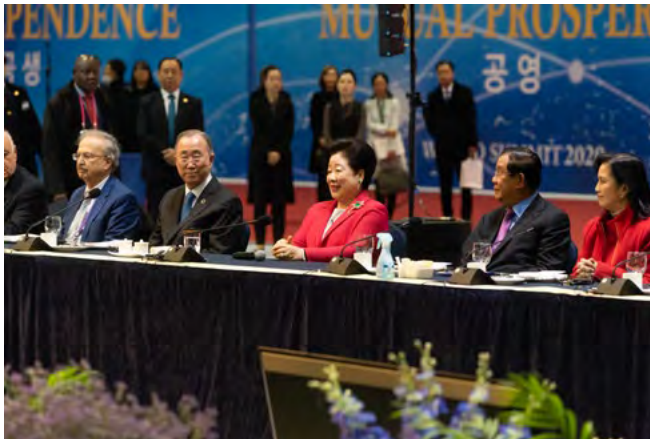






**C**o-Founder Dr. Moon has also given speeches before the national assemblies of seven nations, including Korea, Japan, and Brazil. During worldwide speaking tours, she followed a strenuous schedule day in and day out. Traveling to a new location daily meant that some participants were seeing her for the first time. Her presence as a guest in a country preceded a buzz of longing, excitement and anticipation, so Dr. Moon also met with others before and after her public appearances, extending herself lovingly and offering guidance; she learned of special needs in an area and found ways to provide essential items.





On Jan. 19, 2018, Dr. Moon and her delegation traveled to Gorée Island, Dakar, Senegal, of West Africa, the site of unspeakable suffering and atrocities. At the Door of No Return, men, women and children were put on ships and never seen again by their families. For over three decades more than 20 million Africans were sold into slavery.

As Dr. Moon entered the courtyard, she prayed for the liberation of all Africans who died as victims of slavery and that they be freed from resentment. Mother Moon could feel the bitter tears of grief shed by thousands of slaves in transit and wanted to liberate this historical agony and heartbreak. After tearful prayer, Dr. Moon left a gift behind to benefit the whole island: a water ambulance that was prepared for passenger and emergency patient transport.

Each area in the world represents aspects important in the eyes of our Creator. WFWP's widespread mission is to tend to the needs of the people of the world with the love and heart of a mother.



## TESTIMONIES ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND APPROVAL OF WFWPI'S GENERAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UN ECOSOC

*By Motoko Sugiyama, Former Director, WFWPI Offices for UN Relations*

In 1997 WFWP International was granted general consultative status from the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in association with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). This is the highest status among the three types of consultative statuses granted to NGOs. Only large, well-established NGOs with a broad geographical reach can attain general consultative status. An additional qualification is that the NGO's work must encompass most of the issues on the ECOSOC agenda and its subsidiary bodies. There are only 140 NGOs worldwide granted general consultative status among 5,593 NGOs that currently have consultative status. The other two status levels are "special and roster," for NGOs with a more limited geographic or issue focus. When WFWPI applied to the UN for ECOSOC general

consultative status, it was already a large international NGO with many service projects, such as building and managing vocational schools for women and children as well as other schools, and operating mobile medical service clinics in developing nations around the world, among others. These projects aligned with most of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) introduced after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration during the 2000 UN General Assembly. The fact that WFWP had members in each nation who paid dues was a significant factor in being granted status. Also, the fact that Japanese volunteers had established grassroots services in their WFWP pioneering countries worldwide made a powerful impact on our application, which was reviewed and approved by the UN Committee on NGOs.



The ECOSOC Committee on NGOs monitors contributions that are made by NGOs to the work of ECOSOC through a quadrennial report system. In the report, NGOs are required to provide a brief description of all activities that contribute to the work of the UN, including the MDGs and other internationally agreed-upon goals. WFWPI's status has been successfully renewed every four years since achieving general consultative status in 1997.



**NORA SPURGIN, PRESIDENT OF WFWP USA (1992-1999)**

In 1994, Women's Federation for World Peace applied for NGO general consultative status with the UN ECOSOC. Dr. Lan Young Moon, the international president of WFWP at the time, asked our office in New York City to prepare the application. Linda Perry, WFWP USA administrator, very ably took on this daunting task to prepare the extensive information needed to apply. For almost one year, she contacted each nation in order to gather statistics on local and national WFWP organizations and their membership. Our

status was decided by the UN Committee on NGOs. Karen Smith, secretary-general of WFWP USA at that time, visited 19 ambassadors in order to introduce our work. On the day the decision was to be made, I was quite anxious as I was called on the dais at the UN to stand before the Committee and answer their questions. There was no way I could have known or prepared for their questions. I relied on God being with me as I answered the questions and was grateful for heaven's help!

Three ambassadors asked questions. The Chinese Ambassador asked, "Is WFWP associated with the All China Women's Federation?" Fortunately, I had been with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon during her speaking tour when she spoke in China to that group in the Great Hall of the People. All women in China are members of that organization and we had met with its president. So, I answered, "I know that organization and have met the president, but they are not a part of WFWP." Of all the questions that he could have asked, I had an impressive answer for that one!

The second question came from the Cuban Ambassador. "Why don't you have an organization in Cuba?" he asked. Again I was able to answer, "We have a group of WFWP volunteers in Miami who have not been able to enter Cuba because they are waiting for visas to enter the country." His reply was, "I will get right on that." By the end of that very day, they were able to obtain their visas. Again, it was a question that I could readily answer since only recently I had heard that they were waiting in Miami until they could get their visas.

The third question was from Great Britain's Ambassador regarding Hong Kong. I was familiar with the work of WFWP in Hong



*Lerato Rapoo (in green) at the UN*

Kong and was easily able to answer that question. I felt that heaven had chosen questions that I could answer.

The decision to grant us NGO general consultative status was achieved, which was a great victory for WFWP International.

### **LERATO RAPOO, WFWPI VOLUNTEER**

When I joined the WFWPI office, I started to attend meetings at the UN with Mr. Tageldin (Taj) Hamad. It was always my hope and wish to work for the sake of world peace. Every Thursday, I'd attend the weekly NGO briefings and meetings that ECOSOC would post. In one meeting, I met someone who helped me understand the application process and guided me in the necessary steps for NGOs to get accredited with the UN. I did not understand the UN lingo at the time but I thought it was amazing that the people were kind enough to guide me in

that direction.

If you don't know what you don't know, there are hardly any challenges. I feared nothing and went door to door to each of the UN Mission offices who were a part of the UN Committee on NGOs. I asked Linda Perry who was the administrator at the time, "Which countries does WFWP have active chapters?" Then I started visiting the ambassadors' offices of those countries. I became very close to the Ambassadors of Swaziland, the Philippines and Kenya. I got to know and became friends with the ambassadors' wives, who I also visited after speaking to the ambassadors. We were grateful that some of the ambassadors' wives connected with WFWP. Even on the day when our accreditation status was decided by the UN Committee on NGOs, during the presentation, the Ambassadors of Swaziland and the Philippines spoke strongly in favor of WFWP—very, very impressively so. They were most impressed by WFWPI's many



Motoko Sugiyama (R)

international service projects, such as schools that were being built in Africa at that time, in Mozambique and other WFP chapters where Japanese volunteers had opened vocational schools that taught dressmaking and other income-generating skills for women. We were warmly welcomed because of the foundation laid by the WFP volunteers around the world.

***ECOSOC brings people and issues together to promote collective action for a sustainable world!***





## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE WFWP

WFWPI Archives



WFWP has been working with the founding spirit of true love and the philosophy of morality, and was approved May 8, 1997, as a UN NGO in general consultative status before an evaluation committee that was attended by representatives from 19 UN ECOSOC countries. Based on WFWP's worldwide activities of humanitarian aid and education that had continued over a period of three years, these services helped upgrade the status of WFWP Korea's foundation and opened a path for it to play an important role within the international society. As a women's organization with its headquarters located in Korea and New York, WFWP was the first organization in Korea to be selected as an NGO in general consultative status.

WFWP welcomed the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, and held a magnificent celebration with Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon at the Little Angel's Art Center. About 2,500 participated, including international delegates and diplomats such as the ambassadors to Korea from Uruguay and Brunei. Dr. Moon reaffirmed WFWP's identity in her message of gratitude. She said, "With the proclamation of the arrival of the Era of Women on April 10, 1992, WFWP was established as a vital





organization for the women's peace movement based on God's will."

WFWP did not start solely as another women's organization, but its significance was to realize a world within God's ideal that could be far-reaching. Therefore, WFWP sought not to establish a political, external or confrontational women's rights movement but instead made its focus on the expansion of women's rights, gender equality, and development of women's skills.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony, awards were presented to WFWP chapters in Japan, Taiwan, the WFWP UN Office, as well as to ten model Korean branches that had continued exemplary activities over the past ten years, helping elevate WFWP's status. It was especially moving that a mother and child who had escaped from North Korea to South Korea were invited to participate in the closing candlelight ceremony, expressing longing for the reunification of Korea.

### MESSAGES OF THE DELEGATES

#### TETSUKO KUBOKI, JAPAN WFWP PRESIDENT (1999-2013)

People say that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the century of women, the century of NGOs; however, I think women's roles at home or in society are the key point. By making the most of women's characteristics that can nurture lives, we will implant the activities of WFWP worldwide and continue to develop them.

#### ALEXA WARD, USA WFWP PRESIDENT (2013-2021)

It is a privilege and an honor to be part of this historic women's organization that seeks to address issues for the benefit of the greatest good and the highest purpose, with the loving nature of a mother.

#### CHANG PO-YA, PRESIDENT, TAIWAN (2014-2020)

I was impressed with the dedicated lives of Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and their attitude in striving to build the culture of an ideal world centering on heart and true love. I, as a new President of Taiwan, truly congratulate WFWP on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, with continuous grace from God. I wish you healthy and successful lives.



### CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

#### **DAE HWA JUNG, KOREA WFWP PRESIDENT**

*Throughout ten years and up to today, and having received heavenly fortune with the coming era of women worldwide, let's become true daughters, true wives, true mothers, and women leaders to build an ideal society.*

#### **LEE HEE-HO, FIRST LADY OF SOUTH KOREA (1998-2003)**

*I believe that the WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project being promoted by the Women's Federation for World Peace has a special meaning. It is my hope that this project will give strength and hope to the women and friends in the North, and that it will contribute to the promotion of reconciliation and cooperation between the North and South. I pray that more citizens can lend positive support and participation to the activities of WFWP to bring great success in the future.*

#### **LAURA BUSH, FIRST LADY, USA (2001-2009)**

*Dear Friends,*

*I am delighted to send greetings as you celebrate the tenth anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace. Congratulations on a decade of promoting goodwill among women, families, and nations and for continuing to send the message of peace worldwide. The Women's Federation for World Peace is an inspiring example of what can happen when women from diverse countries and backgrounds forge friendships, establish projects, and develop networks to better their lives and those of their children. Your work has real and lasting impact, and I am grateful to you for helping build a future that is full of promise and opportunity. Enjoy your anniversary celebration in our nation's capital!*



### **ROSALYNN CARTER, FIRST LADY, USA (1977-1981)**

*Congratulations on the tenth anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace International! Your efforts to build "Bridges of Peace" have paid rich dividends, and I applaud your organization's fine history of achievement. With programs in 43 countries and your International Friendship Conferences, which brought together a stunning 20 thousand pairs of Japanese and American women to commemorate the end of World War II, you have earned a respected position within the global community.*

*Your emphasis on the family as the foundation for world peace and your focus on "living for the sake of others" foster the spirit of harmony and reconciliation so desperately needed today. I am pleased to express my appreciation for your important work and to send my warm best wishes for continuing success.*

### **ANNETTE LU, VICE PRESIDENT, TAIWAN (2000-2008)**

*Through WFWP, I was invited to the 2001 World Culture and Sports Festival, where I saw Founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon and came to know his name and achievement. He not only taught us the life of living for others and about pure love, but practices it himself, so I realized he is the real leader of human beings.*

*I send my sincere gratitude and respect to him, who is leading to build up a bright and sound future of human beings by establishing the pure marriage view of young people centering on the teaching that true family is the basis for world peace.*

### **MYUNG-SOOK HAN, MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY, SOUTH KOREA (2001-2003)**

*I wish to express deep appreciation for the efforts WFWP has invested in for world peace in the past ten years. I believe your dedication will contribute largely to the reconciliation and cooperation between North and South Korea, to peace on the Korean Peninsula and the global village, and I pray for your greater development.*





# WFWP 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

*WFWPI Archives*



The year 2012 was marked by a series of significant events that would serve as a turning point for the further development of WFWP in the next decade. One such event was the inauguration of Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN), which brought together women leaders from around the world, held on March 26 at the Muchangpo Beach Palace in Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea. Five hundred-fifty women leaders from 33 countries attended, as well as Chief of NGO Branch of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Mr. Andrew Abramov, and former vice-president of Taiwan ROC, H.E. Annette Lu, participated in the event.



The Global Women's Peace Network has the mission of bringing together leaders, organizations, and governments to solve pressing social issues and to secure an environment for equitable human development. Through peace leadership based on feminine attributes, GWPN seeks to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for generations to come.

In her keynote speech, Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon expressed gratitude to WFWP members working hard throughout the world. She





stated that WFWP's 1992 inauguration marked the beginning of great strides women will make through this peace movement, which was founded on conscientious and righteous women. She spoke, "I stated emphatically that WFWP is not just a movement for women, rather it is the movement for bringing ideal families together to form ideal nations and an ideal world... If we can all shine as we live such glowing lives, there will be no shadows cast."

Dr. Lan Young Moon, WFWP International President, introduced GWPN as a new project of WFWP International, established to develop further networking of global women leaders by cooperating with other women's organizations to achieve common goals.

Former Taiwanese Vice President Annette Lu emphasized the importance of the role of "soft power" in promoting common prosperity of the world. She complimented WFWP's investment: "The women's network built under the outstanding leadership of Co-Founder Hak Ja Han Moon has made a noteworthy contribution to world peace."

Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, WFWP International Vice President in charge of UN Relations, introduced keynote speaker, Mr. Andrei Abramov, Chief of NGO Branch of UN DESA. Mr. Abramov spoke on "Global Peace, the UN

and the Role of Women." He offered warm congratulatory words (excerpts on following pages).

Following the opening session, two panel sessions were held titled "Women's Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and "Unification of the Korean Peninsula and World Peace." Speakers included Dr. Jean Augustine (Commissioner, Ontario Fairness Commission, Canada), Dr. Hiroshi Yamada (Former reporter, The Yomiuri Shimbun), Dr. Jun Baekhak (Chief Researcher and Director, Center for North Korean Studies, Sejong Research Institute), and Dr. Zoe Bennett (Co-Founder, Children's Emergency Relief Foundation).

H.E. Annette Lu and Middle East Women's Peace Council Co-Chair Inam Al-Muqti received the World Women's Peace Prize from Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in recognition of their contributions to women's leadership. At the closing, WFWP Africa Vice President Mrs. Susan Kone and WFWP Korea Vice-President Ms. Seon Soon Hong gave GWPN inaugural comments.

Since 1992 WFWP has continued its activities in chapters worldwide, expanding widely by networking with women leaders and members over a broad range of fields.



## EXCERPTS FROM KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR. ANDREI ABRAMOV, CHIEF OF NGO BRANCH TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WFWP INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S PEACE NETWORK ASSEMBLY

*WFWPI Archives*

Mr. Andrei Abramov gave an impassioned keynote speech at WFWP's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, emphasizing the contributions made by WFWP in the lives of women. "It is a great honor and pleasure for me to address this important forum on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace International. The Federation strongly supports the Economic and Social Council commitment to further dialogue on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals related to gender equality and the empowerment of women." He offered his sincere congratulations for the many projects carried out by WFWP.

Mr. Abramov spoke of the importance of education as a powerful tool for peace and development, as it transforms lives and economies. He honored WFWP for providing

vital skills and offering microloans as a way out of poverty, thus improving social mobility. "You help women find confidence and self-esteem to face their future and gain respect from the entire society. Broadening people's opportunities and building inclusive societies is what the Federation's projects are all about!" Abramov further complimented the work of reconciliatory activities created through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies, oftentimes being on the frontlines in the fight for equality in wartorn countries worldwide, providing bridges of reconciliation.

He pointed out that the United Nations owes much of its success to its ability to work in close partnerships with non-governmental organizations on the global and regional levels. It is essential to listen to civil society about the needs of people at the grassroots level, and he spoke about the importance of resolution



1325 on women, peace and security (2000). This resolution highlights that NGOs act as a watchdog and ombudsman, both as a witness and a monitor at the UN, and have the power to speak for the powerless and to influence the powerful. Mr. Abramov pointed out that UN's partnership with NGOs is no longer an option but a necessity.

“The only way to achieve our goals—to build sustainable peace and achieve prosperity, to reduce poverty and conflict around the world, to eliminate rape as a weapon of war, to combat the culture of impunity for sexual violence—is to draw on the full contributions of all actors: governments, civil society, and the private sector in every aspect of peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.”

Mr. Abramov described both good and bad news: worldwide the actual number of armed conflicts is on the decline, including mass violence and mass killings since the 1980s and 1990s. The “Failed States Index,” however, for 2011 showed critical places that were in danger, such as in Somalia, Chad, Sudan, and Haiti. When people are fleeing and becoming refugees it poses other dangers, including poverty, ethnic and religious tensions, health pandemics or environmental disasters. All these factors increase the likelihood of conflict.

Non-governmental organizations, women's groups, religious, and other organizations have a major role to play and should be part of the peace process. Mr. Abramov addressed the



importance of gender equality; full enjoyment of women of their rights is essential to social development, for enhanced security, and for human rights. Women's organizations in conflict and post-conflict areas have grown in strength and legitimacy; they play a key role in fostering reconciliation, both during conflict and after, and have the power to mobilize women across party lines.

Mr. Abramov reflected about progress that had been made since resolution 1325's inception in the year 2000. It started from humble beginnings, where every step in women's advancement had to be fought for; it took very dedicated advocacy to write the first draft of the resolution. In the end, the resolution recognized that women and children are most affected by conflict and acknowledged the critical role women can play in preventing and resolving conflicts and in building peace.

The resolution not only called for action within the United Nations but urged adopting a gender-conscious approach during disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and for all parties to protect women and girls from violence, especially rape, and to prosecute those guilty of perpetrating such crimes.

Resolution 1325 has registered in the public consciousness as few UN resolutions ever have, and it has become a centerpiece regionally, nationally and internationally, reflecting global awareness of the importance of women's role in conflict prevention and resolution. It has





brought the plight of millions of women and girls who are being victimized to the forefront. Mr. Abramov called upon WFP to keep governments accountable for progress.

The Security Council of the United Nations adopted a set of indicators in 2010 that were presented by the Secretary-General for monitoring the situation of women; Mr. Abramov brought these indicators to the attention of the assembly. They are:

### **GENDER AWARENESS**

Women are to be included in mediation and negotiating peace, in fostering reconciliation, in supporting disarmament and demobilization, and in shaping development policies and rebuilding institutions. The role of women in peace and security is now more clearly integrated into the Council's deliberations. Resolution 1325 (2000) has led to other key resolutions on women, peace and security, including resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) on sexual violence during conflict; and 1889 (2009), which urges UN Member States and relevant parties to take further measures to improve women's participation in all stages of the peace process. Gender issues are increasingly discussed.

### **WOMEN AND GOVERNANCE**

There is increased attention to women's participation in decision-making. This area supports greater participation of women in electoral processes and in nation-building, with a goal to consult with women's organizations to receive their insights.

### **GENDER-ACTION WORK PLANS**

In 2004 the Security Council called for Member

States to prepare action plans for implementing resolution 1325, of which 23 countries had complied. Mr. Abramov explained that very few developing countries had submitted national action plans. UN Women is coordinating the implementation of a system-wide plan for resolution 1325 in areas that include protection, participation in the peace process, gender mainstreaming, humanitarian assistance, and post-conflict reconstruction.

### **GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

The perspective that women are always included in areas related to peace and security, including post-conflict development and being part of the election process, would be mainstreaming this philosophy worldwide. Mainstreaming equality of gender needs to be improved and is coordinated by an interagency network. Monitoring and reporting in conflict areas is required. Organizations such as UNICEF and UN Refugee Agency have developed policy guidelines in post-conflict situations.

### **GENDER ADVISERS**

Gender advisers are deployed to all major peacekeeping operations, and in some cases they are part of the Human Rights Unit. These are gender-based violence and child protection advisers.

### **ENFORCEMENT OF CODES OF CONDUCT**

Enforcing codes of conduct among peacekeeping and humanitarian workers as well as military units deployed in war areas is essential. Sexual exploitation and abuse of refugees and internally displaced women and children is a great concern. UN takes a zero-tolerance approach and has taken drastic measures to





enforce this approach, such as:

- setting a curfew and ban on visits by staff to areas frequented by prostitutes
- investigating sexual violations of staff, military personnel, and police
- imposing criminal or disciplinary actions against violators, with the goal to prosecute perpetrators
- creating special units to monitor conduct and report incidents, and
- strengthening codes of conduct within many UN agencies

## TRAINING

Training would include integrating a gender perspective into peace operations, by developing practical training tools and workshops to understand the needs of both men and women. Some ideas would be to have this training pre-deployment of the military, and for civilian police personnel.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Women need to be highlighted as vital role players in preventing and resolving conflicts and to be mobilized in efforts to achieve equal participation. At the grassroots level in conflict-ridden countries, inclusion of women in all aspects of of peacebuilding, including the reconstruction process, in elections and in constitution-making bodies, is vital. Civil society is a catalyst for women worldwide to achieve equal participation. Despite all the above-mentioned initiatives, participation at

all the stages of the peace process for women remains too low. Policies that are written need to be available at the grassroots level. Mr. Abramov sees major challenges that women and societies face for women to take their rightful place at the peace table, such as:

- Women are too poorly represented at higher levels of decision-making, denying them true democracy.
- Gender-based violence against women is worldwide.
- There are persistent stereotypical attitudes toward respective gender roles of men and women; these attitudes need to be changed within formal government and within society.

Mr. Abramov concluded, "Peace cannot be imposed from outside... Real peace, the bonds of trust and confidence holding families and communities together, cannot be recreated overnight. It must be built on the interrelation of social and cultural values, international human rights norms, and democratic principles. It takes time and patience. It requires the involvement of all sectors of society..."

We cannot exclude half the world's resources from participating in the peace process. Without equal and fair participation of women in peace, we will never achieve the vision of a world free of the scourge of war, poverty and gender discrimination outlined in 1945 by the Founding Fathers and Mothers of the United Nations Charter."

A group of children are gathered around a white table, engaged in a craft project. They are using green grass or straw to create something on a white sheet of paper. One child in the center is wearing a striped shirt with a teddy bear on it. Another child on the right is holding a small white container and a brush. The background shows a green wall and other children. A pink banner is at the top left, and a green banner is at the bottom of the image.

*Humanitarian  
Projects*

# INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

*By WFPV USA*

WFPV USA has been guided by the “logic of love” to impact society through values-based leadership of the heart. Members of WFPV USA have worked since 1992 to exemplify the nurturing qualities of compassion, service and unconditional love. They have joined with other women through a variety of service projects that seek to bring balance and solutions to all sectors of society and establish a harmonious global family.

## **SCHOOLS OF AFRICA**

The Co-Founders of WFPV commissioned volunteers from Japan to serve underdeveloped nations. Those volunteers established schools, training projects and additional educational initiatives in numerous African nations. In 2001, WFPV USA initiated the Schools of Africa Project to raise funds to support WFPV efforts.

Each year since then, local chapters and members across the USA organize innovative and engaging events to raise funds for ten schools in eight African countries. These funds have helped to continually maintain the schools, finance school supplies, improve buildings and classrooms, secure scholarships for low-income students, and much more. The schools established have provided meaningful opportunities to 20,000 graduates, and continue to provide education to 2,000 students.

Thanks to many generous donors, since 2001 WFPV USA has sent over \$549,900 to the schools, and owes this success to local chapters and supporters for their continuous efforts to make children and education a priority.



### SUMMERS IN HAITI

WFWP USA volunteers spent multiple summers in Haiti since 2008 for the “Haiti Summer Service Project,” which worked in partnership with the International Relief Friendship Foundation. This project received much interest in the USA and was organized by the late Evelyn Drake, a native to Haiti, who has cared passionately about her home country and people.

In preparation for the summer service projects, WFWP USA chapters and leaders gathered supplies needed for medical clinics, educational seminars, and donations for basic hygiene, and also seeds for crops. Volunteers from Haiti and the USA invested in one-week programs that included seminars on healthy relationships attended by hundreds of Haitian middle and high school students. A team of trained medical professionals also offered their services following the devastating natural disasters.

On its sixth annual Haiti Summer Service Project in 2013, a mobile medical clinic was established that provided medicine and care to 70 patients. Engaging seminars were offered to hundreds of people covering topics on character education for Haitian youth, and peace seminars for ministers, women leaders and youth leaders.

As WFWP USA worked together with the local chapter in Cap-Haitien, the second largest city in Haiti, the hope was to promote world peace in action from the grassroots level, giving loving attention to Haitian families by covering their needs. What may have started out as an opportunity to travel to a beautiful nation to provide care and services in a culturally diverse environment to an impoverished local population, also was a journey of devotion to our human family.

### PLANTING THE SEEDS OF TOMORROW: LUNIS KINDERWORLD IN NEPAL

Most of us remember being significantly impacted by a teacher. Schools and a solid education make a significant impact on the life of a child. Much of a child’s waking hours are spent interacting with teachers and other students in the classroom. Not only are their intellects molded within those walls, or outdoors, but also their hearts and character, with lessons that will last most of their lives. As can be imaged, positive or negative experiences can have significant repercussions.



## Humanitarian Projects



*Evelyne Drake (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Haiti, with  
Barbara Masuyama (L)*

In 2016, Mr. Purushottam Karki and his wife set out with the commitment to create a loving and stimulating learning environment for the children of their rural village in Nepal. Getting education to all children is so important across the globe, and Karki had a vision to go beyond expectations and focus on the quality of education. Parents who originally did not see how his methods were distinct began to see their children transformed—from dreading school to eagerly waiting for Monday to come.

A mother shared, “My son is five years old, and last year he started class at one of the private schools in the area for just two weeks. He was crying a lot because of school and couldn’t go to sleep, thinking about going to school the next day. I was really worried. In our village, teachers usually just write on the board and kids copy the information in their notebooks and memorize it. Many of them can get punished—such as being hit on their hands or legs—for not doing well. Every class has a large number of students, so in the summer it is very difficult for kids. The first time I heard that Lunis Kinderworld would open, I didn’t understand what the difference would be between it and our local schools. But once I started to bring my son to Lunis, I felt really good to see my son happy



*Teachers and Students, Lunis  
Kinderworld, Nepal*

and excited about coming to study; everyday he hurries to school. Even on holidays or if he is sick he wants to go. At Lunis, kids learn with games, experiences, and love, and the classes learn in small groups. All these things make a big difference.”

In the summer of 2019 construction was complete and the children were finally able to move into their new, spacious and airy classrooms. The Karki family could now enjoy their home again, which they used for makeshift classrooms for the last few years, so committed they were to their dream for the school.

WFWP USA would like to give special acknowledgment to all the amazing and generous donors from around the country. The gifts, both big and small, helped make this dream in Nepal possible. Lunis Kinderworld is providing a loving, learning environment for the children and also offering continuing education for the parents on how to contribute to the inner growth of their children. There is training for local teachers as well.

Though located in rural Nepal, they are teaching the children to have a global mindset and to think about how to serve their communities and humanity. Lunis Kinderworld will surely





*Lunis Kinderworld students, Nepal*



continue to make a positive impact on the minds and hearts of the children in their care. Together Lunis Kinderworld and WFWP will continue to plant the seeds for tomorrow in Nepal and elsewhere.

### HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Zarqa is the second largest city in Jordan and has become home to hundreds of thousands of Syrian and Palestinian refugees over recent years. Many are children unable to read or write in their local language. Classrooms in the public schools are often over-flowing and have as many as 60 students, which makes learning and individualized attention difficult. The drop-out rate from these schools is very high. Many of those who graduate are still unable to read and write at the appropriate age level.

To address this need, an “Arabic Literacy Program for Children” by WFWP was developed to provide a spark of hope for students between ages 8 to 15. The students in this program are taught to read and write, which puts them on track for future jobs. It also gives them greater confidence and self-esteem in their educational experiences. WFWP Jordan offers these literacy classes at the Community Development Centers

(CDC) located inside the refugee camps. WFWP aims to improve the levels of literacy among the children, while also offering core character education values to help overcome the psychological damage that comes from the unstable life of a refugee.

Volunteers and staff have testified that they have seen less fighting and more smiles on the faces of the young children as they engage in their studies. With the support of donors and WFWP’s fundraising campaign, the Arabic literacy project was able to renovate the centers, replace old plastic chairs and tables, purchase new school materials and provide stipends to the dedicated tutors. Despite the challenges and dramatic events, WFWP Jordan volunteers remain persistent and are not even considering abandoning their posts, as they know that the most important cause is to live for others.

### WFWP GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND AID-1% LOVE SHARE PROJECT

The WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project is a unique campaign launched in Korea asking for 1% of a donor’s monthly income. These funds go to those less fortunate around the globe, especially women and children and also help

## Humanitarian Projects



North Korean defectors. Its philosophy: as members of the human family, it is up to each person to look beyond boundaries and borders and to show our love to those suffering, hungry, and in need.

In 2021, WFP USA confidently decided to team up with WFP Korea to provide additional support for the WFP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project that directly aids the people of North Korea. The lives of North Korean defectors are often fraught with difficulty, where more than 33,000 defectors from the North currently live in South Korea. Many children have been smuggled out of North Korea, but some are forced to leave their parents in order to escape. Back home, other North Korean children have to work instead of attending school to support their families and thus have lower educational achievement levels. The majority of defectors are women, who are often smuggled by Chinese border patrol

to be sold as captive wives. Thus, many children of defectors in South Korea were born in China to North Korean mothers who were victims of human trafficking. Once in South Korea, these families face tremendous challenges to integrate into society and find a hopeful future.

In support of these vulnerable children and families, WFP Korea has been offering help with after-school programs—to grow and learn in “mind and heart.” Also in partnership with other organizations, they offer Art Therapy, counseling, character education, and parent–child camps.

Small acts of love can accumulate, allowing miracles to happen, one life at a time and fulfilling the dreams of many North Korean children and their families. Until the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula takes place, WFP USA together with WFP Korea will devotedly oversee the safe



settlement of families who seek a place that they can call home.

### GIVING FOR GOOD

Globally, only 20% of textiles are recycled or reused, which leaves 26 billion pounds of clothing going to landfills each year worldwide, the majority of which are made of non-biodegradable, synthetic material. Therefore, to create awareness of environmental issues like these, the “Giving for Good Project” was initiated by WFWPI Senior Vice President Sun Jin Moon in April 2020, as she felt strongly compelled to preserve our planet and care for the well-being of future generations by encouraging people to resell their new and gently used clothing.

The Giving for Good Project especially addresses Sustainable Development Goal 13 which is “Climate Action.” Environmental

sustainability is a concern close to the heart of the Co-Founder of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Research shows that the apparel industry creates the second largest industrial pollution in the world, with oil being the first. Giving for Good Project raises funds for WFWPI activities, and also educates communities in ways of reducing our own carbon footprint.

By participating in the Giving for Good Project, people are gaining awareness of these issues and adopting sustainable practices such as buying and selling secondhand. During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns in 2021, the “Giving for Good Charity Auction” was an exciting event and raised approximately \$100,000 for charity, helping to support WFWPI projects and activities in other countries.





# WFWP GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND AID-1% LOVE SHARE PROJECT

*By Mako Mori, Public Relations and Media Coordinator, WFWPI UN Office NY*



*Mako Mori*

WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project is a campaign initiated by Women’s Federation for World Peace Korea to help eradicate poverty by collecting donations that amount to just 1% of a donor’s paycheck. With the donations, WFWP seeks to help those less fortunate around the globe, especially women and children. As members of the global family, it is up to us to look past boundaries and borders, and to show our love to those suffering, hungry, or in need.

WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project began in 2002 with a donation of 30,000 pairs of undergarments to children in North Korea through the Korean Women Leader’s Association. More recently, WFWP has shifted its focus to helping North Korean defectors in South Korea resettle in their new environments through after-school programs that help enrich their mind and heart. The small offering helps children around the world continue their education, develop character skills, and build the life they desire.





Funds raised are used for the following projects:

1. Kuen Kkum Sarang was established in 2020, and its main purpose is to provide education that fosters successful settlement of North Korean defectors in South Korean society. They help provide a smooth transition for these children into stable school life through quality education and character development.
2. Kum Kang School was established in 2013 to help children who were born in North Korea and other developing countries gain access to quality education. In addition to general tutoring, they offer tutoring in Hangeul (Korean language), especially for North Korean children born in other countries.
3. NK Human Rights International Association helps North Korean defectors who are escaping via third countries. This is even more critical than before, as the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the ability of many to flee.

The goals of WFPW in supporting these projects are to:

- Improve the quality of education for North Korean children
  - Provide opportunities for stable school life and self-reliance
  - Emphasize the importance of positive character development and character education
  - Create a culture of love that uniquely impacts every child
4. The WFPW Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project also actively supports the construction and operation of schools in Rwanda, Mozambique, Nepal, Haiti, and a library in Cambodia.
  5. In addition, WFPW is always ready to give when emergencies strikes. The most recent activity was sending masks and sanitary goods to Korea, Japan, and Bolivia.

Just imagine what one small act of love can do!



### **WFWP GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND AID-1% LOVE SHARE PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS:**

- Haiti —\$4,214 to earthquake-damaged areas (2010)
- North Korean women—\$55,168 for sewing machines through the Coalition for the North Korean Women’s Rights (2010)
- Japan —\$10,000 to WFWP Japan, to aid the victims of the East Japan earthquake (2011)
- Children in the Gaza Strip —\$9,451 worth of medical supplies and mattresses through the F.M. Children’s Relief Foundation (2012 and 2014)
- A school in Geumgang for children of North Korean defectors—\$3,545 in clothes (2013)
- The Philippines—\$22,052 for typhoon victims (2014)
- Children in North Korea —\$4,500 collected by WFWP USA for coats and sweaters after the extensive flooding in the winter season (2016)
- Support for Ecuador earthquake-damaged areas (2016)





- Construction of the Haiti Literacy School (2017)
- Construction of the Nepal Hope School #2 (2017)
- Construction of the Nepal Hope School #3 (2018)
- Construction of the library for the Cambodia Batambang Sala Balat Primary School (2019)
- Construction of the Rwanda New Hope School (2019)
- Emergency relief (masks) for Bolivia (2020)
- Emergency relief with Hope Kit (food, masks, etc.) in Korea (2020)
- Support for Haiti earthquake-damaged areas (2021)
- Support for children and women in Afghanistan (2021)
- Emergency relief (masks) for Thailand (2021)



## THE SUPERFOOD THAT SAVED THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN'S LIVES IN ZAMBIA

*By WFP Zambia*



In 1994, ten volunteers from Japan visited Zambia to support the work of the local WFP chapter. They traveled to every corner of Zambia to understand the situation there. One of their findings was that the government was more concerned about the HIV/AIDS epidemic than any other situation. But the volunteers also saw a lot of malnutrition among children under the age of five, and many were dying from its effects.

In order to combat this problem, WFP Japan and Zambia decided to start distributing high energy protein supplements, called HEPS, to malnourished children at five government clinics and two private clinics in Lusaka. HEPS is a powdered food made from soybeans and is rich in essential nutrients such as saturated fatty acids, dietary fiber, antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and phytoestrogens.

For many years now, WFP has been working with nutritionists at government clinics to provide HEPS, eggs, milk, groundnuts, kapenta (small fish), vegetables, and sour-milk products twice a month. They also teach the mothers how to prepare porridge with





HEPS for their children, and they offer hygiene and health guidance.

This food project was funded by WFPW Japan until 2012. Zambia has benefited enormously from the project and so far, it has saved about 54,000 malnourished children. Currently, 1,900 malnourished children in the two clinics are receiving support.

Unfortunately, it is clear that there is still an overwhelming demand for nutritional feeding programs as the country's situation is worsening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have lost their jobs and as a result, the number of malnourished children has increased.

After three months of nutritional support, when children are found to be at a normal

weight for their age, they can be discharged from the program. However, when they come back to the clinic for check-ups, many are again suffering from deteriorating nutritional status. Results show the main reason for this is that the mothers were very poor, have little education, or had no income at all to support their families.

This is the sad reality of Zambia. But with the heart and spirit of the Japanese volunteers, "living for others" and "sharing a mother's heart," WFPW Zambia will continue to care for children and empower women and their families with faith in a bright future and hope for a prosperous world. Every life matters and no one should be left behind!

# PROJECTS OF WFWP SOLOMON ISLANDS

*By Monica Longanimala Ilala, Executive Member and Volunteer, WFWP SI*

In support of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, WFWP Solomon Islands (WFWP SI) is working to lift people out of poverty and implement activities to meet local needs. With support of the regional headquarters in Australia, the Solomon Islands chapter developed small projects with local women who took the initiative to run start-up businesses. We are grateful to the WFWP Australia team for working closely with us, providing a variety of useful resources, and providing Pasifika scholarships for local women to pursue higher education each year. We are truly empowered and are proud of our local women who contribute to their community.

## **PROJECT ONE: TAILORING BUSINESS, SEWING DEPARTMENT PROGRAM, TRAINING THE TRAINERS**

At WFWP SI, two wonderful women, Nelly Masuaku and Catharine Rongona, are dedicated to keeping the sewing department running effectively by making uniforms for the New Hope School, and they also make clothes for sale to the public. In order to increase sales, recently they have designed and manufactured new products such as hanger bags of different sizes, handbags, shirts, peg holders, pillowcases, and floor mats. In the near future, they plan to build an extension next to the current school retail store to facilitate the sale of these products.



Nelly Masuaku said, “I really enjoy creating, cutting, and sewing products. I feel good when I am doing these activities. To make our sewing more effective, it would be lovely to get a machine that can do buttonholes. It is our vision to train more women so we can make more products and sell these in our shop. It would be good to open up our own WFP shop.”

Catharine Rongona shared, “It is my aim to improve my sewing to a high standard. It would be nice to be able to create new designs and dressmaking patterns. I would appreciate attending a workshop on pattern designing so that I can broaden my knowledge and skills and sew better-quality products. I am really enjoying my time sewing for WFP SI and for the New Hope Academy.”

### **PROJECT TWO: NEW HOPE ACADEMY SCHOOL MINI RETAIL SHOP SERVICES**

Josephine Wane is from Guadalcanal Province, a member of WFP SI, and works as manager at a retail shop in New Hope Kindergarten and Sun Hak Primary School. She said, “I would like to thank the WFP Australia and Solomon Islands chapters for giving me this privilege and supporting me. At the same time, this store supports my family financially and contributes to the surrounding community. Working as a manager in this business has empowered me and has taken my vision of life to another level. It changed me, and I want to give the same opportunity to another family in the future, once I recover the money that I received to start this retail shop.”





**PROJECT THREE:  
NEW HOPE ACADEMY SCHOOL  
RESTAURANT SERVICE**

The purpose of this project is to benefit students, teachers and parents as well as help women provide financial support for their families. Judith Meke and Jessie Pitabelama, members of WFWP SI, expressed their pride in seeing the progress the women are making in their work. “Looking back two years ago, we didn’t have this project to empower women in small business. The fact that we are involved in a practical way is an eye-opener. We are respected by the parents of New Hope Academy. They are our first target when we prepare healthier, more balanced, local foods for our students and other guests. When we receive positive feedback from our customers, it really makes us happy and motivates us to do more.”



**PROJECT FOUR:  
PASIFIKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Pasifika Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2017 by WFWP Australia. The program is committed to providing women with opportunities to access empowering educational programs. The scholarship supports young women who are passionate about getting an education and whose beliefs and goals are aligned with the values of living for the sake of others.

On June 20, 2019, the graduation ceremony for the first Pasifika Scholarship Fund recipient, Jenny Quta Moreha’a, was held at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). After two years of full-time study, Jenny received her Diploma of Teaching in Early Childhood Education and is now working as a teacher at the New Hope Academy.

Monica Longanimala Ilana is a 2021 Pasifika Scholarship Fund recipient who is completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of the South Pacific (USP). She is also a widow with two children, “My study motivates my children to continue their schooling so that they can also achieve their own career. At times my children and I study together at home and it is really fun. I would like to fulfill my responsibility to represent the Solomon Islands society well and support the local community by providing business support with the knowledge and skills I have learned.”



**PROJECT FIVE:  
DONATED SCHOOL MATERIALS  
(BOOKS FOR THE ISLANDS)**

This project works in partnership with the WFP Australia (Victoria Chapter). The project continues to provide generous donations of school materials, books, projectors, and secondhand clothes to New Hope Academy and the National Library of Solomon Islands.

In the Solomon Islands, the lack of books in schools has been a handicap for students' reading skills. New Hope Academy School staff said that they are very fortunate to receive the supplies, which contribute to a good academic environment for both teachers and students. The students enjoy the library corner whenever they finish writing.

**PROJECT SIX:  
NEW HOPE ACADEMY SCHOOL**

Selina Galokaniki is the school principal and senior teacher of the New Hope Academy School. She sees that education is the foundation for a student's future life. New Hope Academy is growing every day to meet the educational goals of the children of Honiara, Solomon Islands. The academy has made it a standard practice to incorporate character education into its curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to



be more "heartistic" of the children they teach, and this is now part of their habit. As a result, the children have been more engaged academically, socially, physically, and emotionally in school.

In July 2019, a new primary school was built to expand access to education for young children. Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, then-president of WFWPI, attended the groundbreaking ceremony as the guest of honor. She encouraged the school staff to raise students who have a filial heart and can live to meet the desires and happiness of others. "This school will play a key role in educating future leaders who can not only contribute to a world of peace but become successful and devoted citizens of the Solomon Islands."

**PROJECT SEVEN: WFWP SI SEMINAR**

The women who participated in the WFWP Seminar held on the International Day of Families are really happy and empowered. There are many family-related problems in the Solomon Islands, and unfortunately, they are on the rise; seminars provide guidance in addressing issues related to the family.





# LIGHTING A RAY OF HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN IN NEPAL

*WFWPI Archives*



The Gorkha region of Nepal was at the epicenter of a devastating earthquake in 2015 and suffered severe damage. In 2017, WFWP Korea held a ceremony to celebrate the completion of the second New Hope School of the Nepal Construction Project.



The inauguration ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Hope School, Shree Jageshwar Higher Secondary School, was attended by 800 people, including WFWP International President Prof. Yeon Ah Moon; WFWP Korea President, Mrs. Choi Young Sun; WFWP Nepal President Mrs. Blessie Dhakal; Member of Parliament in Nepal, Hon. Eknath Dhakal; Principal Mr. Yadunath Sapkota; and local leaders and residents. Also in attendance were supporters who donated more than ten million won for the construction of the school. The new school building, for which the completion ceremony was held on the same day, is a two-story building with eight classrooms and can accommodate about 400 students.

Prof. Moon encouraged the group, saying, “Korean mothers





were very concerned to hear about the earthquake in Nepal. We hope that all the students will study diligently and grow into great leaders.”

In his congratulatory speech, Hon. Dhakal explained that the school was completed on time and according to plan, despite very difficult circumstances. He stressed that the school would be a new light for the damaged region.

The school principal, Mr. Yadunath Sapkota, welcomed with gratitude those attending: “The earthquake destroyed most houses and schools, and many people lost everything. This project is a ray of hope to all in Gorkha.”

When the earthquake struck in April 2015, WFWP chapters from around the world, including the US, Japan, and Europe,

joined together to provide emergency food supplies, blankets, clothing, tents, and other items, and to conduct emergency relief activities on the ground. Then the Korean branch of WFWP launched its “WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project for Nepal Earthquake Relief” and collected funds for six months.

WFWP Korea has promoted the “Nepal New Hope School Construction Project” as one of its support policies for sustainable development of underdeveloped countries. The first New Hope School, Lumbini School, was completed in February 2015, together with the support of WFWP Taiwan. WFWP Korea took initiative to participate in the second New Hope School and, with the support of WFWP Korea and the Unification Group, was then able to establish the third New Hope School in 2018.



New Hope Technical Institute (NHTI) in Rwanda was founded by WFP Japan. This school offers one-year technical courses in dressmaking, hairdressing, beautician skills, and culinary skills. Other courses include classes in English, French, Ethics, and Business Administration as well as a three-month internship program. The aim is for students to gain practical vocational skills to become financially independent.

During the Rwandan genocide in April 1994, more than 800,000 people were killed in 100 days. Seven months after the genocide, WFP volunteers entered Rwanda and saw the tragic and heartbreaking situation. Children whose parents had been massacred were flooding the streets.

When WFP members asked how they could help, they were asked to build a vocational training school for women and children in this poverty-stricken country. In response, they created the New Hope Technical Institute (NHTI) in 1998, where over 3,000 students have graduated.



NewHopeRwanda



newhoperwanda



Humanitarian  
Projects







# KOREA AND CAMBODIA: VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF GIVING

WFWPI Archives



WFWPI President Julia H. Moon (L),  
Yuka Takahashi, WFWP Cambodia President

In commemoration of the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War, WFWP Korea helped to build a library for the Sala Balat Primary School in Cambodia. This was part of a joint activity with the Universal Peace Federation Korea, HJ Magnolia Global Medical Foundation, Sunmoon University, Aewon, and Women’s Federation for World Peace Korea. These groups worked together and celebrated the school’s opening in Battambang in the summer of 2019.

A close relationship between Korea and Cambodia has existed for more than half a century and has deepened and expanded in diverse areas such as with politics, economics, and culture. Furthermore, Cambodia has good diplomatic ties with both North and South Korea and plays an important role in solving the conflict on the Korean Peninsula as a “bridge of peace.”

Members of WFWP Korea, along with several college students, first visited Cambodia in 2015 to volunteer and provide support





*Ribbon cutting for Sala Balat School Library, Dr. Julia Moon with H.E. Youk Bunna, Secretary of State of Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia*



for an orphanage and other charities. Since 2016, after a Sisterhood Ceremony between Cambodia and the Gyeongbukdo WFP chapter, WFP Korea has been supporting projects in Cambodia.

WFP President Dr. Julia H. Moon gave congratulatory remarks at the Sala Balat Library opening. She stated, “People were not meant to live life alone, but to live together with others in a community where we share, give and live for the sake of others, rather than in self-centered ways. That is how we can feel and receive the most happiness and true peace in our hearts.

Whenever you remember this event today, I ask and encourage you all to continue this virtuous cycle of giving to be people who care and help other people who are in need.”

With the goal of helping over 3,000 elementary, middle, and high school students, and their teachers in Cambodia, their friends in Korea were happy to support the construction of the library.

WFP Korea sincerely wishes that the children of Cambodia can become leaders who serve their country and work for world peace.

# WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS: A PIVOTAL ALLIANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

By Laura Laycock, Intern, WFWPI UN Office Vienna

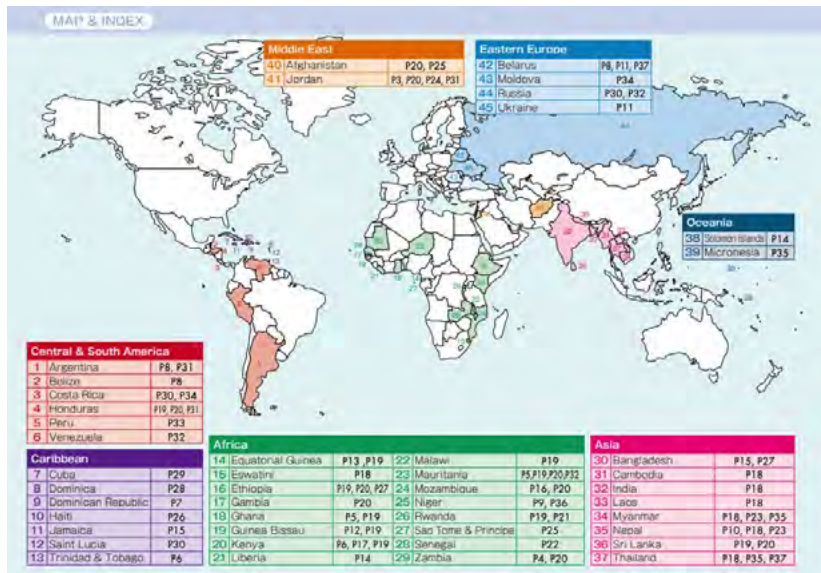


*Laura Laycock*

As an ECOSOC accredited NGO, the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) plays a significant role in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is to assimilate collective actions for sustainable development and advocate for progress.

As part of this, ECOSOC integrates with civil society through consulting and connecting with more than 2,500 registered non-governmental organizations. The general consultative status, the position granted to WFWPI, allows NGOs to fully participate within the UN system, forging a positive link between civil society and the UN governing body. Through the ECOSOC general consultative status, NGOs benefit from access to ECOSOC itself as well as its subsidiary bodies. NGOs have access to the mechanisms of the UN, attend special events hosted by the UN and General Assembly as well as host parallel events themselves. Thus, WFWPI plays an integral role in both supporting and influencing





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the UN, specifically in its execution of SDGs. SDG #5 on Gender Equality states that “ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it’s crucial for a sustainable future.”

Furthermore, where issues of gender equality are pervasive, WFWPI’s efforts are multi-pronged and therefore cover areas more broadly across all SDGs.

Offices in Geneva, Vienna, and New York focus their efforts at the UN directly in multiple areas, while WFWPI conducts over 100 service projects across 50 nations globally in the areas of education, vocational training, microcredit, AIDS prevention education, technical support, medical assistance, and nutritional guidance.

For example, a recent WFWPI campaign, the “Giving for Good Project,” was launched in

2020 to reinforce UN SDGs #12 and #13, focused on responsible consumption and production, as well as climate action. With the environment representing one of the most pressing and current issues, WFWPI’s “Giving for Good Project” was an extremely topical initiative that aimed to promote the importance of a sustainable future, specifically through the concept of sustainable and circular fashion, and therefore covers areas more broadly across all SDGs.

A 2021 report from the World Economic Forum recognized the fashion industry as the planet’s third-largest polluter, producing 5% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. This culminated in the Giving for Good auctions which focused on the importance of second-hand clothing. The auctions raised a total of more than \$200,000 since its launch in 2020 and went towards funding ten winners in the Giving for Good Climate Action Project Grant.



Projects included support for management of vocational training schools “JAM001 & JAM002” in Senegal, and the construction of a water tower and water supply facility at the General Health Centre in Madeni Tadeta Village in Niger. This formed part of WFP/UN’s support for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, initiated in 2021, to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

WFP/UN’s partnership with the United Nations entity known as UN Women provides another avenue for WFP/UN to support the implementation of SDGs. Civil society is an important component of the work of UN Women, offering a source of diverse ideas, policy viewpoints, and support networks. UN Women is a central alliance among women’s organizations for tackling gender discrimination from an intersectional framework in which no women are left behind.

Partnerships between government bodies, policymakers, civil society, grassroots organizations, and youth, are thus pivotal. For example, a key way in which UN Women engages civil society groups such as

WFP/UN is through participation in programs such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW is the annual global inter-governmental body whose focus is the promotion and protection of gender equality and women’s empowerment. The CSW involves the assembly of UN Member States, civil society organizations, and UN entities at the UN headquarters in New York to discuss progress and setbacks in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which is the fundamental UN global policy document on gender equality. In 1995, representatives from 189 countries attended the Fourth World Conference of the UN, at which the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was signed. This represented a watershed moment which focused on twelve key areas, including but not limited to: women and poverty, health, armed conflict, violence against women, human rights of women, and women in decision making.

Each year’s CSW also addresses current issues and has a priority theme for focusing discussions and creating plans of action. The theme for 2022 is “achieving gender equality



and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs.” Forums called “parallel events” are held at each CSW and are coordinated by NGOs from various regions. These parallel events help to engage grassroots activism in policymaking with the NGOs submitting written statements to the UN CSW.

For example, the theme for the CSW63 (in 2019) was “social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.” WFWPI hosted a parallel event titled, “The Family and Social Protection.” Attended by 135 guests in Manhattan, its panel of speakers included Renata Kaczmarek, UN Focal Point on the Family; Alex Vasquez, representative of the International Federation for Family Development to the UN; Shova Syawali, Director of Nepal Republic Media; and Jeanne Carroll, WFWPI UN representative.

2020 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women hosted a Civil

Society Forum. The purpose of this was to review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration through the lens of civil society and to provide recommendations for both the CSW events and the Global Beijing +25 review at the UN General Assembly. Working groups were formed to analyze each of the twelve areas outlined in the Beijing Declaration and to present their findings.

WFWPI spearheaded the Working Group on Education, Training, Mentoring and Access to Knowledge through Technology (WGoE). In this way, WFWPI was an integral part of the civil society efforts, part of the mechanism of policymaking for gender equality at the UN level.

The bipartisan alliance between WFWPI and the United Nations is key to the successful implementation of SDGs. Efforts cut across civil society, grassroots organizations, and intergovernmental levels in order to achieve the most effective and representative results.

# HISTORY OF WFWPI AND THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

*By Grace Kellett, Administrator, WFWPI Office NY*



*Grace Kellett*

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

When Reverend and Dr. Moon inaugurated WFWP in 1992, a founding purpose was to help women realize their original, God-given value and in this way become leaders alongside men to bring about a world of peace. “Starting now, we must become the model movement of true love for the whole world,” declared Dr. Moon in her speech to WFWP members in the United States the following year.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s example has shown the power of a woman embracing her value as a daughter of God, the Heavenly Parent, as a sister, a wife and ultimately as a mother to all. WFWPI has the goal of serving as an extension of Dr. Moon’s motherly, embracing presence, to help women leaders in the world see their original value and find ways to foster cooperation and healing through the pursuit of mutual and forward-looking goals.

The 1990s was a time in which the global women’s movement was gaining traction, which Rev. and Dr. Moon referred to as the “era of women.” In 1995 WFWPI, by then an officially registered UN NGO, participated in the largest conference on women in the world, the Fourth World Conference on Women, convened by the United Nations in Beijing, China. A WFWPI delegation of more than 500 women leaders from 16 nations participated in the conference. As part of the NGO Forum that took place in the neighboring city of Huairou, WFWPI organized two workshops with the theme, “True Families and the Moral Renaissance,” featuring an address by Ms. Maureen Reagan, the eldest daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

## HISTORY OF WFWPI INVOLVEMENT IN CSW

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the largest





annual UN gathering of leaders focused on the issue of gender equality and women's leadership. The 1995 Beijing Conference was a breakthrough moment for global women's movements, and WFWPI's significant presence allowed members to develop connections to both the UN CSW as well as the civil society presence organized around it. WFWPI obtained its general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1997, and WFWPI representatives continued to build upon this foundation. Under the leadership of Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama they became increasingly involved.

### **WFWPI AND NGO CSW NEW YORK, GENEVA AND VIENNA**

WFWPI representatives cultivated relationships among civil society by connecting to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the working group focused on CSW with regional branches. In NGO CSW Geneva

and NGO CSW Vienna, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin and Mrs. Elizabeth Riedl represented WFWPI. "I had been involved in NGO CSW Geneva since 1992 so as soon as we got accreditation in 1997, I began to represent WFWPI in the committee," Mrs. Handschin reflected. In that capacity, she participated in the NGO CSW Geneva Special Committee of International NGOs on Human Rights, in the working group on women and peace, and in the "Jumping the Fence" Task Force starting in 2000. Soon after, Mrs. Jeanne Carroll, WFWPI representative in New York, became a member of the NGO CSW NY as well.

Through this, WFWPI began to build a foundation of long-term trusted relationships among other NGO representatives by working together in the planning of the NGO CSW forums that run parallel to the official sessions taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York. Many NGO leaders, while often ideologically different from WFWPI,



have come to know and appreciate WFWPI representatives for the contributions they have made to the planning of the CSW NGO forums. In 2019, these relationships led to Mrs. Alexa Ward, Director of WFWPI Office for UN Relations in NY, being nominated to sit on the executive committee of NGO CSW NY. While she was not elected, later that year she was appointed as co-chair of the CSW64 NGO Forum Handbook Committee and, due to this appointment, became a member of the Organizing Committee for the CSW64 NGO Forum. Later in 2021, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, now the Director of the WFWPI Office for UN Relations, was unanimously elected to the position of president of NGO CSW Geneva.

### WFWPI AND THE NGO CSW FORUM

Starting in 2000, WFWPI representatives in New York, led by Mrs. Sugiyama, joined the annual sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women as observers. They would attend the meetings and build up contacts and connections over the course of the next few years. In 2005, once NGO CSW New York began organizing the NGO CSW Forum, WFWPI began to engage

directly in the civil society conversations taking place by organizing parallel events as part of the NGO CSW Forum. The WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New York has continued to organize events in the Forum every year since then. In doing this, WFWPI representatives continued to establish their presence among civil society and over time developed a reputation for holding events that were well organized and well attended. These events were also opportunities to cultivate connections with other civil society leaders, as co-organizers as well as speakers.

### WFWPI AND THE UN CSW

While the Forum has been beneficial for WFWPI in developing connections and fostering conversation among civil society, WFWPI has also utilized its status as an NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC to engage with global leaders within the UN during the official annual UN CSW sessions. In 2008, WFWPI began to get involved in written statements submitted to the UN Member States that sit on the UN Committee on the Status of Women. In this first year of doing so, WFWPI signed onto two joint statements alongside other ECOSOC



accredited NGOs. Over time, WFWPI began to write its own statements as well. Between 2008 and 2021, the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations submitted, individually or jointly, a total of 12 written statements.

Under Mrs. Sugiyama, WFWPI organized special events in the New York UN Headquarters, such as luncheons and “meet and greets” in the UN Delegates Dining Room. Ambassadors and other high level contacts were invited to these special events, and in this way WFWPI representatives expanded their contacts beyond the level of NGOs. These functions continued under the leadership of Mrs. Alexa Ward starting in 2013.

The WFWPI Office for UN Relations in NY has also pursued the planning of side events. Unlike parallel events, which are part of the NGO CSW Forum and can be sponsored by civil society organizations and take place outside of the official session, side events are considered part of the UN CSW. They typically take place in the UN Headquarters and are sponsored by UN Member States or UN Entities (i.e. UNICEF, IOM etc.). Through the side events, WFWPI connected to and cooperated with UN leadership on a different

level. In 2016, WFWPI representatives were invited to participate in two side events as speakers. In 2018 WFWPI successfully co-sponsored a side event with the International Organization on Migration (IOM).

WFWPI Offices for UN Relations organized a side event for the CSW66 in March 2022. The organizing committee was co-chaired by Dr. Sun Jin Moon, Senior Vice President of WFWPI, and Mrs. Carolyn Handshin.

### A GROWING INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION

As WFWPI’s presence at the annual UN CSW session grew, it began to attract an increasing number of global WFWPI leaders and high level contacts who traveled to New York to participate as part of the WFWPI delegation. From 2016 until 2019, the number of guests increased from 35 to 85, representing Asia, Europe, Japan, Korea, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Northeast, and Oceania. Additional activities were organized, including: an orientation to CSW; educational tours to the home of the Co-Founders of WFWPI, called East Garden, in upstate New York; tour to the Franklin D.





*Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, Afghan  
Institute of Learning*



*Dr. Catherine Panter-Brick,  
Yale University*



*Krista Smith, WFWP Intern*

Roosevelt Presidential Library and to the Val-Kill National Historic Site in Hyde Park, New York; as well as special networking events for young women leaders. Each year, a team of young adult staff, interns and volunteers organized and supported these activities.

### **THE HORIZON SUMMIT**

Under the leadership of former WFWPI President Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, WFWPI Offices for UN Relations were encouraged to emphasize the importance of raising up young women leaders. Mrs. Alexa Ward took this guidance to heart and, during the next CSW in 2016, WFWPI held its first intergenerational gathering dedicated to fostering peace leadership, which became known as the Horizon Summit. The Horizon Summit, co-sponsored by WFWP USA, became a popular event during the time of the annual UN CSW session. The Summit took place over a weekend, and included keynote addresses from high-level speakers, hands-on capacity-building sessions, activities and networking opportunities aimed to empower the intergenerational group of leaders. This Summit became a signature event for WFWPI during, but not part of, CSW and took place annually from 2016-2019.

### **2020 AND MOVING FORWARD**

By 2020, WFWPI's activities held at the time of CSW had grown to such an extent that preparations for that ten-day period took approximately nine months. Just days before the start of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020, the UN Secretary-General announced cancellations of virtually the entire session due to the growing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after, NGO CSW NY announced the cancellation of its NGO CSW64 Forum as well. Overnight, what had become one of the main areas of focus for the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in NY came to a halt. However, WFWPI quickly shifted to the virtual platform, and held its parallel event as a webinar later on that year.

In 2021, WFWPI continued its involvement in CSW, and the virtual nature of its activities allowed the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations in New York and Geneva to work collaboratively. For the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the UN CSW, WFWPI representatives not only wrote a statement for CSW65 as in the past, but planned and organized a virtual parallel event together, in partnership with the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP). In this event, former First





Ladies and emerging young women leaders spoke on a virtual panel together; the event was interpreted into several languages for the global audience.

Since being elected as president of NGO CSW Geneva, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin has been actively working to increase collaboration on planning of the NGO CSW Forums now that they can be held virtually, and not just in New York. Under her leadership, NGO CSW Geneva organized their first Global Youth Conference on the UN CSW66 in January of 2022, in order to foster and empower young leaders around the world to engage in discussions, learn about UN proceedings and develop recommendations to be delivered to the UN Member States at the UN CSW66 in March of 2022.

### CSW66

In 2020 and 2021, the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations in NY became increasingly engaged in the area of sustainable consumption and

the environment through supporting Dr. Sun Jin Moon in launching WFWPI’s newest signature project, “Giving For Good.” Mrs. Merly Barlaan assumed leadership of the office in February 2021, and since then they have been increasingly focused on raising up young leaders and working in the area of the environment and climate action at the UN. When the CSW66 priority theme was announced as “achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs,” the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in NY developed drafts for both WFWPI’s written statement to the CSW and a proposal for a side event. The WFWPI Offices for UN Relations in NY, Geneva and Vienna, and with input from Dr. Sun Jin Moon, submitted a written statement to CSW66 and co-sponsored a side event with Member States as well as held a youth-led parallel event for the NGO CSW66 Forum in March 2022.



## WFWPI OFFICE FOR UN RELATIONS NEW YORK ACTIVITIES

*By Grace Kellett, Administrator, WFWPI UN Office, NY*

The WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New York aligns its activities with the organization's key areas of focus, which have evolved to fit the present needs of our time.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, IVP, CAO, director (1998-2013), the focus was on poverty eradication, establishing a system to support national chapters, and contributing to the goals of the UN by partnering with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) NGO section, under the guidance of Dr. Hanifa Mezoui and Mr. Andrei Abramov, both of whom served as Chief, NGO Section, UN DESA.

During the leadership of Mrs. Alexa Ward, IVP, CAO, deputy director (2013-2021), office outreach included: (1) focusing on the annual session of the UN Commission on

the Status of Women (CSW), (2) mentoring young women through the development of an internship program and the Horizon Summit, (3) developing a partnership with Culture of Peace, with Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, former UN Under Secretary-General, (4) partnering with the Early Childhood Peace Consortium, with Dr. Rima Salah, former UN Assistant Secretary-General, and (5) partnering with the UN African Mother's Association, with Madame Terese Tommo, president.

Mrs. Merly Barlaan, IVP, CAO, deputy director (2021-present), is now focusing the office's energy on bridging divides, raising young peace-loving global leaders, and climate initiatives.

## **BRIDGING DIVIDES**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, famously stated that peace is not only the absence of war, but it is the creation of the conditions of harmony in the way people live with each other to prevent conflict. This represents a core value of WFWPI, which is to bridge gaps between differences. Only in bridging divides can we work together in pursuit of a better world.

## **INTERGENERATIONAL COOPERATION**

While the UN continues to pursue its founding purpose to end the scourge of war, there is always the risk of losing progress without the presence of intergenerational cooperation and new perspectives and ideas.

In order to commemorate the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Charter and to reinvigorate the UN's founding spirit, WFWPI and the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) organized a virtual forum on the topic of "The UN Dream: Intergenerational Cooperation and our Journey to Peace," held on October 22, 2021. The forum was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York. This forum included both older and younger generations exchanging their inspiration and wisdom. They discussed challenges and hopes for peace. The forum was created to provide an embracing platform where people could feel optimism for the future and once again strive together towards achieving the "the UN dream."

Dr. Rima Salah, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered

an empowering keynote address on the transformative potential of intergenerational cooperation on world peace. She began by sharing how her motivation for building a world of peace was largely shaped by her childhood as a refugee. She emphasized the role each individual plays in the effort for peace, saying, "It is the strength of our partnership, adults and youth, that will shape the peace and direction of the progress we make so that the UN delivers on the goals and values of the Charter. It is our shared responsibility. The time is now."

## **RAISING YOUNG PEACE-LOVING GLOBAL LEADERS, UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. WFWPI has developed its presence in NGO CSW NY and the annual UN CSW session. WFWPI has organized events and welcomed hundreds of leaders and guests worldwide to participate in side events, parallel events, luncheons and dinners during the annual CSW sessions, and has had a total of 43 intergenerational UN representatives who worked at NGO CSW New York from 2003-2021.

In 2021, WFWPI and the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) co-sponsored a CSW65 Virtual Parallel Event titled "First Ladies and Emerging Leaders: An Intergenerational Dialogue: The Journey of 1325 and Women's Leadership." After decades of peace and reconciliation efforts in the Middle East and other zones of conflict, WFWPI proposed this virtual parallel event





as an intergenerational dialogue between First Ladies and emerging leaders from different regions, walks of life and cultures.

“The Journey of 1325” refers to UN resolution 1325, which affirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict. WFWPI’s parallel event also focused on women’s leadership in protecting rights and delivering justice through mutual cooperation. Key speakers for the event included Mme. Callista Jennie Mutharika, First Lady, Republic of Malawi (2010-2012); Hon. Mme. Maria Fernanda Flores de Aleman, First Lady, Republic of Nicaragua (1997-2002); Mme. Fionnuala Kenny, spouse of Prime Minister, Republic of Ireland (2011-2017); and Mme. Mammusa ‘Masekoalane Majoro, spouse of Prime Minister, Kingdom of Lesotho.

The emerging leaders were Amanda Bradley, a legal service team assistant at Davis Polk Wardwell, New York City; Jungsoo Moon, a first-year master’s student studying Public Policy and International Relations at the University of Tokyo; and Sruthi Lekha, a UN representative at the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in Geneva.

Dr. Sun Jin Moon, Sr. Vice President of WFWPI, shared her heartfelt message to the audience during the opening address saying, “It is our hope that here, in the presence of these prestigious global women leaders and peace-loving global citizens, we can unite in a rich culture of virtue, higher consciousness, love of family, country and faith, where the seeds of peace can flourish and give new life and hope to the world, and especially to our global sisterhood of women and girls.”

## **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Mentoring young women leaders has been at the heart of WFWPI’s work. A total of 27 interns were mentored from 2013 to 2021.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the WFWPI Office for UN Relations NY continued to develop an internship program and took on two groups of interns in 2021—one in the summer and one in December.

The summer interns conducted research in one of the office’s six areas of focus and developed an analysis paper for each area. In addition, they created messaging in the form of infographics, articles, or documentary screenings. In both groups, some were involved in an optional weekly study of the maternal leadership paradigm of WFWPI’s co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and gained deeper insight into the teachings and perspectives of the organization. The internships concluded with reflection papers in which they integrated what they had learned about WFWPI and its areas of focus to offer recommendations for moving forward.

The interns that joined in December focused on the WFWPI UN Office in NY’s Annual Fundraising Campaign, as well as the Giving for Good International social media campaign and the capacity-building projects. Interns also attended bi-weekly joint UN Offices reporting meetings and had the option to join capacity building sessions, in which long-time members of the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations taught about working at the UN.

## **CLIMATE ACTION, GIVING FOR GOOD**

The climate is a global concern affecting the





*L-R: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Alexa Ward, UN NY Office, Lynn Walsh, UPF NY*

lives of the most vulnerable people, including women and children. Giving for Good International (GFGI) is a signature project of WFWPI established in 2020 for the purpose of promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) #12: Sustainable Production and Consumption; and #13: Climate Action, through circular fashion. GFGI promotes circular fashion as a sustainable lifestyle to prevent nonbiodegradable clothing materials from ending up in landfills.

We believe anyone can contribute to circular fashion, whether by choosing to donate clothes to charity, buying second-hand, or reusing old jeans to create a reusable tote, for example. People can get very creative with ways to reuse materials and transform the culture of buying new things to being more mindful of environmental effects. In this way, GFGI hopes to raise responsible citizens who are heartistically connected to the world through our motto: “Earth, Our Home. All Life, Our Family.”

In 2021, the GFGI Climate Action Grant distributed \$40,000 to 13 countries. These countries developed climate action-related projects that are unique to the needs of their communities.

Some of the creative project ideas include tree planting activities (Burkina Faso & Zambia); responsible consumption education in schools (Ghana); combating chemical waste in water sources (Cameroon & Brazil); reusing old tires to build a community park (Paraguay); providing solar lamps to families in need (Mali, Soweto & Kenya); and education on permaculture (Philippines).

In Albania, young women were given a chance to participate in an environmental speech contest. The prize included a scholarship which helped young women to further pursue their education. In addition, Albania held educational workshops in schools and launched a social media campaign to teach people how to reuse, recycle and reduce.

In Limpopo, South Africa, mothers are being educated on the harmful effects of disposable diapers on the environment. GFGI funded the education and production of reusable cloth diapers.

WFWPI’s desire is to continue expanding GFGI and to further promote and fund environmental projects that contribute to the UN SDGs.



## WFWPI AT THE UN GENEVA: A SHORT HISTORY

*By Carolyn Handschin, Director, WFWPI Office for UN Relations, Geneva*



*Carolyn Handschin*

This is a story threading through the lives of remarkable women who have enabled the work of WFWPI at the United Nations in Geneva, captured through the personal lens of someone who had the incredible honor of being there from the beginning.

Even before WFWP held its magnificent inaugural meeting at the stadium in Korea in 1992, the word was out that a new organization was envisioned—a network to gather, guide, and mobilize for the Age of Women. Almost from one day to the next, my focus during that time shifted from university students to women leaders, with whom I felt little in common at the time. I decided to find like-minded women’s organizations and attend their meetings.

Within months, and to my great surprise, two prominent Geneva women invited me into their (very different) inner circles, which over time, opened many doors and provided valuable experience. One led the main left-leaning women’s political organization, and the other was head of the Geneva Parliament, but also president of a conservative organization that promoted and defended mothers at the UN. Both had amazing dedication to women’s empowerment and rights. I drafted statements for both organizations for the Human Rights Commission

and participated in preparatory meetings for the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and later, the Beijing World Conference on Women, always anticipating the day when WFWP would receive its consultative status.

Global tours and international leadership conferences of Mother and Father Moon always provided an opportunity to reach out to key leaders at the UN. It was astonishing how the themes could reach the most high-ranking personalities each time, seeming to reflect their deepest concerns at that moment. Creating a “United Nations” was God’s idea, and many of the people whose lives were dedicated as public servants at the UN sensed that.

During an early speaking tour to reconcile WWII enemy nations, I approached Mrs. Sadako Ogata, then High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, aware of her righteous mind and concern for the vulnerable. Appreciating the role of Japan in initiating the events, she prepared a statement. Soon after that, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, who was traveling with Mother Moon on that tour, invited me to join the newly created UN team.

The human rights debates in which WFWP participated over the years called for much research and preparation. But more importantly, there was the struggle to represent and defend the stance of WFWP in the UN language. The many dozens of statements and other formal communications submitted to UN bodies, especially to the Human Rights Commission (later changed to “Human Rights Council”) had to be carefully crafted. Unlike many NGOs who focus on just a few areas, there were many dimensions to “peace” and, with deep reflection, it was clear that WFWP could contribute meaningfully to almost any issue.

I discovered the art of negotiation and how, in vigilantly defending one’s most important positions, it was sometimes necessary to carefully let go of other positions to maintain a consensus. That process came naturally for me as I represented WFWP, and over the years was invited to provide training on consensus and coalition-building.

I remember clearly one Egyptian ambassador who I thanked after we spoke together on a panel on the theme of child soldiers. She confided in me that it isn’t possible to know all the details of the issues that are addressed daily except by doing your homework before each meeting. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said to women aspiring to penetrate the glass ceiling, “Don’t pretend you know everything; you’ll surely get into trouble, but what you should know, know well!”

One of our early issues was disarmament. Working on that committee connected me with several significant women. The head of the UN Institute on Disarmament Research was a brilliant nuclear scientist who was always willing to meet with us and find a way to connect women’s issues to disarmament. She would quote from Winnie the Pooh at formal meetings with almost all male ambassadors. I learned from her to dare to follow intuition, even if there was no precedent.

Although I had eager and generous local support from WFWP, the WFWP UN mission in Geneva often required a pioneering spirit. I decided to invite youth and students to participate in the Human Rights Council sessions three times a year and began developing a series of lectures—training courses involving live diplomacy-related experiences. Several European universities sent students for this program and formal contracts were



signed. Since then, over forty young women and men have participated, some dramatically altering their career choices through the experiences.

Often asked who gave me my mission, my answer is “I claimed it.” Soon after I arrived in Switzerland in 1987 to join my husband, I was encouraged by the leader of our church, Liselotte Perrottet, to engage with the international organizations based in Geneva.

Although I could have easily dismissed his suggestion, I chose to take it as a direction, a mission, and held onto it over the years. My friend Lisollette would sometimes accompany me to government meetings but finally said one day, “I am too impatient with these diplomats.” I saw something completely different, sensing the righteous will and serious concern of so many that were there, leaving me full of expectation each time I entered the premises. The first time I delivered a statement (on landmines) to over 350 diplomats in the stately chambers of the Human Rights Council, I recalled a childhood dream in which I spoke to what seemed to be the same audience, and in the same room.

Since 1993 with my work with the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW), I have met amazing women who valued the efforts of WFP and opened many doors. One two-term president of the committee was Conchita Poncini, a renowned personality in the UN halls for her willful defense of women’s access to decision-making. At a time when WFP was still misunderstood, she publicly insisted that she wanted me on her executive team. We worked in her home, exchanging strategic ideas, drafting statements, and preparing events and letters until she got very sick. She passed away the night before

Father Moon spoke at the UN in Geneva. She had tried to reach me in the middle of the night, with his autobiography near her bedside.

I can never forget my experiences during one of the visits of the WFP Co-Founders, which culminated in a speech in one of the most dignified large chambers at the United Nations. There were many seemingly insurmountable obstacles in regard to the protocol that we were requesting.

That long-awaited day when both Father and Mother Moon were driven through the gates like heads of state, I stood there with the nervous security guards to welcome them. I felt a reassured calm to see their smiling faces in the back seat. It felt like they were coming home to my home, which was their appointed home in God’s eyes.

The hall was full, with many friends and colleagues from Geneva, Europe, and beyond. It was again a very remarkable woman who played a critical role. Father Moon sat there on stage alone at the long table, as he requested, speaking freely and with great animation for several hours as if he was with closest friends and family in his living room. The NGO Liaison Director kept nervously asking my husband, Heiner, why he wasn’t reading his speech, even threatening to stop the event. Mother Moon was eventually informed, and she so graciously went up on the stage and sat next to her husband. She picked up his speech and began reading. There was no sense of disunity, rather a beautiful harmony, even as he several times interjected with a few thoughts and smiles to the prepared speech. It was as if it was meant to be.

Another important woman was the former Director of UNESCO in Geneva, formerly





*Carolyn Handschin (R)*

head of the UNESCO Women and Culture of Peace Program in Paris. Her profound insights into aspects of the culture of peace aided WFP in the writing of statements and clarifying our advocacy points. While I was the liaison of the Working Group on Peace, she arranged a meeting for me with the Director of Strategic Development at UNESCO Paris, which led to his contributions to one of the Middle East Women (MEW) conferences at the UN in Geneva.

The opportunities that arose due to the WFP Middle East Women (MEW) conferences cannot be overstated. Each time that Mrs. Kobayashi, secretary-general for the MEW, asked if we could hold the annual event at the UN in Geneva, my heart raced because I knew the pressure as well as the benefits it would bring. In response to my invitations and visits to the governments of the Middle East and other UN entities, I often received invitations in return, including one to a luncheon with the First Lady of Egypt. She was very interested in our conference series with women at the center and sent a video message. This led to the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the CEDAW President; President of the Human Rights Commission; and others to accept as speakers at the Geneva annual UN event. A live broadcast was made by the Egyptian News network.



Other exceptional woman leaders such as the Director of the UN University for Peace in Geneva, the head of an important department of the International Federation of Red Cross, and Red Crescent came in at important moments when WFP organized events at the UN, or welcomed the Co-Founders during speaking tours. The issues on which we focused often coincided with their central line of work. But beyond the issues were the unexpected, precious opportunities to discover truly great women who would open their hearts to another woman who seemed to come “in peace.” I have been humbled over and over again, aware that it was not me or the others in our group, but it was who and what we represented that allowed for such exchanges of mind and heart.

The wife of the very popular UN Geneva Director-General Vladimir Petrovsky once invited me for tea and a memorable conversation in her home within the UN premises. Her husband was impressed by the vision of WFP and our affiliated organizations. He became very friendly, and once came to the stage from the audience, lending his support to a significant event we co-sponsored, celebrating the International Day of Peace.

The vision of our mandate and its timing takes us to places and people that we could never imagine. WFP was able to co-author many statements, present critical ideas



in debates, quote WFP projects as best practices, and contribute to the wording of important UN resolutions. We were also able to connect people who could represent the issues that we were defending through the lens of women's leadership and human rights, including conflict prevention and resolution, reconciliation, access to education, decent work, safe cities, elimination of violence against women and human trafficking, FGM (female genital mutilation), protection of the family, environmental issues, migration, trade, and many more. The teams we built advocated for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, interpreting the sacred vision with its corresponding responsibilities. Our enthusiasm surged each time we heard the WFP Co-Founders refer to and clarify those concepts.

WFP has had many allies and friends who stood up courageously in times of misunderstanding. Dr. Yvonne von Stedingk was one of those, a Swedish baroness who worked side by side with me over seven years. She held the UN badge for WFP after stepping down from her important Human Rights post at the Council of Europe. We spent many hours strategizing about how to better represent our issues. She encouraged me to deepen my reflection and formulate better wording for reports and statements. She was my strong defender when I ran for vice president of the NGO CSW and received strong criticism when standing up on behalf

of WFP's Co-Founders.

In 2021, I was invited to run for president of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the UN in Geneva, which I had to think about very deeply. With the blessing of our International President Dr. Julia Moon and Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon I campaigned on the theme that women in leadership need to create a platform that stimulates greater solidarity and mutual support. Each committee member who represents an international NGO has valuable expertise and experience covering a broad spectrum of human rights issues. Our strength and ability to support the work of the UN, which is our mandate, will be through listening to one another and moving forward together on critical issues.

I was very aware of how closely this reflected the words delivered to WFP in 2012 in Father Moon's last public speech when he urged attendees to "work together with like-minded women leaders and organizations to influence governance on priority issues." To my great surprise, I was unanimously elected in 2021 as president, NGO Committee for CSW, for a term of three years. Even a former opponent who had instigated false rumors about WFP, congratulated me; she now makes effort to support our agenda. A new chapter of our work is beginning, with tremendous opportunity and expectation.



## AMR INNOVATION EXPO OPENED IN THE UN HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA

*WFWPI Archives*

In 2007, WFWP submitted three success stories at the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) Innovation Expo in Geneva, focusing on contributions to the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). One focused on WFWP's service to and prevention of poverty for single persons. Two other success stories were from WFWP in Kenya and England. These stories were posted on the ECOSOC's Innovation Expo blog. WFWP was invited to discuss them at the Expo during ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), Geneva from July 2-5.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited the Innovation Expo before the opening speech on the first day of ECOSOC's senior-ranking officers' conference and his first visit was to the WFWP booth. There he stated, "The UN can only operate if its partners cooperate. The UN and private social groups need to have closer cooperation since each

has its own independent role and each already makes a great contribution."

NGOs are registered as advisory organizations to ECOSOC, but NGOs can only attend the ECOSOC conference as observers. They can discuss and participate only with a paper or in a speech. However, by being part of the AMR Innovation Expo, we strongly felt that we were contributing to it as one family to achieve the MDGs. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon wrote that "we are acting as one family" in his report of expansion in the cooperation between NGOs and the UN. Thus, if the AMR Innovation Expo is established as an annual event, it will become a milestone for the NGO's participation in the ECOSOC's Annual Substantive Session.



## WFWP UN VIENNA OFFICE

*By Ritvania Barrica, Intern, WFWPI UN Office, Vienna*

Women's Federation for World Peace, founded in 1992 in the Republic of Korea, is an organization that is united globally and is now in over 100 countries. From May 1997 WFWP has been a NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the UN and contributes to the work and global mission of the United Nations.

Currently, the UN Office in Vienna is focused in the following areas: Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention; Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; Education, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development Goals; Migration and Intercultural Harmony; and Peace and Disarmament. WFWP Vienna

office is regularly participating at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) events and collaborates with UNODC's mission, which is centered on the contribution to global peace and security, and human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism.

Our Vienna office is also collaborating in thematic discussions with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) that was established by the Economic and Social Council to assist in supervising the application of international drug control treaties.





The Vienna office also works with the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. This includes improving international actions to combat national and transnational crimes.

### **DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meets annually and implements decisions and resolutions. Inter-sessional meetings of the CND are regularly organized to create policy guidance to UNODC. The annual

session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs was organized and hosted from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at the Vienna International Center, marking its 63<sup>rd</sup> CND session with participants from over 137 countries. The CND session involved discussions of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world, and stressed how lockdowns led to the development of new patterns of illicit drug use.

Another topic was related to the CND's commitment to international cooperation and initiatives of the United Nations, including realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**CRIME PREVENTION AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) holds annual meetings, and in 2021 the topic was: “Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children.” Participants also expressed deep concern about crime, as it is becoming increasingly transnational, organized, and complex. Criminals are exploiting new and emerging technologies,

including the internet, to carry out their illicit activities.

On May 17, 2021, WFP/UN Office in collaboration with the Earth Foundation and government representatives from the Philippines and Kenya hosted one event for the 30<sup>th</sup> Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. WFP/UN Office chose to present the topic: “New Village Development to Counter Involuntary Migration and the Smuggling of Migrants.”



**EDUCATION AND SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE PREVENTION**

According to the latest report on Cocaine Insights, developed by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the increasingly globalized, interconnected, digitalized and technologically sophisticated nature of society can potentially accelerate the expansion of cocaine markets. For this reason, the recent thematic discussion of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs revealed

that breakdown and instability within families are the main reasons behind the choice of many young people to turn to illegal activities and violent practices.

For this reason, it is necessary to create a sufficient family support system that can increase the possibility of developing healthy moral values, and offer training programs to help interrupt the cycle of violence and criminality.



# The 66<sup>th</sup> UN DPI/NGO Conference

May 30 - June 1, 2016 | Gyeongju, Republic of Korea



## ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TOGETHER

*By Helen Clerbout-Bressers, Youth Representative, WFPW Netherlands*



*Helen  
Clerbout-Bressers*

In May 2016 I had the honor to be part of the 66<sup>th</sup> UN DPI/NGO Conference in Gyeongju, Korea. Together with six young women and two elders, we represented the European WFPW delegation. It was a very impressive and big event, with representatives from organizations around the world. We discussed and shared a lot about how to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As representatives of WFPW, I felt we could play an important role in sharing our vision for women's rights, equality, and responsibility. We also took part in some activities and discussions organized by the young generation at the event. There was a great spirit and we could make contacts with similar-minded people. Though it was a very tight schedule and a lot of activities, I am really grateful that I could take part in this important event.

The yearly UN DPI NGO conference is a place where people from around the world come together to inspire, discuss and create partnerships in order to achieve the developmental goals of the UN. The 66<sup>th</sup> conference was the first one held in Asia and had the largest youth attendance since its establishment. In total there were about 2,500 representatives from NGOs all around the world. WFPW was represented by around 85 members.





*WFWPI European delegation, UN DPI/NGO Conference, Gyeongju, Korea 2016*

The conference took place from May 30 to June 2, 2016, and started with the opening session in which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gave his welcoming remarks. This was followed by a beautiful performance of an orchestra by youth with disabilities and a famous Korean K-pop singer who sang the Korean song “Arirang.” The rest of the program consisted of roundtable discussions and workshops on different topics, varying from climate change to humanitarian aid. For the youth, there were extra gatherings to discuss important social and environmental issues. Furthermore, all participating NGOs could share their work and knowledge in displays set up in the exposition hall.

The theme of the conference was “Educating for Global Citizenship—Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together.”

Some highlight on this theme were:

- *Education as a means to end poverty and extremism* by stimulating socioeconomic development and offering opportunities to young people: “When you give education to youth who have been fighting, they drop their guns.” (Mr. Alhendawi) Only about 2% of humanitarian aid worldwide goes to education. Education also creates global citizens who can respect and care for each other and the environment (sustainability). It is the key to achieving a common vision that promotes peace.
- *Quality education*; the question is not only how do we educate, but “What to learn and to learn for what?” (Dr. Park) Education should be about good ethics and serving others (Ms. Gross), and it should motivate people to appreciate themselves and others, not only to get a job (Mrs. Mayanja).



- *Education should include everyone:* the disabled as well as the poor in rural areas. Ban Ki-moon said, “We should raise a feeling of belonging in schools, no matter what background—cultural, religious, or gender.” For example, in Kenya, girls don’t go to school when having their period.
- *Intergenerational:* youth were praised at the conference as hope for the future and “a major force for change,” but they should not only operate through passion; they also need compassion (Ban Ki-moon). Another speaker also explained the importance of “asking the elder generation about the past,” because the elder generation is “the source of information, continuity, and identity.”
- *Korea as an example for the world:* through education, Korea went from a developing

country to a prosperous economy, not by bringing resources, but by “changing people”; the key problem is always the mindset. The Korean tradition teaches to listen to the elders and to work hard. However, since the 1990s there is a lot of competition among university students, causing them lose focus on family and “lose their rich tradition and values,” said one Korean participant.



**SUMMARIES OF TWO  
CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**  
*By Helen Clerbout-Bressers*

**Youth Employment and Unemployment:**

In this workshop, Eunhee Jung, founder of IVECA Virtual Schooling, shared her experiences as a social entrepreneur. She explained the value of children interacting with students from other countries through virtual classrooms. This helps them to understand, respect, and care more for people from around the world. Eventually, they can become global citizens. The conclusion of the Youth Caucus was that the Sustainable Developmental Goals should become a way of life and that “no one should be left behind.”

**Religious Education as a Means to  
Counter Extremism:**

The notion of religious education in schools is controversial because religion can be misused. However, history has been profoundly affected by religion, and religion still influences much of human behavior (i.e. voting). Good religious education should teach about the core values of all religions which give meaning to life, such as living for a greater purpose and caring for the dignity of others. Speaker Scott Stewart mentioned that through religious education we learn “the universal among the particular” and that it is a tool to develop the heart and serve the purpose of the whole. Furthermore, religious education should empower our critical thinking. To conclude, we should not only teach about religion but also show it through our actions.





# TURNING IDEAS INTO PARTNERSHIPS

*By Elizabeth Janssen-Giuliano, Secretary, WFP Netherlands*



*Elizabeth Janssen-Giuliano*

*The 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), United Nations HQ New York “Empowering Rural Women and Girls.” March 12 - 23, 2018*

“Women are agents of change,” I heard while sitting in a completely full meeting room at the CSW62. It was my first day at the UN. Women were flooding the halls, talking to each other, exchanging cards, and taking selfies as I ran out to head for the next side event.

CSW is a place where women from all over the globe find common ground; women of different religions, races, and ideologies can share experiences, and get inspired to be the best they can be in their advocacy towards women, their rights, and equality. My experience with WFP representatives in that setting has been nothing but positively overwhelming.

Statements heard throughout the two weeks were closely related to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



*WFWP delegates to CSW 62*



*Elizabeth Janssen-Giuliano with her husband  
and baby*

as key to the pursuit of equality. The focus was on looking at equality not as an isolated goal, but perceiving the whole agenda from a feminine point of view. Several countries have, in this matter, pointed out the need for a framework that tackles both personal and structural issues blocking women's progress.

Actions and best practices were presented by various countries, but the reality was (and if the halls could talk would say) that many social and cultural issues prevent progress. For example, in many communities there is distrust in public institutions, which often prevents female victims of violence from speaking up. Other issues include child marriage, poverty, education and others, which have an effect in almost every single part of the world. An eye-opener for me was Iceland, for instance, that has one of Europe's highest levels of reported rapes—about 30% of women aged 18 to 80. And these numbers don't include issues faced by female immigrants, including legal barriers, prejudice, and social disparities that make them more vulnerable to violence, causing them to remain silent about it.

At this point in the conference, I wondered, "How can these situations improve?" It has been shown that, unfortunately, governments by themselves have not been successful.

This is why NGOs and civil society are needed. CSW has been an effective means for facilitating, and not just explaining, the biggest issues affecting women. The commission also has the purpose of empowering NGO and civil society activists, helping them to create partnerships. In this effort, for example, Switzerland adopted a sustainable development strategy from 2016-2019 based on UN SDGs, together with representatives from civil society and government, which has been successful.

The fact that women from all around the world can meet in the halls of the UN and fervently share their work shows the power of networking. To have a common place where your ideas are welcome, where there is meaningful dialogue, and where each person can be inspired has become a starting point for partnerships and actions.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> CSW showed me how a group of women with similar mindsets can advocate for positive change. Listening to women leaders discussing their struggles and sharing their knowledge, we as young WFWP delegates could imagine what we might accomplish in the future. It was then that I knew I was facing a springtime of possibilities.

# BEIJING 2005: THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

*WFWP USA Archives*



The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995 was considered a milestone in international efforts to improve the status of women and achieve gender equality worldwide.

In observance of the tenth anniversary of that conference, the Preparatory Committee for the Goodwill Exchange for Peace co-hosted a gathering with WFWPI in Beijing from August 17-22, 2005. Approximately 450 women from 25 countries attended. Many participants had traveled for up to fourteen hours, arriving with open hearts and arms, not knowing what to expect but ready to embrace the experience and the people. Each felt excited to attend and believed that the exchange would help alleviate international

tensions and advance peace. Several points emerged throughout the stay: a sense of gratitude for the chance to gather; gratitude for the stimulation and interaction with each other; and gratitude for the vision of Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon that made such an event possible.

On the first evening, the host committee presented guests with a delicious meal followed by a stunning acrobatic performance. Those in attendance felt warmly welcomed and awed by the skill and balance of the performers.

## **SISTERHOOD CEREMONY**

On the evening of August 19<sup>th</sup>, the women participated in an International Sisterhood





*Chinese performers with American guests*

Ceremony with the Chinese women. Many were moved to tears upon meeting each other. Professor Daphne Benyard of New Jersey said, “These relationships will be like a royal carpet to pave the way to world peace.” Remarks were made by Dr. Lan Young Moon, WFWPI President; Mrs. Alexa Ward, WFWP USA President; Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki, Chairwoman of WFWP Japan; and Mrs. Gum Sook Pak, President of the Oriental Peaceful Ideal Family League, representing Korea, America, Japan and China.

### **SISTER-TO-SISTER INTERACTION**

The sister-to-sister interactions that took place at the ceremony allowed the women to form a special heart connection, allowing

them a precious experience of meeting women from all over the world and enjoying the presence of bright, kind and loving sisters.

Ms. Nin Sharyn Bebeau shares, “I have never had an experience even similar to this. Every time I stepped outside myself, I realized I was laughing with a group of women from different countries, races and nationalities. Most of the time I was just aware of having fun with my friends.”

### **EXPERIENCES RELATING TO PARTICIPANTS’ CHINESE ANCESTRY**

While touring the area, WFWP Chicago representative Carrie Tonkumoh entered a



teepee in a folk village and felt connected at that moment with her ancestors from Mongolia. She also shared, “Beijing is a gift that I will carry for the rest of my life. Most people understand their eternal line of family in the afterlife...a feeling of never belonging left me. I felt my roots are here. And my heart sings for my ancestors’ joy to be reunited.”

New Jersey Professor Win Win Kyi wrote about her heritage stating, “China, Who are you? What are you? To me you are the magnificent land of my paternal ancestry. I am told that I am 2.5 percent Chinese. To me you are 2.5 times a thousand more precious to me, and now I have walked on your magnificent land, breathed your air, and eaten your food. For this, I am eternally

grateful.”

**FINAL EVENING**

On their final evening together, WFWPI representatives heard presentations from women of China, arranged by Kathy Hwang, director of UPI Press Service for Asia, who had lived with her husband and children in China for 20 years. Alice Huang spoke of her work in Beijing with International Educational Foundation for seven years; Mei Zi Jin explained why she was inspired to focus on marriage and family issues for the Heilong-jiang provincial government; and Professor W. Yang of Beijing Union University shared her long experience and insights about Chinese society and education. The panel conveyed deep concern for China





and its people and called for the women to pray for China to move in God’s direction to end the moral collapse and suffering of youth, increasing divorce rate, and other challenges. The trip to China was described by participants as a blessing as well as an adventure of “living by the logic of love.”

Alexa Ward shared how their time together was a taste of the world family in reality and that WFP is where American women meet the world.

Much gratitude must be expressed to the leadership and efforts of the WFP USA staff in Bridgeport, Connecticut, including Jennifer Ang, administrative director, and Esther Teo, summer intern, who spent two months organizing this trip, as well as Grace

Lee, a WFP USA volunteer who joined the trip to assist as a staff member. Many thanks as well to the women who assisted during the trip, including Sheri Reuter, Caroline Betancourt, Tomiko Nojima, Kathy Hwang, Grace Lee, Beth Deshotel, and WFP USA’s special advisor, Norma Foster. Each sister parted ways, returning with the feeling of being enriched and united as the WFP that would create a legacy of God’s love and peace for the world.







## WFWPI REMEMBERS BEIJING 1995

*By Tamara Starr, Multimedia Journalist and UX/UI Designer*

*In 1995, a delegation of more than 500 women leaders from 16 nations represented Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) at the historic Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing, where approximately 17,000 women gathered. Some of the WFWPI attendees were interviewed for this article.*

WFWPI organized two workshops with the theme, "True Families and the Moral Renaissance." Ms. Maureen Reagan, daughter of US President Ronald Reagan, had come to know and respect the Co-Founders of WFWPI and strongly agreed with the organization's family-centered mission and gave the keynote address at WFWPI's conference in Beijing.

In her message, Ms. Reagan said, "We are builders of our communities and peacemakers

on a daily basis. Ask any mother about the art of family peace and you will receive a lecture in compassion and psychology to rival any course in a university. Family values is not an abstract notion; it is the real day-to-day workings of a family unit. Each family unit is a group of individual human beings with their own particular experiences. The dreams, goals, and ambitions of each of those family members are important," concluded Ms. Reagan.

Dr. Lan Young Moon, then-president of WFWPI, shared her reflections: "Through participating in the 1995 conference, members of WFWPI learned about the value of supporting the work of the United Nations as an NGO and applied for status with ECOSOC. WFWPI has been active in the UN as an NGO in general consultative status



with ECOSOC since 1997.”

Betsy Jones was the USA WFP vice-chairwoman for the USA. For her, it was inspiring to see thousands of women from all parts of the world. “This event seemed like a whole new level for women, and it was very exciting to see WFP at the core of it,” Mrs. Jones said. “I felt proud to bring the core values of WFP to the international table. We had a very important message to share about family values and the sanctity of marriage, and to take those core values to a world level was just very exciting to see.”

WFP Colorado Chairwoman Shirley Chimes had personal experiences assisting Ms. Reagan at the conference. She reflected,

“All in all, it was a memorable experience for me to learn firsthand that women’s issues everywhere are basically the same. When women get together to bridge their differences and make a contribution to society, there is a lot of hope for the future.”

Nora Spurgin, then-president of WFP USA, stated that she was amazed by the number of activities during the world summit. “Hundreds of programs, workshops and seminars were scheduled all day, every day, throughout the eight days,” she said. As they left Beijing, she remembered thinking that their experiences would “live on as a reference point, an important time when women’s voices mingled with one another on the world level.”





## FOOTSTEPS OF THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*By Yu Sato, Youth Department, WFWP Japan*

Women in the Middle East have not historically been encouraged to speak freely in public forums. But in 1997, at the invitation of WFWP Japan, influential women leaders from Middle Eastern countries gathered in Istanbul, Turkey. This was the first Middle East Peace Women's Conference (MEW) held under the theme of "Women and the Future of the Middle East." The Executive Office of the conference consisted of Dr. Zoe Bennett, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Mrs. Hisae Kobayashi, and Mrs. Kazuko Kato, who were responsible for planning and managing the event.

The plane tickets and accommodations were provided by the organizers, but each participant was asked to pay a registration fee of US \$200 as a means of contributing to the conference. Those who came to the later conferences were asked to cover their flights.

Organizers stated, "When we held the first conference, we didn't expect it to last for 26 years. But by 2021 we knew for certain we had made the right choice in starting this conference."

Participants from countries with a history of conflict, separation, and conquest, such as Israel and Palestine, Cyprus and Greece and Turkey, and Kuwait and Iraq, had a rare chance to sit together and exchange straightforward opinions in these forums. Of course, because women from hostile countries were gathered together, at times feuds were inevitable. However, in each case, the results led to mutual understanding beyond anger, and were amazing. As one participant said, "Peace in the Middle East is not easy, but it will lead to peace in the world."





During the 9<sup>th</sup> conference, H.E. Mrs. In'am Al-Mufti, a refugee to Jordan from Palestine who served as Jordan's Minister of Social Development, met with Mrs. Judith Karp, Israeli former Deputy Attorney General. Mrs. Al-Mufti said later, "It's the first time that I met a Jewish person with whom I did not feel angry." Mrs. Karp also expressed her joy at meeting women from Palestine and neighboring countries, people she could not meet before, and to feel welcomed as a member of the family. She was also impressed to learn that Japan and Korea, which were historically in conflict, jointly ran the conference.

During the 21<sup>st</sup> conference, a participant from Israel expressed her thought, "For me, in this region which still suffers war, violence, and inequality, this conference is the guide to peace. As its participants, we

are the core network for peace. I believe that by healing our broken hearts and gradually spinning them together we can weave the whole cloth called peace. I feel that we must first become one, and through that, we can be the starting point for peace."

Other memorable moments included the presentations of Dr. Lan Young Moon, former WFPW International president, who tearfully recounted painful experiences during the Korean War and how her heart changed by forgiving her enemies. Heartfelt bonds of friendship developed during the conference through women who were seeking reconciliation rather than conflict.

The United Nations has also shown interest in these conferences by sending several representatives. At the end of the conference participants created a statement to be



submitted to the United Nations. The first one was created during the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference when Dr. Hanifa Mezoui of ECOSOC led the adoption of the “Nicosia Declaration” and took the document with her to submit to her agency. At the 22<sup>nd</sup> conference participants wrote a proposal addressed to the president of the UN Security Council, which the director of the WFP UN Office delivered to him personally in New York.

WFP wanted more women leaders to have the experience of these conferences, so they encouraged participants to bring their friends who would be interested in the events.

Gradually a network of determined women has been formed to achieve peace in the region and the world. The continued success of this conference over the past quarter century has been due to the unstinting support of WFP Japan, the Japanese volunteer members in the Middle Eastern countries, and senior advisors of the Middle East. They have always been convinced of the value of this conference and have continuously funded and supported it.

Aiming for a world full of hope without boundaries, where we can forgive and help each other, WFPWI will continue with these conferences.





**COUNTRIES OF PARTICIPANTS:**

- |             |              |           |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Afghanistan | Algeria      | Bahrain   |
| Cyprus      | Egypt        | Iran      |
| Iraq        | Israel       | Jordan    |
| Kuwait      | Lebanon      | Libya     |
| Morocco     | Oman         | Palestine |
| Qatar       | Saudi Arabia | Syria     |
| Tunisia     | Turkey       | UAE       |
| Yemen       |              |           |

**FOUR HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS RESULTED FROM THIS CONFERENCE:**

- Medical aid for children in Gaza
- Aid for Syrian refugees
- Scholarships for Palestinian female university students
- Empowerment of Palestinian women by selling Palestinian embroidered bags



## CONFERENCES

1<sup>ST</sup>

Women and the Future of the Middle East, May 16-18, 1997, Turkey

2<sup>ND</sup>

The Role of Families in Creating a Peaceful Middle East, May 13-16, 1998, Turkey

3<sup>RD</sup>

Women and the Age of Global Family, May 12-15, 1999, Cyprus

4<sup>TH</sup>

Women and a Culture of Peace, May 17-20, 2000, Greece

5<sup>TH</sup>

Women and Dialogue among Civilizations, May 7-10, 2001, Turkey

6<sup>TH</sup>

Women's Role in Building World Peace through Non-Violence, May 7-10, 2002, Greece

7<sup>TH</sup>

Women's Role in Building a Culture of Peace, May 9-12, 2003, Cyprus

8<sup>TH</sup>

The Realization of Peace in Women's Hands: Meeting the Challenge, May 9-12, 2004, UN HQ Geneva, Switzerland

9<sup>TH</sup>

Creating a Culture of Peace for Our Children, May 16-19, 2005, Greece

10<sup>TH</sup>

Building a Culture of Peace in the Family: Educating for Peace in the World  
June 19-22, 2006, UN HQ Geneva, Switzerland

11<sup>TH</sup>

Women Uniting for Peace, May 21-23, 2007, Cyprus

12<sup>TH</sup>

Strengthening Women's Leadership Capacities through Education and Training  
June 16-19, 2008, UN HQ, Geneva, Switzerland

13<sup>TH</sup>

Reconciliation: A First Step to Lasting Peace, May 12-15, 2009, Greece

14<sup>TH</sup>

UN, Human Rights and Women: A Partnership for Empowerment and a Culture of Peace  
May 11-14, 2010, Cyprus

15<sup>TH</sup>

Women in War and Reconstruction, May 24-27, 2011, Greece

16<sup>TH</sup>

Children affected by Conflict and Disaster: Protection, Healing and Empowerment  
June 26-29, 2012, UN HQ, Geneva, Switzerland

17<sup>TH</sup>

Women, Culture and Values: Building Lasting Peace in the Middle East, May, 15 -18, 2013, France

18<sup>TH</sup>

Women's Partnership in Achieving Peace and Harmony in the Middle East and the World  
May 9 -12, 2014, Jordan

19<sup>TH</sup>

Young Women as a Driving Force in Securing Peace and Wellbeing in the Middle East  
May 26 -29, 2015, Greece

20<sup>TH</sup>

Youth and Family, Key to Transforming the Middle East and Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals  
October 11-14, 2016, Cyprus

21<sup>ST</sup>

Honoring Women's Important Contribution to Peace and in Creating Sustainable Environments during this  
Precarious Time in the Middle East, July 5-8, 2017, UN Vienna, Austria

22<sup>ND</sup>

Leadership Seminar for Peace in the Middle East "Humanitarian Work with a Vision"  
October 25-29, 2018, Cyprus

23<sup>RD</sup>

Women and Peace, March 5 - 6, 2019, Kuwait  
Co-hosted by Women's Peace Pioneer Initiative 1325, Kuwait and WFWP Japan

24<sup>TH</sup>

The Path to Reconciliation and Rebuilding Peace, October 1-2, 2019, Germany

25<sup>TH</sup>

Education for the Young Generation, Peace Building, and Financial Empowerment of Young Generations  
January 16-18, 2021, (online conference due to the pandemic)

26<sup>TH</sup>

Middle East Peace Entrusted to Women, November 30 - December 1, 2021, (online conference)



## WOMEN'S PEACE PARADE IN JERUSALEM

*WFWPI Archives*

The Women's Peace Parade in Jerusalem was hosted by WFWP on May 27, 2004, with the theme, "May Reconciliation and Peace Come to This Earth with a Mother's Heart." Around 600 participants from thirty-three countries marched joyfully together. Informational activities focused on private organizations had also been conducted a few months before the parade.

The parade ended at the Independence Park in Jerusalem with speakers encouraging attendees to work for peace. A statement was read from the co-founder of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who encouraged all women to lead with a mother's heart.

From May 25-26, WFWP members visited Jewish and Arabic villages near Jerusalem to introduce the activities of WFWP to participating residents, and several representatives visited a refugee village in the Gaza area to provide them with food. They also visited the Hadassah Hospital, which is known worldwide for treating Jews, Arabs, and Christians alike. They visited the Hand in Hand School to deliver gifts to the children.

On the morning of the parade, participants visited the Wailing Wall, Al Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock to pray for peace in the Middle East and the whole world. Then the historic parade for peace went from downtown Jerusalem to Independence Park.





## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*WFWPI Archives*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Middle East Women's Peace Conference was held at the UN Office in Geneva in May 2004 with the theme, "The Establishment of Peace Through Women's Strength." This conference was attended by 32 women leaders from 14 countries in the Middle East and also by 100 participants, such as UN officials, members of the Chamber of Deputies in Geneva, and a woman NGO official of the UN. A seminar that explained the teachings and philosophy of WFPW was conducted prior to the conference.

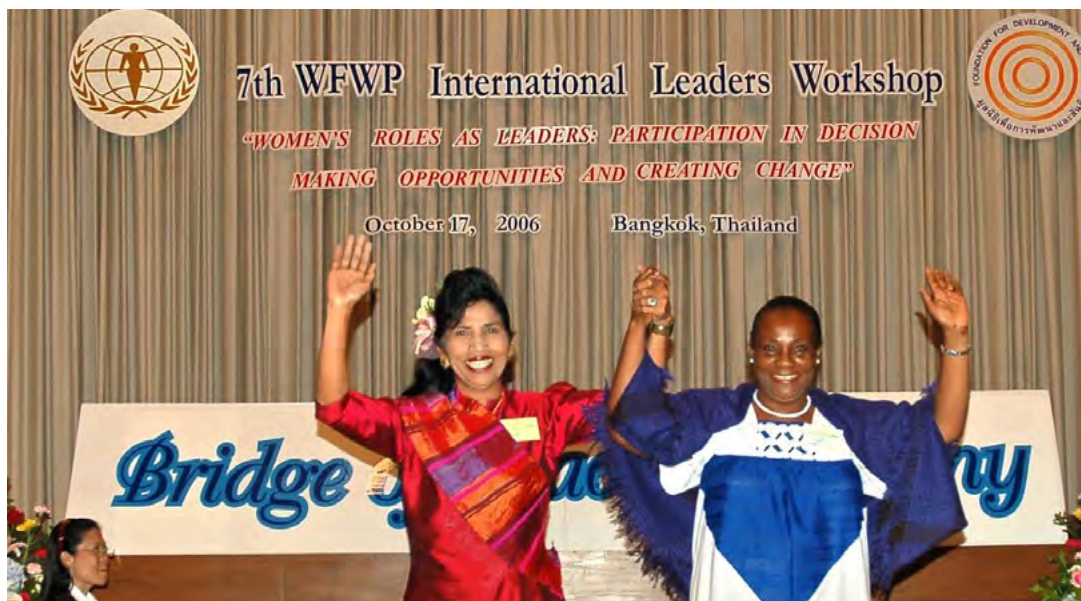
Acting High Commissioner Feride Acar, Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and Najat Al-Hajjaji, President of the Human Rights Council, discussed the theme of "Women's Contribution to Peace in the Middle East." According to their opinions in the discussion, women's rights are still being sacrificed in unstable homelands, and thus it is not only necessary to protect their human rights and eliminate any discrimination, but also it is important for women to actively participate in decision-making processes about peace, educational activities and the establishment of women's solidarity.

Dr. Amal Osman, vice-president of the Parliament of Egypt, asserted, "Peace means not merely the absence of conflicts, but also the situation where the safety of human beings, including their health and education, security, democracy, and respect for human rights, is secured." He also underscored the significance of gender equality in both the political and social dimensions.

The fourth discussion was on the theme, "The Role of Women in the Middle East for the Creation of World Peace." Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi from Kuwait mentioned the importance of increasing the heart of generosity that allows for the acceptance of religious differences. Mrs. Eti Nejad from Iran underscored that peace starts at home.

# BRIDGE OF PEACE

WFWPI Archives



## NEW EFFECTIVE WAYS OF HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE, MISUNDERSTANDING, INTOLERANCE, PREJUDICE AND WAR

The physical and emotional pain of war, crime, and bigotry is and has been inflicted on so many throughout human history. The violation that is a result of intolerance and rage acted out is demeaning and destructive to both victim and perpetrator. Victims or their loved ones often become perpetrators as they exact revenge, only creating a vicious cycle of more conflict and resentment.

### A NEW BEGINNING

Ending the cycle of conflict by gaining a new perspective is essential to achieving world peace. Women's Federation for World Peace International is committed to utilizing

the remarkably powerful Bridge of Peace Ceremony to further peacemaking efforts. The Bridge of Peace Ceremony provides opportunities for individuals to take a meaningful series of steps that result in the creation of a new sisterhood partnership dedicated to actively working for peace. Ceremony participants meet a peer from a former enemy nation, a different faith, culture, or race and commit themselves to bridging the gaps of heart between them. They see beyond collective hurt and determine to reconcile and heal through their one-to-one friendship. This stops the cycle of conflict, cuts chains of resentment and anger, and frees the newfound sisters to experience a new beginning.

“Perhaps if the President of America and the Japanese leader had crossed the Bridge (of Peace) fifty years ago, the war between Japan and America would not have happened.” (President George H. W. Bush)





### HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE OF PEACE

Women's Federation for World Peace has promoted a Sisterhood Movement, led by our co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. This movement is based on the simple yet far-reaching idea that our world is one global family: parents and children, brothers and sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, husbands and wives under God, our common Parent.

Since 1994, Sisterhood Ceremonies have been the centerpiece of this sisterhood movement. We have expanded the global network of sisterhood and friendship using the strength natural to women—that of creating harmonious mutual understanding. The first Sisterhood Ceremonies were held in Korea between Japanese and Korean women who came together to reconcile the hatred and resentment still simmering from Japan's occupation of Korea for 40 years until the end of World War II. One hundred sixty thousand Japanese women flew to Korea to overcome the chasms of anger and pain of the past to become sisters and friends with their Korean counterparts.

In 1995, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the end of WWII, the Sisterhood Ceremonies were taken to the United States. This began the era of the Bridge of Peace, as a special bridge was crossed by the participants. Each participant approached the center of the bridge to meet and embrace her new sister. Twenty thousand sister pairs were formed through the Bridge of Peace Ceremonies in cities around the United States.





The WFWP USA Interracial Sisterhood Project and Bridge of Peace was included in 2000 in the *One America in the Twenty-First Century* program by the Clinton administration and listed as a “best practice” and partner.

In the following years, the Bridge of Peace was further refined and featured in a broader range of contexts with the same inspiration and impact. Through the power of ritual, this almost magical bridge ceremony brings about a personal and profound opening of the heart that results in women and their families being liberated from debilitating hurt, resentment, hatred, and guilt. The Bridge of Peace Ceremony is an innovative beginning point for bridging the differences between people of different cultures, ethnic groups, religions, and nationalities. Husbands and wives have even crossed the Bridge of Peace to recommit and strengthen their marriages.

The Bridge of Peace ceremonies continue to be an innovative and powerful contributor to the ongoing weaving of an effective worldwide grassroots network of women dedicated to creating peace in the daily lives of our families, communities, and the larger world.

### **EACH OF US HAS THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

“If women all around the world take one another’s hands as sisters, their men would cease to fight and kill one another... parents would no longer mourn the loss of their sons and daughters,” said Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

This belief is empowering and challenging because it places the power to affect world peace in each person’s hands. We cannot leave the task to governments alone. Governments are systems formed to act for the public good, and they have their responsibilities. However, most of us live our lives in the day-to-day moments, affected by our own perspective and approach to life and change. This is what WFWP focuses on through the Bridge of Peace. Solutions to the conflict have little to do with the human tendency of fault-finding. Through the Bridge of Peace Ceremony, WFWPI emphasizes finding solutions by taking responsibility for ourselves and making sincere efforts to care and take responsibility for one another. By taking this approach to conflict resolution, we draw out the best in one another, enabling and strengthening each person in remarkable ways.



## THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE BRIDGE OF PEACE:

- **Responsibility:** We break the chains of our resentments and anger by realizing these emotions poison and debilitate us. Our attitudes, thoughts, and mindset are more essential than our external circumstances. As we take responsibility for our mindset and determine to begin anew, we can be liberated from the effects of past or present hurt even if our basic circumstance is unchanged.
- **Respect:** By recognizing the rights of the other, no matter who they are, we are able to open our minds to the possibility of a solution. Without respect, the only answer is the death of one kind or another and the perpetuation of the cycle of conflict.
- **Repentance: A Personal Cease-fire:** As we take responsibility, we have the strength to see our own shortcomings and our capacity to disregard the needs and situations of others. To end the conflict in our own lives, we need to hold a personal “cease-fire” precipitated by selfawareness, honest assessment of our own actions, and a willingness to see from the viewpoint of the other.
- **Commitment:** As we embrace our partner of peace, whether new sister, spouse, friend, or family member, we seal our personal commitment to one another and the tasks of self-development and peacebuilding ahead.

## CONCLUSION

WFWP members use the Bridge of Peace ceremony to tend to some obvious needs for reconciliation: racial reconciliation; the healing of wounds between people whose nations that have fought one another in wars; between people of different cultures or religions; and also as a way to uplift one of the most rewarding and challenging relationships—marriage.

Through gathering together as women, acknowledging our unique feminine nature, and experiencing the Bridge of Peace, we can come to see that each of us has the power and responsibility to contribute to world peace, at a minimum, by one relationship at a time. When we come together as women, sisters, mothers, and wives, determined to take action, we become a force of heart and hands that cannot be ignored the world over.





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS' CONFERENCE IN NORTH KOREA

*WFWPI Archives*

*8<sup>th</sup> World Leaders Workshop & World Women's Contest held at the Cheong-a camp at Chungpyeong and Kumgang Mountain, October 28 to November 1, 2007*

Over seven hundred women leaders from fifty countries, including Korea, Japan, and the USA came to South Korea in 2007 for historic programs. First was a workshop on the topic of "Women's Leadership to Establish a New Civilization and World." Workshop participants prayed and pledged to achieve world peace and the reunification of South and North Korea.

Then the participants traveled to North Korea and attended the World WFWP Women's Contest at the Wae-Kumgang Hotel with North Korean women representatives.

Ten North Korean women delegates, including Ms. Kyung Ok Kim, vice-chairwoman of the Chosun Democratic Women's Alliance, attended the World WFWP Women's Contest.

The subject of the contest was, "Women's Leadership for the Reunification of South and North Korea and World Peace." In her opening speech, WFWPI President Dr. Lan Young Moon said, "Women around the world have gathered at Kumgang Mountain, which is a symbol of reunification. This is a historical event with deep meaning." She said she hopes that unification comes soon with women's understanding and motherly love.





In her welcoming speech, Ms. Kyung Ok Kim stated that she expected WFWP's Kumgang Mountain visit will not only reinforce the relationship and cooperation between South and North Korean women but would also become a cornerstone for independent reunification. "Women should stand up for reunification," she said.

In her keynote speech, Dr. Julia Moon, chairwoman of the Universal Cultural Foundation, stated, "World peace should be founded with true love based on motherly love." She continued, "The reunification of Korea shall be achieved with the origin of true love. The power of women shall end the history of conflict and struggle and achieve peace."



*L-R: Dr. Julia Moon; Dr. Lan Y. Moon;  
Ms. Kyung Ok Kim*

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEECH WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING GOD'S CIVILIZATION AND A NEW WORLD

**Dr. Julia H. Moon**

Dr. Lan Young Moon, International President  
of WFWP!

World leaders of the Women's Federation  
from all over the world!

Distinguished women delegations from  
Pyongyang!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am very grateful to be with every one of  
you today and also it is my great privilege  
to deliver the keynote speech at this Inter-  
national Women Leaders Convention for  
Peace and Unification organized by the  
Women's Federation for World Peace.

First of all, I wish to congratulate everyone  
who is hosting this wonderful convention  
and to welcome all 730 world representatives  
from 50 countries in attendance here at Mt.  
Kumgang, the most beautiful mountain in  
the world. Especially, I would like to express  
my gratitude from the bottom of my heart  
to Mrs. Kim and all the representatives  
from the North who have come all the way  
from Pyongyang today to congratulate this  
International Women Leaders Convention.

As all of you are well aware, our True Parents,  
the Founders of the Women's Federation for  
World Peace, have emphasized the importance  
of this Convention and have asked me, as a  
member of the True Family, to deliver their  
words of congratulations. I would first like  
to share with you the warm love of our True  
Parents as well as the committed support of  
the True Family.

## **BELOVED INTERNATIONAL LEADERS OF WFWP!**

Founded by the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung  
Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1992,  
the Women's Federation for World Peace  
has branches in 120 countries around the  
world. It has been actively involved in  
peace movements in every part of the  
world, under the motto of "World Peace  
through the True Maternal Love of Women."  
Acknowledging WFWP's achievements,  
from among thousands of NGOs in the world,  
in 1997 the UN approved WFWP as one of the  
few UN NGOs in general consultative status  
with the United Nations Economic and Social  
Council. It is truly wonderful that WFWP  
still proudly maintains its status, which would  
not have been possible without your sacrificial  
voluntary service around the world. I would



like to thank you and congratulate you on this achievement.

If we look back at the history of humanity, women have suffered a great deal of discrimination and oppression. It was only recently, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, that many women were given opportunities to be educated and the right to vote. And yet it is heartbreaking to know that there are still countless numbers of women who suffer under patriarchal and unjust traditions.

I believe it was Reverend Sun Myung Moon who declared the “liberation of women” in the midst of a history of sexual discrimination. With the founding of the Women’s Federation for World Peace in 1992, he declared “the Coming of the Global Women’s Era” and he elevated the value of women to the original value women had at the time of Creation. I still vividly remember the scenes from that historical inauguration ceremony.

Following the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon traveled to 120 countries and established a branch in each country. That formed the foundation for today’s WFWP, for which I am truly grateful. This year, during his speech in Hawaii on March 17<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Sun Myung Moon declared that we are now entering “the New Civilization of the Pacific Rim Era” and that this era, at the same time, is “the Era of Women.”

### **WHAT IS THE ESSENTIAL VALUE OF WOMEN?**

First, women are the “original palaces of true love” who carry the sacred responsibility of creation. They are the second creators, who allow humanity to multiply and prosper. Second, women are the source of love,

demonstrating unceasing maternal sacrifice and dedication. Practicing a life of true love by forgetting what one has given in the past makes each one of us a “fountain of true love.”

Third, women are the focal point of peace, who distribute happiness to each member of the family, which is also the “school of love.”

The “fountain of true love” that the Creator God has placed within the hearts and bodies of women is a fountain that never runs dry.

It is a special treatment for any misfortune or pain, and a means of peace that resolves disputes and sorrow. With that said, we women have sometimes forgotten that the fountain of true love was given as a special privilege and Heavenly gift. We sometimes even reject this idea, thinking of it as a tool used against us to stress the sacrifice and oppression that are required of women. But after all, the true love of women is an absolute characteristic of God and a blessing from God that is granted in order to complete his ideal of Creation.

### **BELOVED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS!**

I suggest that we should deeply contemplate why our Founders chose Mt. Kungang as the site for WFWP’s “2007 International Women Leaders Convention.” On our way here, we witnessed the reality of the separation of the Korean Peninsula, and we had the opportunity to experience a slight taste of the pain. We realize that the Kungang Mountain is not only a famed tourist attraction where we can enjoy magnificent scenery, but also a place of special historical significance that holds the key to the unification and reconciliation of the North and South.



We are very encouraged and excited about the summit meeting between North and South Korea that took place in early October and the fact that the leaders of the North and the South were able to set their direction towards peace and prosperity on the Peninsula. However, we have reasons to believe that the unification of the Peninsula cannot be accomplished through political and economic measures alone. I recall the words of our Founder who emphasized “unification of the Peninsula through true love.” He pointed out that unification begins with the unity of our minds and bodies, with the unification of our families through true love, followed by the unity of the people of the North and the South created by loving and caring for one another.

Furthermore, the unification of the Korean Peninsula does not merely represent the unification of a small peninsula in the Far East. Rather, the unification of the Korean Peninsula is both a starting and an ending point, moving the world towards the end of the continuing feuds and wars that have taken place throughout human history and finally initiating eternal peace throughout the world.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!**

Who do you believe is the underlying entity of this “true love that cares for one another?” I believe it is the women leaders and the mothers around the globe who should assume this role. I have felt pride in myself as a woman when reading “Our Pledge” of the Women’s Federation for World Peace. We should be proud that we can become world leaders who accomplish peace by exemplifying a “mother’s true love” as true women, true mothers, true wives, and true daughters in our families and in the world.

The world is still suffering from conflicts and wars. Words cannot express how much pain women and children are enduring. Sometimes I panic at the miserable possibility that humanity may not see a world of peace, the peace that we have wished for ever so desperately.

However, in 1945, immediately after the end of World War II, the United Nations was established through humanity’s hope to put an end to all turmoil on earth. This was the providential will of God and the outcome of humanity’s desire for peace.

Even so, we still face the reality of continuous bloodshed and conflict as the UN has not been able to attain all of its goals.

With this in mind, Reverend Sun Myung Moon established the Interreligious and International Peace Council (IIPC) to serve as a Religious Council for the UN body stating that there is a need for an organization that discusses the eternal happiness and peace of humanity from a global level with an interreligious point of view, overcoming differences in ideology and religion. In order to realize this goal, he founded the Universal Peace Federation on September 12, 2005, as a providential organization that will serve the functions of the “Peace UN” and “Abel UN.” He is pleading that every country and all NGOs participate in this movement and that global leaders participate as Ambassadors of Peace.

### **INTERNATIONAL LEADERS OF WFWP!**

The “coming of the women’s era” is the flow of history towards peace. Many great women leaders have stepped forward in the world to lead their countries, and many women NGO

leaders are striving to change the world. This trend will continue to expand in the future. In that respect, we believe that all of the international leaders of WFWP are “Apostles of Peace,” who will work their way forward to the very frontline.

Sharing our Founder’s noble vision of “the ideal world of peace” and accepting the teaching that “living for the sake of others” is the only path to a peaceful world, we should take initiative to change the environment we live in and expand the “culture of peace.” We should live the life of a mother who fosters the roots of peace by demonstrating maternal affection, which is the model of true love in our lives.

You may have heard that when Swedish King Adolf Gustav visited Mt. Kungang in 1926, he was truly inspired and said, “God must have spent his entire 6th day of creation in making Mt. Kungang!” That is right. Every one of the 12,000 peaks of the Kungang Mountain range is a magnificent sculpture by God and the scenery of the creeks beautifully covered in autumn leaves is God’s work of art. Nevertheless, I believe that the true love that exists in the center of all women’s hearts is an endless fountain of peace and happiness that is more beautiful than the superb views of Mt. Kungang. Today, I am here to kindly ask all the leaders of Women’s Federation to go forward with true, loving hearts, and construct the “Kungang Mountain of Peace” in every corner of the globe.

Although the power of one individual woman may be small, the purpose of today’s International Women Leaders Convention is to reaffirm that if we women work together as the “peace army” and “peace corps,” we can demonstrate infinite power towards the goal of world peace which we enthusiastically pursue.

### **BELOVED INTERNATIONAL LEADERS OF WFWP!**

The era of the heavenly fortune of the women’s era is clearly at hand. If the past history centered on men was a history of conflict, only if we add women’s power to it can we attain world peace and happiness for humanity. The support and anticipation of our Founders are with you. I sincerely hope that this Convention will help us unite in one heart and become even more faithful as true daughters, true wives, true mothers, and true leaders moving toward the completion of the dispensation in 2013.

Women representatives of the world!

I pray for the blessings of our Founders on each of you, on your families, and on all the work you are doing.

Thank you very much.



## 700 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN WHO WERE WELCOMED IN THE MOST CLOSED NATION

By Mitty Tohma, President, WFWP UK



*Mitty Tohma, center, with family*

In 2007, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual WFWPI Women’s Leadership Conference was held jointly in South Korea and North Korea, under the banner of “Women’s Leadership in Building North-South Unification and World Peace.” This conference was very special for me and is etched in my mind and heart forever. Being part of the 700 women leader’s delegation from over fifty nations who went into North Korea was a great honor. I have many memories from that very special occasion.

After the opening of the conference in Cheongpyong, South Korea, we ladies readied ourselves for the journey to the North with great excitement and just a little trepidation.

I remember we were given strict instructions before going through the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) into the North. We were told not to take

photographs from the coach window, nor to interact with the soldiers, and to be very careful when going through Immigration. I remember the atmosphere being a little subdued despite our excitement. I did notice that the soldiers were small in stature, a little underweight, and looked apprehensive. It also caused me to wonder what the soldiers and immigration staff thought about us: seven hundred women brightly dressed, representing different cultures, religions, and racial backgrounds, all piling out of fourteen loaded coaches. It must have been fascinating for them or perhaps a little scary! I recollect an incident when one of our women had accidentally left a bag on the couch and was a little nervous about the response when it would be noticed by one of the soldiers. To her great surprise, the bag was willingly returned to her by a young female soldier, who was simply happy to be of help.





In such a small way, we could even feel somewhat welcomed into the nation by a young woman.

It was a historic trip, with the Co-Founders of WFWPI giving their blessings and sound advice before we embarked on our momentous journey. They reminded us of the important role we would play to support the peace process, believing that women bring the qualities of unconditional love, of understanding for one another, and the ability to resonate with other women. We prepared to meet the women of North Korea, who were also daughters, wives and mothers and who had the same heart as we did and the common purpose to care for our children and families. I believed strongly that this kind of mutual concern and shared hope with the North Korean women would help in this really critical time of seeking a peaceful unification of the Peninsula.

As we moved into the North, we all noticed the incredible pristine nature surrounding us. We felt privileged to be among the autumn colors and the beautiful scenery. We arrived at Mount Kumgang, where we all checked into our rooms situated in a charming chalet-like style of accommodation near a gorgeous lake. It reminded me of the Swiss Alps.

In the evening as the focal point of our program, we met ten women who had come from Pyongyang from the North Korean Women's Association to take part in the conference. They spoke about their hopes and wishes for a better future for the two nations. A great exchange was enjoyed with songs, heartfelt inspirational talks and performances, and a great many tears were shed as we lit candles for peace and forged deeper relationships with each other, going beyond any barriers.

The next day we had the choice of either climbing Kumgang Mountain or visiting the coast. For those of us who chose to climb the mountain, it really was an exciting adventure with steep hikes and magnificent scenery. The women who chose to go to the seaside also had amazing experiences, not expecting to see such a beautiful coastline nor such lovely nature.

However, as we traveled, we could see the people of the countryside toiling in the fields and mountains. It was clearly hard labor, and we noticed they had almost no proper tools or equipment for their task. I found it hard to comprehend their situation. I also noticed the houses were very closely built and had no proper infrastructure, being connected simply by dirt tracks, with no street lighting. There were no cars to be seen. We could only see a handful of people riding rickety bikes. Sometimes we saw young soldiers who were posted on street corners or even on one of the dirt tracks. They were there to observe and monitor their fellow country people. It pained me to see their plight and to know that there is such a strong regime controlling every aspect of their lives. It was overwhelming in contrast to the rest of the world. On the other hand, when reflecting a bit more, I thought about our own democratic world, the liberties and freedoms we have, but how much corruption is looming and destroying our own lifestyles.

It was a thoughtful time for me. It was an enormous privilege for me to be part of this historical trip, and I'm very grateful for being able to have this great opportunity to visit this closed nation. It reinforced in me that one of the objectives of the Women's Federation is reconciliation and peacebuilding; I'm glad I had the chance, together with my sisters, to plant seeds of hope for a better future where these two nations can come together and reunite for the sake of their people and for a safer world.

# MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONVENTION IN NORTH KOREA

By Brigitte Wada, President, WFWP France



Brigitte Wada, center, with family



Brigitte Wada, right

I have always wanted to go to North Korea after Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's visit in 1991. My desire was to actively participate in the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. I had already participated in the WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project setup by WFWP Korea to support women and children from North Korea, and had conducted fundraising activities in France for that purpose.

So I was very excited when I heard that the October 28 to November 1, 2007, 8<sup>th</sup> WFWP Convention would be held jointly in Cheong Pyeong, South Korea, and Mt. Kumgang, North Korea. The gathering of 720 women from fifty countries, including ten from France, was a feat in itself, making it a historic and exceptional event.

## OUR JOURNEY TO NORTH KOREA

After two days of conference in South Korea, participants boarded seventeen buses for a journey of several hours to the border with North Korea on the east coast of the Korean Peninsula. At Donghae, we took another bus to the North Korean Immigration Office. From there, we went to Mount Kumgang, also called Diamond Mountain, a famous tourist destination.

Finally, we entered North Korean territory. It is strictly forbidden to take pictures. From the bus, we could see the shelters of military vehicles. The road the visitors would take was surrounded by a high, freshly painted fence that made life difficult for the local people,





forcing them to make long detours to get from one village to another. This was also an obstacle preventing any form of North-South communication. In the distance, we could see North Korean villages, with their gray huts with unkempt roofs and schools with broken windows. The only vehicles on the road were one or two pickup trucks transporting workers to the fields. Mostly, people in dingy clothes were on foot, some on bicycles.

The stern-looking North Korean soldiers posted along the roadside stood to attention and our young guides asked us not to wave or point at anything from the bus windows as they might misunderstand our gestures.

### **THE CONVENTION IN NORTH KOREA**

On the evening of our arrival in North Korea, a conference was held at the Mount Kumgang Cultural Center on the theme “Women’s Leadership to Build North-South Reunification and World Peace.” In addition to the international delegates, ten North Korean delegates from the Chosun Women’s Democratic League participated in the conference.

The event was an opportunity for women to express their desire to overcome religious and ideological differences and invest in building a world of sustainable peace. In her speech, Dr. Lan Young Moon said, “The fact that so many women from all over the world gathered at Mount Kumgang is truly a symbol of unification that will mark history.” Ms. Ok-Hyeong Kim, a leader of the North Korean delegation, welcomed us, saying, “I hope that the visit of the WFWP delegation will strengthen the cooperation and partnership between the women of North and South Korea and give new momentum to reunification.”

Representatives from the US, Japan, and Europe then presented messages of peace. At the closing ceremony of the convention, each participant held a lit candle in the darkened hall, linked arms, and sang the Tongil “Unification Song.” We were deeply moved and united by our shared hope for future unification.

### **CLIMBING MOUNT KUMGANG**

The next day, the 700 participants had an early breakfast and set off on a three-hour hike to the top of the mountain. The winding trail with spanning suspension bridges, bubbling streams, and forests had taken on the golden colors of autumn. Our first stop was at the spectacular Guryong waterfalls and then on to the summit, where the Cheonseondae lookout point offered a breathtaking panorama to reward those who reached the top.

### **THE FINAL DAY**

On the last day, I chose to visit Lake Samilpo with a group of women and then go to the beach. We walked beside the ocean on an immaculate beach. I found unspoiled nature with no trash on the sand or among the rocks.

On the bus ride home, we were able to reflect on what we had experienced, including the journey to North Korea, the beauty of Mount Kumgang, the conferences, and the brief moments we were able to see firsthand the reality of daily life in North Korea.

I look back on this event with gratitude to Dr. Lan Young Moon and her team who were in charge of WFWPI at the time, for the perfect organization of this event in North Korea that allowed us to have a foretaste of the unification of Korea.





# BEYOND THE DREAM A BRIDGE OF PEACE CEREMONY CREATED FOR RACIAL HEALING IN AMERICA

*By Heather Thalheimer, Regional Chairwoman, WFWP Northeast USA (1994-2011)*

The Women's Federation for World Peace is unique in its ability to cross the divides that have historically separated us. I feel that women, as the feminine expression of the Divine, have a special role to play in reconciliation and WFWP offers an important conduit for this work.

In 1994, I was invited to serve as the Northeast USA Regional Chair of WFWP. In the years that followed we held many Sisterhood Ceremonies for Japanese and American women, inviting them to cross the Bridge of Peace and meet each other in the middle to heal the wounds of WWII.

The women had profound experiences, prompting the American women to ask, "Why aren't we holding Bridges of Peace to bring about reconciliation between African-American and Caucasian women?" This question, and a diverse multi-ethnic, multi-faith team of passionate women, led to the development of Beyond the Dream—Building Bridges of Peace, Unity, Justice, and Equality. The inaugural ceremony was held on April 21, 1996, in Boston, Massachusetts.

This was no easy program to develop! The reality is we harbor prejudices learned in childhood, live with structural racism, and hold painful memories, bad experiences, and

ancestral resentments. Our hearts are blocked. As we prepared for this formative event to bring African-American and Caucasian women together, we had to examine our inner selves with compassion and offer repentance for past and present wrongs. We all recognized God wanted to do something here.

And God did do something! The profound impact of the Bridge of Peace ceremony to overcome past and current hurts and promote racial reconciliation was exemplified in a very brave African-American woman who showed us what it means to have courage.

She reminded me of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." Emerson believed in the Divine sufficiency of each person. That's a beautiful concept, and he encouraged people to trust themselves to know that the divinity within is sufficient to deal with the challenges life brings. He believed in people's ability to discover their capacity for greatness.

At one of our reconciliation ceremonies, this special woman was waiting backstage for her turn to cross the Bridge of Peace to meet a Caucasian "sister." Suddenly she hesitated and blurted out, "I can't do this! It's like asking me to swallow razor blades." I was completely



taken aback. It was such a strong statement and conveyed the depth of her pain and hurt in a very visceral way. She had joined the event with the intention of putting the historical and personal wounds of the past behind her, but honestly speaking, this is not an easy thing to do. And so, here these two women stood on either side of the bridge looking at each other. The air was thick with tension.

And then, digging into her own Divine sufficiency, this beautiful woman straightened her back and took the first step and embraced her white sister on the Bridge of Peace. Later she told me that in the moment of embrace she felt as if the flood gates had opened, and she experienced a letting go of some of her pain and resentments of the past. We who watched witnessed her greatness. She was unencumbered by the past and unafraid of the future.

We additionally received the support of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Massachusetts Governor William Weld, and other notable individuals. When I spoke with international singer Mavis Staples prior to the event, she looked me in the eyes and in her deep,

distinctive voice said, “I feel a song coming!” Mavis Staples sang her original song, “Beyond the Dream” at the event. The refrain goes,

*“Will you meet me at the bridge  
and cross on over?  
Will you sit beside me  
at the family feast?  
I’m tied to you and you to me  
By the roots of our family tree.”*

The need for, and importance of the lyrics in “Beyond the Dream,” was revealed through many stories as these. Twenty-five years later, the co-chair and African-American sister, Dr. Diane Van der Meer, and I are still in touch with each other. We have watched our children grow up; we have prayed for each other in difficult times, and celebrated our successes along the way. We are forever tied together by the roots of our family tree.

We see today, more than ever, the important work that needs to be done to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as a foundation for creating peace. Who better to lead this work than the women of the world!



## A MOTHER'S HEART FOR PEACE

*WFWPI Archives*

WFWP USA participated in the “Women of Peace” program in Jerusalem, from May 21-28, 2004, sponsored by the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, and WFWP International. It brought together 526 women from 41 nations. During this week, WFWP USA organized a visit to Israeli and Palestinian victims of violence at Hadassah Hospital, and a visit to the Yad be Yad Bilingual School, bringing gifts and a financial donation. They held a “Bridge of Peace” ceremony, resulting in approximately 200 pairs of “sisters of peace” where each woman returned home deeply touched and renewed.

This particular trip to the Middle East was most definitely providential and a unique contribution to this part of the world. The

focus of this experience has been the coming together of the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as the basis for building peace. In this land where much upheaval and turmoil has been set in stone for centuries, and where the same troubling issues have ceaselessly played out, a mother’s heart plays a central role in bringing about this unity. A mother’s heart goes above religion, but how can that heart bring about unity? Scold them into uniting? Tell them they have to unite? In reality a loving mother would not use such ways, rather she creates an environment that allows for and leads to unity. In the case of the Middle East, the views held by each side have become hardened so that there is little room to deeply receive or consider any other view. It is the role of a mother with a loving heart that softens





the environment, opens hearts, and moves people so that they can go beyond their hardened views. In organizing the Women of Peace program, it was the insight of our Co-Founders who sensed this method would offer opportunities for reconciliation. To go door-to-door throughout Jerusalem and meet those who lost loved ones to conflict was so simple and yet so profound. WFWP women walked through the neighborhoods in pairs. These women often spoke different languages, with neither speaking Hebrew nor Arabic. Yet pair after pair met families who had lost loved ones. They listened to cries of anger, desire for revenge, as well as a desire to forgive the other side. The intensity of the pain has never ceased for some. Each victim of a terror attack has had families and friends that carry with them so many traumas. Jews and Arabs from the entire rainbow of political opinions always concluded their discussions with, “There isn’t anyone who doesn’t want peace.” These families were moved by the language of the heart shown by those from the Women of Peace program. No sides were taken. The women simply extended an embracing, motherly heart from the onset to the very end of their visit.

Loving the people to the very end was an important condition to allow God to work, to move people beyond their current situation. This was a big challenge and many complications came up. However, the desperation to realize a hopeful and peaceful environment was greater than the difficulties. The week started with the Bridge of Peace Ceremony, progressed to home visits, visits to Hadassah Hospital and Yad be Yad Bilingual School, and culminated with the peace march and rally. All the women felt that the mother’s heart had stayed the course.

Representatives of WFWP USA drafted a “Declaration for Peace in the Middle East” reflecting the depth of insight women bring to peace building:

*We, the women of the world, representing 191 nations, bridging all religions, cultures, political, professional, and civil society backgrounds, gather as daughters, sisters, wives and mothers to call for Peace in the Middle East and the world.*

*We, the women of the world, as the guardians of the family, must become an essential part of the leadership of the peace process with the skills of mothers, nurturers and educators.*

*We, the women of the world, convinced that hardened political views, un-tempered by a true mother’s nurturing and forgiving heart, leave no room for the urgently needed but fragile stirrings of peace; and*

*1. Determine to become exemplary women of deep, forgiving love allowing those lives we touch each day – in our homes, communities and the world – to be exposed to and healed by such love and compassion; and*

*2. Commit to becoming peacemakers because only through the selfless heart of women, who deeply care for all children as their own, will peace emerge in the Middle East; and*

*3. Urge all leaders in the region and the world to draw upon the strength of forgiveness and the tools of reconciliation, and work courageously with women and youth to resolve conflicts and build world peace; and*

*4. Determine to expand the “Bridge of*



*Peace” to reconcile enemies and to build partnerships for peace, freedom, equality, and plenty under the Universal Creator; and.*

- 5. Resolve to present this Women’s Middle East Peace Initiative to world leaders and the United Nations for recognition and implementation.*

*Now, therefore, we declare on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004, that all women are true sisters and invite them to courageously work together to build peaceful families, communities and nations in the Middle East and the world.*

The “uniqueness” of WFPW does not lie primarily in what is done, but in the kind of women we are striving to become. The Co-Founders have shared that the importance of the mother’s heart is the foundation for WFPW’s work. Coming from a place of deep

heart, a mother supports others, for their sake, without benefit to herself and places the greater public good before the private good.

A mother’s heart shows love for the children of other cultures, races, and nations as much as one’s own and forgives others for their wrongdoings, especially those who have caused hurt. It cultivates a peaceful mind and heart so as to contribute to building peace in the world.

Some may ask, “Is it really possible to heal the pain?” All things have a course that varies from one to the other; however, where there is a will, there is always a way. A mother’s heart can heal a child’s pain; a mother will fight for her child’s life even at the cost of her own life; a mother will take total responsibility for the mistakes of her children, if only it will keep her child safe; a mother will do everything to restore



her child even if he or she makes a grave mistake; a mother is willing to live for the sake of her children without asking for anything in return; and a mother's heart cannot forget her children even if they hurt her.

The Women of Peace program gave brave participants the experience of feeling the hearts of people who are tied to these two nations and live on this land. This experience could be likened to twins fighting each other in the womb, and every time they hit each other the mother's womb would be in anguish and pain. Yet the mother absorbs the pain with hopes her children can become friends, understand each other, and be taught to live for the sake of others. Throughout the Women of Peace program, prayers were offered so that the brothers of the three Abrahamic faiths would forgive and even love each other. All the women and those in

support have faith that their efforts for peace and sisterhood have allowed a chance for harmony and true peace for people within the Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions in the nations of Israel and Palestine.

This unity of women and mothers banding together for the Women of Peace program in the crossroads city of Jerusalem, reminded all, that as the children of Sarah and the children of Hagar in the Bible, we are all children of the same God.

As women leaders of WFPW have ventured out in the world as torchbearers for reconciliation and peace, their capacity to love from a mother's heart has only increased and deepened. With these brave women and supportive networks across the world, the impact of WFPW's ability to "meet, involve, and educate" has continued to create harmony and lasting peace.





# WFWP KOREA SAYS THANK YOU

*WFWPI Archives*



**T**he Women’s Federation for World Peace Korea held a “Thanksgiving Day” event on July 2, 2019, at the Hannam International Training Institute to commemorate the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War and honor with gratitude the sacrifice of veterans from the UN member nations that had sent combat troops and medical units to Korea during and in the immediate aftermath of the Korean War. The event was attended by more than 100 foreign ambassadors to Korea and their wives from 15 countries, including Ethiopia



and the Philippines, which were combat-supporting countries, and Germany, Mexico, Peru, and Chile, which were goods-supporting countries.

In her welcome speech, WFWP International President Dr. Julia Moon said, "I am deeply grateful for the noble sacrifices of the heroes who gave their youth and lives to protect the peace of the Korean Peninsula. We have organized this event to remember and appreciate the freedom we have today.

Thanks to the sacrifices of the UN forces, the Republic of Korea has achieved peace and freedom. From now on, we women will take the initiative to get rid of war, hunger, disease, violence, and poverty, and together with WFWP, let's build a new history of beauty that humanity hopes for."

On behalf of the invited guests, Mrs. Tran Thi Lan Hinh, wife of the Vietnamese ambassador, shared, "It has been 69 years since the Korean War broke out. I hope that peace on the Korean Peninsula will come



# Healing and Reconciliation



soon and that the Republic of Korea will be ready with hope for the unification of North and South Korea.”

Mrs. Kim Jong Suk, President of the World Council of Women’s Organizations, said, “This event organized by WFWP today will be the foundation for peace through mutual compassion and gratitude.” Mrs. Shin Nak-gyun, President of the Women’s Forum for Peace and Diplomacy, said, “Sixty-nine years ago, you gave your life in a strange land in Korea. I will make sure that your

sacrifice and dedication will not be in vain. The Republic of Korea, which was in the ruins of war, has developed into a successful case-study nation. Peace and prosperity are the highest values. I hope that all the women leaders present here today will make efforts for peace.” National Assembly member Mrs. Seo Young Kyo shared, “My father was a hero in the war. He is over 90 years old now, and still talks about his fellow military friends. No one can imagine the scars of war that he experienced. When I visited North Korea, I learned about the





greatness of the Unification Group. I hope that the WFWP will become an organization that grows women's freedom and capabilities through more global activities."

Dr. Julia H. Moon, who is also the chairwoman of the HJ Arts and Culture, organized the entertainment performance by the Little Angels, a children's folk ballet. This ballet group was first organized and managed by Dr. Bo Hi Pak, a Korean War veteran himself, and then it was passed on to his daughter, Dr. Moon. The Little Angels

was established to convey to the people of the world the peace-loving spirit of the Korean people and the beautiful culture and art of Korea. They are known as Korea's young ambassadors of peace and goodwill.

Women leaders who participated in the event were awed. It became an unforgettable day of gratitude to the past, the blessings of present, and hopes for the brighter future and peace in the Korean Peninsula.

# CONVERSATIONS THAT BUILD A CULTURE OF HEART: MYSTIC WOMEN

By Anne Bellavance, International Vice President, WFWP Asia Pacific 2



Faith Stories is a project of WFWP Australia in which women of various faith communities join in conversations to build a culture of heart.

With the belief that acceptance and respect come from understanding each other's values, beliefs, and most importantly our similarities rather than our differences, women share in conversations that build a culture of heart. It is our hope that these conversations start a ripple effect of understanding that spreads and becomes a catalyst to alleviate unfounded stereotypes that hinder community cohesion.



A beautiful, shared experience of love and the outpouring of emotions came with our 2021 Faith Stories event. Participants broke out in tears with warm hugs, laughter and smiles all around. The theme was Mystic Woman, and we invited inspiring and caring women from all around the world to share in storytelling and conversations around



mysticism, love, humanity, and the Divine.

Five inspirational guest speakers shared their personal stories and spiritual journeys, which allowed guests to engage in deep discussions around spirituality, faith, God/Divine Power/ All things, and ways we can create a more peaceful, equal, loving world. The event was an opportunity to hear different cultural and spiritual perspectives uniting humanity as one. The day showcased the future path for empowered women to bring peace to this world.

### **ANNMAREE SUTTON: CATHOLIC STORIES**

*Annmaree Sutton is the coordinator of a Jesuit Outreach Ministry team at Corpus Christi Community in Greenvale, Victoria. She is trained to share “The First Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola” for the aged care facility of homeless men founded by Saint Teresa of Calcutta in the early 1970’s.*

“A line in Leonard Cohen’s song ‘The Anthem’ sums up my journey growing up with the foundations of a very traditional Catholic background: ‘There is a crack, a crack in everything; that’s how the light gets in.’ I did not have the maturity or the real understanding of what my Catholic upbringing was asking of me.”

“Over the decades and with many a twist and turn as I walked my labyrinth of life, my internal cracks stretched and splintered, corroded my thinking and plunged me into my ‘dark nights of the soul.’ My God of light and love has in time guided me to understand and truly know now that love was never ever absent, never far from reach, but was there constantly shining deep into my painful, transforming cracks.”

“Love has been my constant navigation and with that Love, being immersed in that Love, slowing hearing, welcoming, and receiving that Love, I have come to understand with deep gratitude the gifts I received growing up Catholic. My cracks are still with me. The Light of Love continues to shine through every breathing moment. And every moment I now welcome all that is ahead of me, receiving the perpetual gifts of timeless love and peace. With deep love and gratitude, I wish to say it was a real great privilege to have been asked to share my story and to hear other women share their courageous and life-inspiring stories.”

### **DANIELLA GREENALL: UNIFICATION STORIES**

*Born in Brazil, Daniella moved to Italy and obtained a Diploma in Tourism and Arts in Rome. In 1980 she joined the Unification Movement in France and worked as a volunteer*



## Healing and Reconciliation



*translator and supported peace events such as participating to bring down the Berlin Wall.*

“Mother Moon is a living embodiment of the same love. She is bringing together like-minded people who are working toward peace from all walks of life to manifest the power of LOVE. I am committed to transforming myself and working together to seize this golden moment and build an incredible foundation for our future generations.”

### **MAUREEN CHEN: BRAHMA KUMARIS STORIES**

Maureen studied and taught Raja Yoga Meditation for over 40 years, establishing and sustaining Meditation Centers in Australia, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Living in Hong Kong for 22 years, she was involved in networks promoting interfaith and values.

Maureen shared her experience of meeting her Chinese husband from Malaysia. His aim was to become a Buddhist monk. Maureen and her husband traveled to India to find a monastery to become a monk...and nun! However, the practice was not a good fit and they returned to Australia, soon coming across the Brahma Kumaris. Maureen has now been practicing and teaching Raja Yoga meditation with the Brahma Kumaris for almost forty-five years, setting up and supporting centers throughout Asia, including Hong Kong, Cambodia, Singapore, Philippines, and Japan.

Recently publishing a book, *Mystic at the Edge: A Western Woman Coloured by Asia*, Maureen offered spiritual insights from the 50 countries in which she has lived and taught, the psychology which she has experimented with and adopted, and her philosophy on life regarding the big questions.



**ANITA CARTER:  
BUDDHIST STORIES**

*Spiritual Director and Abbot of the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd., Anita was born in India and her family settled in Australia in 1971. As Abbot and resident Dhamma teacher she has maintained the key objectives of the Center as a place of learning, practice, realizations, and preservation of the Buddha Dhamma.*

“What have I learned in the last 24 years? I have learned to give God a break! A lot I can do myself. According to Buddhism, all religions are good, and all peoples’ beliefs are valid and truthful. Buddhism loves all religions and sees them as being needed by people at that time. God exists in all heavens, and the Christian God is highly respected and honored. Jesus Christ is seen as a great being.”

“I have learned that life is difficult and that I

need wisdom to operate and live well. I need all the help I can get, and so request help from all gods and all enlightened ones. One verse that we use regularly to bless self, and others is, ‘May all blessings come to you, may all gods protect you; by the grace of all Enlightened Ones, may wealth ever abound in you! May all blessings come to you, may all gods protect you; by the grace of the Sacred Teachings, may wealth ever abound in you! May all blessings come to you, may all gods protect you; by the grace of the Holy Order, may wealth ever abound in you!’ As you can see it can be applied to all religions.”

“To develop wisdom, I set about meditating daily and practicing mindfulness to grow my concentration. To build my virtue, I keep the five precepts and practice generosity. I practice loving kindness and compassion daily.”



### **BARBARA GALLOWAY: HEALING STORIES**

Barbara completed a Bachelor of Arts-Law degree. After practicing as an intellectual property lawyer, she ran the Victorian component of an Entrepreneurship and Business Planning program. Barbara left these endeavors in the late 1990s to become a spiritual/earth healer, which became her passion and “soul” purpose. Barbara shared what she learned through her path so far. Her main points were:

- Our thoughts absolutely create our reality.
- Segregation is an illusion.

As we recognize and release our past, our old beliefs and old patterns, we become more magnificent and can embrace within ourselves the joyful, playful, and wise inner child who has divine feminine and masculine attributes.

Barbara invited participants to join in a mini workshop on visualization and meditation to see themselves as part of a vast tapestry consciously co-creating Heaven on Earth.

### **PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS HOSTED BY WFWP**

The Women’s Federation for World Peace is an international NGO in General Consultative

Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. WFWP 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 can resolve the complex problems of our societies and world.

### **AS A GLOBAL PARTNER WITH:**

The United Pasifika Council of Victoria (UPCOV) is a platform for all Pacific Island Communities living in Victoria to come together with a shared mission to support each other and advocate community issues.

<http://unitedpasifikacouncilofvictoria.com/>



### **WITH SUPPORT FROM:**

Multicultural Commission of Victoria Yarra Ranges Council



# THE BRIDGE THAT HEALED HEARTS

*By Patricia Couweelers, Regional Chairwoman, WFWP Northwest USA*



Many of us who have experienced the earliest adventures with WFWP felt internally called for the new era of women's leadership and to building a foundation with our Co-Founder, Mother Moon.

The signature Bridge of Peace ceremonies are landmark events inspired by the founding WFWP event in Korea, where thousands of Japanese and Koreans signed sisterhood pledges to break the enmity between these two historically enemy nations. That event opened the gates of heart with tears and set the stage for many other enemy nations and peoples to break barriers that divide people, two women at a time.

As a regional chairwoman at the beginning of the Bridge of Peace ceremonies in the Pacific Northwest, I experienced the deepest unity and cooperation with my local western and Japanese sisters. We prepared day and night to receive our Japanese women guests from across the sea for a wave of Bridge of Peace events that were breaking out all across the USA.

These events continued for many more years on community levels to bring together women longing to bridge many racial, religious, and

other divisions.

In 2005, our community in Bellingham, Washington, held a Bridge of Peace ceremony, which was also attended by our WFWP friends from Vancouver, Canada. Seattle Unificationists, including our husbands, helped us with practical details, including assembling the Bridge of Peace.

For that event, I had prepared a list of matches of names for the ceremony, but my list was misplaced somehow at the last minute and there was temporary panic. However, I reminded myself of previous experiences of the Holy Spirit, which was always there without fail at such events. Our pair-matches suddenly had to be arranged "on the fly." But afterward, faces were glowing with happiness as the paired-up "sisters" sat down to the banquet together. One of my guests approached and thanked me for her match and burst into tears. As she had embraced her Muslim sister on the bridge, she felt a great release of sadness and then joy. This lady explained to me she was a Baha'i, a religion that had experienced great persecution in its early days in Muslim Iran. Only the Holy Spirit could have moved to make that match happen. I get chills sometimes just thinking of the magic of forgiveness.



# THE MELBOURNE PASIFIKA FESTIVAL AND CHARITY WALK

*By Anne Bellavance, International Vice President, WFWP Asia Pacific 2*



## OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF MELBOURNE PASIFIKA FESTIVAL AND CHARITY WALK

- Promote unity and respect among Island communities within Australia
- Showcase Pasifika culture, family connection, and spirituality with the broader Australian community
- Raise funds to support humanitarian projects within the Island nations of the Pacific
- Promote Pacific Island businesses through booths selling food and merchandise



The Melbourne Pasifika Festival, (MPF) and Charity Walk is an annual celebration of Pasifika culture and gives families the opportunity to enjoy Pasifika culture through dance performances, modern and traditional music, art, crafts, sharing Pacific Island stories, and Pasifika businesses offering food, merchandise, and children’s activities.

The Charity Walk raises much-needed funds to support humanitarian projects located within the Pacific Islands run by the festival’s organizer, Women’s Federation for World Peace Australia.

The MPF promotes a culture of peace through fostering dialogue,





reconciliation, and conflict resolution at all levels. It celebrates and promotes the beauty and uniqueness of each Pacific Island culture, providing the wider community a window into all things Pasifika.

By supporting and advocating for the Pacific Island communities living within Australia, WFWP connects with like-minded people who are dedicated to building a more harmonious and peaceful world. As global partners working to achieve the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the MPF committee and supporters work toward:

- **Goal 16:** To promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, and
- **Goal 17:** Partnerships for the Goal

On December 4, 2021, the event began with the Kava Ceremony, led by the Samoan community. It was a beautiful way to officially start the festival. This is a solemn ritual performed at the beginning of all important Pasifika services and gatherings in which a ceremonial Kava beverage (native root plant) is shared to promote unity and respect among groups. Typically led by the high chief of the hosting village, the ceremony begins with words of welcome from religious leaders and elders.

VIPS who participated during the Opening Ceremony were the New Zealand High Commissioner, Dame Annette King; the New Zealand Consul-General in Melbourne, Vanessa O'Neill; Hon. Kaushaliya Vaghela MP, State Member for Western Metropolitan Region (representing Hon. Ros Spence MP VIC Minister for Multicultural Affairs); and Cr. Anthony Tran, Mayor of Maribyrnong City Council. Community leaders or their representatives in attendance were from Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, Niue, Fiji, and PNG.

Giving the opening address, Anne Bellavance spoke about “Four ways to bring world peace,” as taught by the Co-Founders of WFWP International, the late Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon:

**First**, a life of “living for the sake of others” opens the gate to peace. In this sense, the path to peace ultimately must be based on “head-wing” thought that can reconcile and embrace all sides by dealing with the starting point of conflict in relationships.

**Second**, the family is the fundamental unit for building peace. The only way to create well-being, harmony, family peace, and ultimately world peace is by thinking and living beyond the individual and serving each other entirely by realizing within ourselves the philosophy of “living for the sake of others.”

**Third**, interreligious reconciliation and co-operation are essential conditions for world peace. The inner power of religion touches our hearts and can recreate us as citizens of peace. It can cultivate our ability to practice self-control from within, and it can overcome historical hatreds and resentments among us. This is the root from which true peace and stability arise.

Fourth, the role of the UN in realizing world peace is vital. The United Nations and nations of the world need to transcend the power of politics and motives ruled by self-interest. Only then can the human rights of all people be truly protected to work together toward world peace.

The event was hosted by WFWP Australia, with support from: the Bank of Melbourne; Biggin & Scott Maribyrnong; Greater Western Water; Maribyrnong City Council; Multicultural Commission of Victoria; and United Pasifika Council of Victoria (UPCOV).





# UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE CONFERENCE: PEACE BUILDING IN THE ASIA PACIFIC RIM

*By Anne Bellavance, International Vice President, WFP Asia Pacific 2*



## OVERVIEW

As international NGOs, WFP and Universal Peace Federation (UPF) support the realization of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals. These global goals encompass six essential elements:

- Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequality
- People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children
- Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy
- Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children
- Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies and strong institutions
- Partnership: to catalyze global solidarity for sustainable development

The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed worldwide each year on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. This special day was established in 1981 through a unanimous resolution by the United Nations, after which the General Assembly declared it as a day devoted to “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.” The 2019 Peace Day theme was: “Climate Action for Peace.” The theme focused on the need of combating climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.

WFP and UPF held the annual one-day conference in Melbourne to support and foster peacebuilding within our diverse multicultural



city. In 2019, the conference was held at One Roof Event Space in Southbank, downtown Melbourne. Titled “Peace Building and our Environment,” the event attracted 85 participants, many of whom are Ambassadors for Peace and members of WFWP. The organizing committee comprised of UPF, Victorian Peace Council, and WFWP members.

## GOALS

1. Support the realization of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals through implementing Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.
2. Foster reconciliation to heal hatred and prejudice between people through the Bridge of Peace Ceremony.
3. Showcase workshop presenters who discuss how to acquire, understand, and implement the right values in life and how to manage human affairs.
4. Honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who encouraged us to live for the sake of others.
5. Share insights that enrich the lives of participants.

## PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Following a video presentation on the Life and Works of Dr. Sun Myung Moon, Dr. John Bellavance, the vice-president of UPF in Australia framed the spirit of the conference with his presentation on “The Search for Meaning in the Modern World.” Dr. John noted that one in four young people in Australia is at risk of mental illness. Some psychologists suggest that one-third of mental health patients are not clinically sick, but have a lack of meaning and purpose in their lives.

In developed countries, people often search for happiness in pleasure and fulfillment through immediate gratifications, yet still, they cannot find meaning and happiness. Such widespread phenomena as depression, aggression, and addiction are not understandable unless we recognize the vacuum of meaning in the lives of people. We are facing a breakdown of traditional values that often comes with economic development. The underlying teachings of Rev. Dr. Moon were proposed as a comprehensive values educational program that could address such issues. Since the theme of the day was the environment, Dr. Bellavance also spoke about Rev. Dr. Moon’s



*Anne Bellavance*

sustainability and environmental protection initiatives in Brazil and Paraguay.

### **BRIDGE OF PEACE**

Anne Bellavance, WFWP international vice-president, and Meenakshi Sharma, WFWP India president conducted the signature Bridge of Peace Ceremony. The Bridge of Peace seeks to build real and lasting friendships between people from different cultural, religious, and national backgrounds. The motto of the ceremony, coined by the founder of WFWP International Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is: “If the women of the world can be sisters, the men of the world won’t go war.”

The purpose of the Bridge of Peace is to enable healing and reconciliation between people who may have been from enemy nations in the past.

Hatred is generational, passed on by the attitudes and conversations that children learn from their parents. The Bridge of Peace seeks to break this cycle of mistrust and prejudice. By becoming sisters (and brothers) who share each other’s stories and develop true friendships, then our worldview changes. This brings about a change in how we think, communicate and act, resulting in healing and reconciliation from the grassroots level.

The leading ladies for the ceremony were Shanika Kalansooriya, who provided a Buddhist perspective on the role women play in peacebuilding, and Hena Jawaid, who provided a Sufi perspective.

Prior to the commencement of the keynote address, participants enjoyed a vocal entertainment segment by Hazel Zee, a young emerging vocal artist who sang passionately in the genre of spiritual and world music.





*Shanika Kalansooriya(L) & Hena Jawaid(R)*



*Hazel Zee, Vocal Artist*



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS PRESENTED BY DR. RACHEL CARLING**

Dr. Rachel Carling is a former member of Parliament of the Victorian Legislative Council and a UPF Ambassador for Peace. Her keynote address focused on the importance of the family for the well-being of society. The family, which has been redefined in so many different ways, is no longer trusted to make decisions for their own children. It is time to unite to strengthen today’s families, embolden our parents, and protect our children. She strongly urged the leaders and participants in attendance to hold the line and stand up for traditional family values. Dr. Carling argued that we must all take responsibility for the decline of moral values in order to secure the future of the family in Australia. Additionally, she encouraged participants to speak to their local elected officials about the values they consider to be important, saying, “We cannot



expect them to do the right thing if we do not persuade them.” Many participants were inspired to heed her call.

**WORKSHOPS**

Three workshops were held during the afternoon breakout sessions, with participants choosing between one of the three workshops.

**WORKSHOP 1: BUILDING PEACE-- SOMALI SPIRITUAL WOMEN AND PEACEBUILDING, PRESENTED BY STEPHANIE CARVER AND AHMED TOHOW**

Ph.D. Candidates Stephanie Carver and Ahmed Tohow spoke on the topic of Somali spiritual women and peacebuilding. Stephanie and Ahmed researched the role and capacity of Somali women to forge new forms of peace within the Somali diaspora as “shadow

# Healing and Reconciliation



peace builders” for the broader community. Their research is conducted in collaboration with Monash University and the East Africa Security and Peace Forum. They argued that women could play a significant role in this process. The role of traditional Somalian values was discussed in relation to social harmony and justice in society. Before the European colonial invasion, Somalians relied on these values. Somalian women played a prominent role in traditional social cohesion and had great influence in the peace process within clans and between clans. Due to colonialism and civil wars, these traditional values were stripped away and declined sharply.

## **WORKSHOP 2: “CENTERING” JOURNEY TO PEACE, PRESENTED BY LINDA YOUNG**

Linda has served as a Christian Minister for the past eighteen years. Using this

rich experience, she shared the benefits of “centering prayer” as a means to bring inner peace into our lives on a daily basis. Linda explained that individuals who experience inner peace radiate peace into the world. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to actionize, and practiced the magic of “centering prayer” for themselves.

## **WORKSHOP 3: RELIGION/ SPIRITUALITY FOR OUR MENTAL HEALTH: A CONVERSATION WE MUST HAVE, PRESENTED BY SHARON ORAPELENG**

Sharon is a mental health policy professional and principal consultant at Psyched Solutions in Queensland. She shared with participants how we can harness religion and spirituality as a resource to positively influence our mental health and emotional well-being in order to achieve optimum peace within ourselves.

### AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE AWARDS

Three community leaders received Ambassador for Peace Awards at the conclusion of the conference. The awardees were: Ayad Hadi Yousif Al-hifadhi, Pastor Amira Yousif, and Abdirahman Mohamed Sheikh.



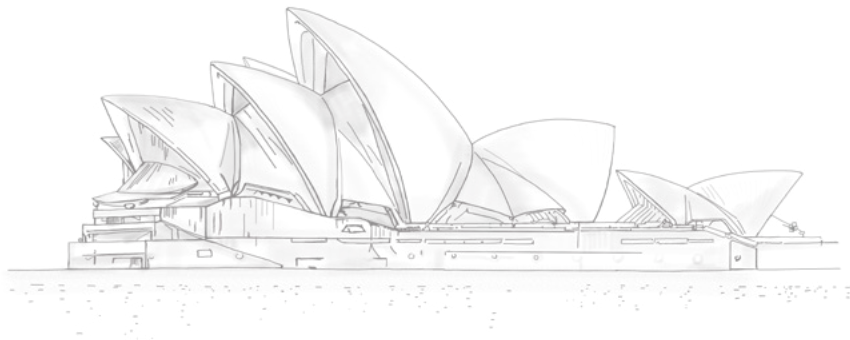
*Ayad Hadi Yousif Al-hifadhi, awardee*



*Abdirahman Mohamed Sheikh, awardee*



*Pastor Amira Yousif, awardee*







# WHY IS GABON SUPPORTING THE KOREAN REUNIFICATION PROJECT?

*By WFWP Central Africa, Sub-Region 3*

Gabon, located in Central Africa, gained its independence from France in 1960 and was one of the first countries in Africa to establish diplomatic relations with South Korea. Since then, Gabon and South Korea have maintained peaceful relations, supporting each other through trade exchanges in crude oil from Gabon, and machinery, automobiles, and electrical products, as well as the government scholarships that provide capacity-building programs for Gabon students in Korea. Nowadays, Gabonese youths are “riding” the Hallyu wave [Korea wave of pop culture—Ed.] and are becoming more and more interested in Korean culture and history.

WFWP Gabon is also working with the local Ministry of Education to promote character education based on the teachings of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of WFWP, by creating a peaceful environment for future generations. In particular, Dr. Moon emphasizes the importance of living for the sake of others and shares her thoughts on the

relationship of the unification of the Korean Peninsula with world peace: “Today’s world as a whole is divided into democratic and communist camps, and the Korean Peninsula is the frontline between these two blocks. Therefore the unification of Korea will serve as a model for world unification.”

Building on these teachings, WFWP Gabon, along with eight other countries in Central Africa, organized a conference for African women leaders, government officers and university professors, both online and offline on October 16, 2021, on the theme “The Role and Contribution of Civil Society in Korean Unification.” The main initiator of the event, Mrs. Pwati-Solo Mulanga Carroline, is the WFWP sub-regional director of Central Africa, and expressed her strong will to support the reunification of the two Koreas. She believes that the people of North and South Korea, who share the same language, culture and ancestry, can be stronger and more influential on the international stage as



a unified nation, and that it should be the wish of the Korean people themselves to begin the journey for reunification. It is already a great revolution for African women to stand up and talk about Korean unification and world peace. She added that peace will not come where there is conflict, so let peace begin within each individual.

The climax of the event was a panel of experts who shared their knowledge and ideas on achieving peace and reconciliation between the conflicting nations. Dr. Emmanuel Nzeng Nyangone, a historian at the University of Omar Bongo in Gabon, gave a historical overview of Korea, explaining the causes and nature of the conflict and the division between the two countries, which he attributed essentially to external international forces. Professor Zang Yolande, a Gabonese politician, and Ms. Jeanice Ondo Nguema, a journalist from Gabon Television, shared their thoughts on building better diplomatic relations through frank dialogue. Mr. Mike

Makenda, director of the Sunhak Institute of History in Central Africa, and WFPW Africa international vice-president Dr. Susan Kone, presented a history of the efforts of WFPW Co-Founders in the unification of the Korean Peninsula. Finally, Excellence Comfort Teichim Jack, a researcher of the Office of the Prime Minister of Cameroon, and Mrs. Bernadette Fogue of the Republic of Congo, emphasized the role of women for peace and reconciliation in Africa, Korea, and the whole world.

The unification of the Korean Peninsula may sound like a distant dream, but as the WFPW Co-Founder said, "A drop of water that falls constantly on a stone will finally shatter it." WFPW Gabon has decided to continue a series of educational conferences on the subject of Korean unification to promote peace and reconciliation, not only at the local level but also at the regional level.





## ‘FOOD IS LOVE’ EVENT MOTHER’S DAY WEEKEND

*By Tamara Starr, Multimedia Journalist and UX/UI Designer*

*On May 9, 2020, WFWPI hosted a special Mother’s Day virtual event for 100 WFWP members from around the world titled, “Food is Love and Life: Mother’s Day Cooking with Sun Jin Moon.” This featured WFWPI’s Senior Vice-President Dr. Sun Jin Moon cooking the Founder’s favorite dishes.*



“My father taught us through his autobiography that ‘Food is Love,’ and that he spent his entire life trying to feed people food and nourishment to live joyful and healthy lives,” Dr. Sun Jin Moon said in a letter to participants. “Our hope is that the combination of delicious food and the time we share cooking together will create a culture of hyojeong heart, a time for learning, sharing, and having joyful and meaningful experiences as one family under God, with gratitude and praise to our Co-Founders.”

The event featured three dishes: steak, croquettes, and green salad. This meal was suggested by Dr.

Moon’s chef in Hawaii, Mr. Sanno, who said that this was the Co-Founder, Father Moon’s, favorite meal. However, it was later discovered that the croquettes had a very special meaning for Mother Moon.

“I remember my mother told a story of how she made croquettes for my father, and he loved it! She shared with so much joy the memory of the croquettes recipe!





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She was sweetly chuckling, remembering that it was the first thing she ever cooked [for] him in 1960 after their holy wedding! She said she learned this fancy French technique in school when she was young, which was surprising for Korea to teach a dish so western at that time! We grew up eating them all throughout our childhood, but it was pronounced ‘KoRoKett,’ sounding more Japanese than French,” Dr. Sun Jin Moon said.

Despite it being virtual, everyone was still able to have a precious and personal experience. The participants filled the chatbox with expressions of gratitude and appreciation for the Senior Vice-President’s outpouring of love on behalf of Mother Moon. Dr. Moon used this opportunity to recognize ten “Super Moms,” one from each region from around the world. These women were selected for being exemplary models as mothers within their community. As a special gift, they were each given a bag of Hawaiian Queen Coffee; the coffee came from the Co-Founders’ special private reserve.

“Just as our Co-Founders teach us with their words, sermons, and afterward always treat us to delicious foods,” Dr. Moon said. “I hope to carry on that tradition so you all can experience Father and Mother Moon’s loving embrace in these trying times.”





## RAISING PATRIOTS OF HEART IN CHAD, AFRICA

*By Letecia Cueme, Treasurer, WFPW Chad*

After gaining independence from France in 1960, Chad experienced nearly 24 years of civil war involving France, Libya, and parts of the northern Arab region. International support and domestic change efforts have improved the lives of Chad's children, but many factors make it incredibly difficult for children, women and men to live in peace in Chad. The country continues to experience an incredible number of difficulties, many of which involve children.

Chad is a paternalistic society, and there has been no significant change in efforts to encourage girls to attend school. For a long time, it was thought that girls were supposed to stay at home and do the housework. The expulsion of high school girls due to unwanted pregnancies has also been a problem. Also school violence, such as students bringing knives to school, is well known in Chad, and there have been incidents of teachers being killed at school.

International Youth Day, established by

the United Nations to draw attention to the cultural and legal issues surrounding youth, has been observed on August 12 since 2000. In 2021, WFPW Chad, led by Ms. Digmi Badjoua, organized a three-day youth seminar on character education under the theme "Youth and Leadership" for 110 students at the Lycée Féminin National High School in N'Djamena. Four experts and professionals from universities, schools and the government were invited to deliver a message on the importance of the family as a school of love and emphasized the value of youth having high goals to serve and live for others as patriots of the country. The main lecturers were Prof. Baimi Badjoua from the National University, Prof. Kunda Disonama Béatrice and Prof. Djanketou Badjoua from the school, and Mr. Patalé Keumaye, a government official in charge of social development.

The workshop was covered by national television, radio channels, and private newspapers. Ms. Digmi Badjoua, president





of WFP Chad, made the following comments on television, “As the world celebrates the International Youth Day, we need to work in synergy to educate our youth. It is not enough to educate the mind; we also need to educate the heart, and WFP Chad will continue to provide teachers and students with character education to live for the sake of others.”

Through this seminar, the students had time to reflect on their role as children who must take care of their families and pursue academics to become future leaders in their communities. The words “live for the sake of others” echoed to their hearts to develop themselves little by little and to grow as citizens who serve for peace.

The seminar was a success, and other schools have contacted WFP to request to conduct seminars for their students. Understanding the value and importance of this project, two school administrators who attended the workshop assisted WFP Chad to meet

with the Director of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Director of the Ministry of Education.

WFP Chad is currently in the process of preparing to sign an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Ministry of Education and WFP to implement Character Education as part of the national education curriculum.







*By Susan Kone, International Vice President, Africa*

More than 600 million households in Africa are living without electricity, which is a large part of the population that is in darkness when the sun goes down. One reason for this is that the price of installing electricity in each home is out of reach for many rural households, while the lack of sufficient rainfall in other countries limits electricity production and the ability to meet the country's demand.

Even though the government is working to improve the power grid in all prefectures, there are still areas where people do not have access to electricity due to the high cost of installation and monthly bills. Many families could not even afford to use kerosene to light their homes after sunset, so they often use firewood, affecting families with school children who have to do their homework, and mothers who have to prepare the evening meal after working in the fields all day.

For many of these households, solar energy is a much better option! Solar energy has many advantages because it is a renewable source of energy, produced using resources that are

replenished faster than humanity can consume them. It is also accessible to everyone, from anywhere, as long as the sun shines. Solar energy is also known as “green” energy because of its low cost and no negative impact on the environment.

FWFP Africa has researched and identified the need to bring green solar energy to African villages, and donates solar lamps to empower rural women. They also teach new skills for self-sufficiency, encouraging them to have their own kitchen gardens, so they can plant and sell vegetables and seedlings.

FWFPI's-sponsored pilot project was launched in Wote, Makueni Province, Kenya, in October 2020. More than 40 families have benefited so far from solar power generators and solar lamps. These donations have completely changed their lives, and the mothers sang songs of praise to WFWPI Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, whom they now call “Mother of Light” because this project has brought light and happiness to their homes.





The second project for solar lamp distribution was in Kajiado, Kenya in 2021. There WFP was welcomed by the County Chief and his deputy in the Ministry of Gender Affairs. The families, who are mainly farmers, cherished the lamps. The children could not hide their joy at receiving an extra boost to their homes to brighten their lives and solve a major health problem caused by the use of kerosene and firewood. Expressing her gratitude, the director of the Noretia Women's Group said that this gift of lighting would change the lives of families and help children feel safe to study and improve their standard of living.

The third project that was sponsored by the Giving for Good International (GFGI) founded by Dr. Sun Jin Moon was held in

Transmara County, Kenya, commemorating the International Day of Peace on September 25, 2021.

The impact that the green solar energy project has had on society is numerous. The families in Africa were very happy and grateful to WFP and GFGI for the donation of solar lamps, as it has made a big difference in their lives and environment. Children can now do their homework after sunset, mothers can cook their meals by the light of solar lamps, and in the evening they can milk the cows.

The green energy solar lamp creates a brighter environment for families and communities and leads to the world of peace and happiness.



# EDUCATED CHILDREN BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO FAMILIES

*By WFP Mauritius*

WFPW was registered in Mauritius on March 6, 1995. With dedicated local members and ten wonderful Japanese overseas volunteers, we could successfully build on the foundation of the local WFPW and its proud history. They started serving at an orphanage twice a week, and began introducing Japanese culture such as flower arranging, origami, and sushi-making to government institutions and NGOs; they appeared on national television.

Despite the insecurity of being women in a foreign country, the volunteers offered scholarships and started a foster-parent project to help ten children from low-income families in 1999. Today the project has expanded to more than 100 children per year. With the support of these foster parents, many of the children in Mauritius graduated with outstanding scores and became national

scholars, lawyers, teachers, accountants, police officers, and even volunteers who mentor other students, just as they were mentored by WFPW.

The WFPW Mauritius supports 160 children through Edu-care: Education and Caring by helping the children with special coaching in core subjects and areas where they need special attention. They provide value-based counseling and regular visits to parents through its Parenting Scheme outreach. Educational outings are organized during school vacations; field days are organized for the children to promote a sportsmanship culture, and regular health and eye checkups are conducted. We also encourage children to draw, paint, play music, recite poetry, dance, write essays, and participate in debate competitions to bring out their potential and develop their skills. What we expect from





the children for whom we are responsible is that they will succeed in their studies and work hard enough to face life's challenges.

We are supported by dedicated young volunteers, experienced teachers, and professionals who work together to empower children and fulfill our mission that "educated children bring peace and happiness to families and lift them out of poverty." We want to promote stability, peace, solidarity, and strengthen families. The organization teaches children responsibility and self-discipline, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for future employment and sustainable personal development.

The Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) in Reduit, the leading national professional institution, supports the work of WFWP. The MIE supplements the efforts of WFWP

children's educational work by offering secure and safe classrooms on Saturday afternoons; we are very grateful for this support and cooperation.

WFWP Mauritius has been able to fulfill its mission because of the faithful, trustworthy, and voluntary spirit of the Japanese volunteers, the past and present officers, and tutors who have given their time and energy every Saturday for many years to help students in need. Some of these students have been awarded government scholarships to study at the University of Mauritius or MIE, while others have taken up positions of responsibility in the public and private sectors.



## SEWING DEPARTMENT PROGRAM: TRAINING THE TRAINERS

*By Monica Longanimala Ilala, Executive Member and Volunteer, WFWP Solomon Islands*

The Women's Federation for World Peace Solomon Islands offers training for women who want to learn to sew. In May 2018, a special session was offered for those who wanted to teach others in the sewing program. Three WFWP SI representatives participated in this training and they made New Hope Academy uniforms. They also made other types of clothing to offer for sale, including traditional island dresses, shirts, trousers, uniforms, and children's clothes.

They were then able to offer sewing training programs for other interested women for two weeks every month.

They conducted other fabric art programs such as fabric dyeing, printing on fabric, screen printing, and fabric design.

In July of 2018, these ladies opened an outlet for selling clothes. This outlet

remained open until December for the support of the New Hope Academy.

Although sewing items may seem a simple process, building an outlet for selling these items required more effort and additional finances. A discussion was held with members regarding a program of fundraising.





## WFWP AUSTRALIA BOOKS FOR THE ISLANDS

*By New Hope Academy,  
Solomon Islands*

On behalf of Women's Federation for World Peace Solomon Islands and the New Hope Academy School (NHA), we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Women's Federation for World Peace Victoria, Australia, for your kind donations. Thank you for donating school materials together with four projectors and secondhand clothes.

On April 12, 2018, we were delighted to receive a total of 49 boxes from Melbourne containing materials that will be of great assistance to the NHA School and WFWP SI. The New Hope Academy School is so fortunate to have these additional learning



materials which contributed to a favorable learning environment for our young students. The school was finally equipped with a school library to enhance and boost the learning environment of the school. Your continuous support is of great value to our team.

Once again, we would like to sincerely thank the WFWP Victoria, Australia, and Beaconhills College for your kind donations and your continued partnership and friendship, enabling us to work towards our common goals.





# GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW HOPE ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*By WFPW Solomon Islands*



A new primary school was built in Honiara, Solomon Islands, to expand access to education for young children. Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, then-president of WFWPI, was the guest of honor at the groundbreaking ceremony held at the West Honiara Town Ground. Addressing other dignitaries and guests at the ceremony, Prof. Moon expressed her gratitude, saying, “The Sun Hak Primary School will not only contribute to an ideal world of peace but will also play an important role in educating future leaders who will become successful and dedicated citizens of Solomon Islands.”



The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Mr. Eddie Ngava, the former deputy city mayor; Mrs. Gladys Siale representing the Ministry of Education and Human Resources; Mrs. Benardean Ha’amori, co-founder of Early Childhood Education in the Solomon Islands; and international guests from Korea and Oceania.

In her address, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon declared, “The leaders we need today are those who can lead not only with intellectual knowledge but also with heart and filial piety towards heaven and humanity.”





She stressed that the students who study at the school will become global leaders who will not only enrich the Solomon Islands but will also impact the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking to the assembly, Mr. Eddie Ngava stated, “Investing in education is a great move for a stronger nation. Despite the limited space in the city, the purchase of land for the Sun Hak Primary School was approved by the city council because we believe in the value of education.”

In her statement, Mrs. Gladys Siale said that the government is seeking a quality education for its children. “To achieve quality education

in the country,” she said, “the ministry can’t do it alone. Therefore, when WFWP SI registered for the development of Sun Hak Primary School in 2018, this submission was approved by the ministry.”

Initially known as New Hope Academy, the school changed its name to Sun Hak Primary School following the transition from kindergarten to primary school. The school has a registered land area of 0.0391 hectares at the West Honiara Town Ground. The building was completed in December 2019.





# JENNY GRADUATES FROM SINATIONAL UNIVERSITY

*By WFPW Solomon Islands*

We are so proud and overjoyed to announce the graduation of our First Pasifika Scholarship Fund recipient, Jenny Quta Moreha'a. On June 20, 2019, Jenny graduated from Solomon Island National University (SINU) after two years of full-time study. She was awarded her diploma with a Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood Education. She is now teaching at the New Hope Academy early learning center operated and managed by WFPW SI.

Jenny's life-changing opportunity was made possible through the generous donations of the WFPW Victoria members and those participating in our major fundraiser, the annual Pasifika Festival and Charity Walk, held on the first Saturday of March each year.

Jenny shared her happiness with the Board of WFPW Victoria and requested that her message be passed onto those who made her dream come true.

"Thank you so much for sponsoring my course, which I have achieved on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019. I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity to study at SINU for the last two years. I

can't express my heart of gratitude towards WFPW Australia. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you so much. I completed my study at the end of 2018 and later was awarded the Certificate Diploma of Teaching. It was a joyful moment for my beloved husband and me, who came to witness my achievements during the ceremony. We are really grateful for the scholarship offered to me through WFPW Australia. Your help really put us on another level in life. Without your financial support, I could not achieve my goal. Please let's keep in touch for the betterment of WFPW worldwide."

## **Pasifika Scholarship Fund:**

The Pasifika Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2017 by WFPW Australia.

The program is committed to provide women with opportunities to access empowering education programs.

The scholarship supports young women who are passionate about getting an education and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of "Living for the sake of others."





## MONICA LONGANIMALA ILALA: WFWP AUSTRALIA PASIFIKA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

*By Monica Longanimala Ilala, Executive Member and Volunteer, WFPW Solomon Islands*

*Monica has two children, a ten-year-old daughter and a seven-year-old son. Sadly, her husband passed away in 2019. The following is her story:*

“My name is Monica Longanimala Ilana, from the Solomon Islands. I am completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of the South Pacific (USP). I have successfully completed eight courses and must complete four more courses before achieving an MBA career. With my academic journey, I have found financial support difficult as tuition fees are very expensive.

“I am blessed and humbled with having the privilege to receive the Pasifika Scholarship from WFPW Australia to support my education. Getting this scholarship is a great honor for my family and me. It tells me that I have the potential to create a future for our society. I am determined to fulfill my responsibilities to represent our Solomon Island society and give back to the community. I am going to do the best I can to make my family and society happy; this is my aspiration. I will now be able to support my community through the knowledge and skills I have learned.

“I would like to sincerely express my heartfelt

thanks for choosing me as one of the Pasifika Scholarship recipients from the Solomon Islands. I wish to give my special thanks to the WFPW Australia Pasifika Scholarship team and my sponsors. Your kind and generous donation allow my studies to keep moving smoothly. You have given me so much hope and support for my education that I cannot express my gratitude in any words. For without your generous giving, my academic journey would not have been made possible. Once again, thank you so much!

“At first, my children were not happy with me because I was attending evening class from 5:00 to 8:30, three days a week, and arrived home late. As time went on, I explained to them my purpose for studying, and they were happy that I was getting my MBA. My study motivates them to keep going to school to achieve a career through academic studies. At times my children and I study together at home. I prepare their school lessons, and I prepare mine, so it becomes fun at home.”



# ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH COOPERATION

*By WFPW Ukraine*



## WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

From the day of its founding in Ukraine, WFPW established the Woman of the Year Award, which is presented during their annual conference at the time of International Mother's Day in May. During the past 14 years, 121 outstanding Ukrainian women were honored for being volunteers, teachers, Olympic champions, doctors, mothers of large families, stateswomen, and others.

## COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

WFPW Ukraine regularly organizes round-table discussions at the Parliament of Ukraine, which have been attended by international guests from South Korea, Japan, France, Great Britain, Portugal, Netherlands, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Syria.



WFPW has also actively cooperated with municipal administrations of the cities of Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Romny, and Kaniv. Many city mayors have personally participated in WFPW projects.





In 2007, WFWP started working with the Kyiv Municipal Family Center, taking an active part in all projects like “Father’s Day” and “Family Day.” WFWP is a long-time partner of the All-Ukrainian Sport Festival for families, which is organized by the Kyiv Regional State Administration and the Kyiv Oblast Center for Physical Health.

WFWP’s regular active cooperation with the state has been highly recognized by the government from the cities to the national level, which resulted in more than 20 various governmental awards.

### WORKING WITH WOMEN

WFWP Ukraine unites women from Ukraine and other countries to create strong and fruitful relationships and partnerships, successfully overcoming political, linguistic, cultural, and other barriers.

In 2012 WFWP Ukraine became a member of the National Council of Women (NCW), which embraces 21 women’s NGOs, and is a part of the International Council of Women (ICW), the first women’s organization in the world.





# THE BAMIA SCHOOL PROJECT, GUYANA

*By WFPW Guyana*



The Bamia School Project was originally organized to provide education for the local community, which was in an economically depressed area. WFPW volunteers found that many school-age children stayed at home because the existing schools were far away, and their parents could not provide transportation.

A local WFPW member, Trudy Thomas, made efforts to solve this issue and volunteered to teach the children for many hours to fill the gap in their education. Later, she reported the situation to the president and the members of WFPW, and they were offered space to hold classes in an existing organization's building in the area. Then additional teachers were hired by WFPW and funded by Japanese WFPW members.



The Bamia School Project also included a nutrition program as an incentive for the children to go to school. Food, clothing, footwear, reading materials, and toys were distributed to parents for their children.

After successfully implementing the project for one academic year from 1997 to 1998, WFPW members decided to lobby the





Guyana government to incorporate the Bamia School into the national education system. In 1999, the Government of Guyana took over the administrative management of the school. Classes are now provided for elementary school children, and the Ministry of Education is responsible for the welfare of the teachers, including payment of salaries. Moreover, with financial support from Japan, WFP Guyana worked with the government to provide water and toilet facilities on the school grounds, as well as paying for school furniture.

WFP Guyana continues to support the Bamia School children by donating school supplies as well as personal items such as backpacks, kits, and toys.



# CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD

By Fujiko Paul, President, WFWP Haiti



*Fujiko Paul, with her husband and children (2011)*

One of the problems developing countries face is the low literacy rate among people over 15 years old.

In Haiti, I often see people signing their receipts with a “+,” and when I first saw it, I wondered if they were fooling around. However, when I listened carefully, I found out that they couldn’t write their own names, so they wrote a “cross” and used it as a signature. It was very shocking for me, a Japanese woman who learned to read and write since childhood.

Haiti does not have many free many public elementary schools for children. As a result, less than half of the children in the entire country, including those in private high schools, can attend free elementary school.

In 2003, the United Nations Headquarters declared “Education for All” under the “UN Literacy 10 Years” initiative. At the time, Haiti’s literacy rate was around 50%, the lowest in the Americas. When the Haitian government was also focusing on improving the literacy rate, my Haitian husband suggested that I contribute to society through literacy classes.

The “Literacy Education Project” was well received by the Haitian government, and I thought it was a worthwhile activity, so I felt empowered as if I could see a ray of hope for the future.

In 2008, with the support of WFWP Japan, we rented a classroom in a high school and started a tuition-free WFWP literacy class.





More than 90% of the students were women, who supported their families during the day, often carrying large baskets on their heads full of things to sell. They would then go to literacy class with their notebooks firmly in hand. These women could not go to school when young, due to financial reasons or their parents' belief that girls do not need to go to school. But after our six-month course, they could read, write, and calculate easily. Many expressed their gratitude in tears, saying, "I'm happy that I can write my name on my donation bag" or "I'm glad I can read the Bible now."

In 2010, we had to suspend our literacy classes due to the massive earthquake in Haiti. However, many local people strongly requested that we resume the literacy classes, so we started again in the tent villages. They had not given up their desire to be able to read and write!

Inspired by their attitude, we were able to continue the long-sought WFWP literacy

classes in 2012, creating an environment where more people can learn. In response to requests from the whole country to offer more literacy classes, we were able to start a second literacy class in Miragoane City in 2018. Now many students come from neighboring towns by shared bus. Their faces are so full of hope that it is hard to believe that they had been working up until the start time of class.

Recently, more men and women in their twenties have been coming to our literacy classes. It is painful to know that this younger generation of students could not access education up until now. Still, they say with a big smile, "I can write and post on Facebook now!" Hearing their joys and hardships, I realized the role of literacy classes has now become a source of inspiration for me.



## THE MOTHER'S LOVE PROJECT

*By WFWP Japan*



*WFWP Japan has many aging members and needs more young people. Therefore, WFWP Tokyo's 22<sup>nd</sup> District made a pioneering effort to offer creative opportunities for young volunteers.*

“The Mother’s Love Project” is a crowdfunding project to raise funds and support international WFWP projects. It was launched by youth members of Tokyo’s 22<sup>nd</sup> District Federation of WFWP Japan, and their first fundraising attempt to raise funds in 2021 resulted in great success. Their goal of renovating basketball and volleyball courts for the youth in the Dominican Republic was accomplished with a total donation of 311,500 yen (equivalent to about US \$2,700) raised in one month from supporters in Japan.



The project involved frequent communication between WFWP representatives of Japan and the Dominican Republic. The youth in Japan developed detailed strategies for success, and the Dominican side put a lot of effort into renovation of their facilities. The





main motivation of the Japanese youth was to create an environment for Dominican young people to enjoy themselves in the midst of unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic circumstances and to provide a training ground for future athletes. The sports facility was greatly appreciated by the youth of the economically depressed community of Las Malvinas.

In addition to providing regular progress reports to the donors, the Youth Team made accessories with the Dominican flag motif to express thanks. Large donors were honored with wall plaques at the school inscribed with their names.

The Japanese Youth Team hopes to continue this effort in raising funds to support projects in other parts of the world so that they can “see the beautiful smiles on the faces of our fellow brothers and sisters.”

The success of this project led Tokyo’s 22<sup>nd</sup> District to organize a special Youth District for the entire Tokyo area to retain young members of WFPW Japan.



# Era de la Mujer



## WFWP TELEVISION PROGRAM: ERA DE LA MUJER

*By WFWP Costa Rica*

*Front: Ana Zuniga Marin; Dr. Paola Araya Martinez*

*Back: Roy S. Benavides; Tomiyo Yakushiji, Program Producer*

One of the most significant changes of the 21st century has been the advancement and participation of women into social, scientific, and economic life, which is quite different from what it was in the past. However, women of today face new and sometimes greater challenges, and their empowerment has brought greater demands.

“ERA DE LA MUJER” (Women’s Era) is a national TV show and YouTube channel created by WFWP and broadcast throughout Costa Rica. For more than a decade, from 2007 to 2018, this show aired every Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., bringing together experts and guests to discuss issues important to both women and men. The

program was designed to provide practical and fun information that would be beneficial to the audience.

We conducted interviews on various health topics with doctors and experts in areas such as dentistry, gynecology, and general medicine, where they provided their knowledge and medical advice. We had psychologists who spoke on work stress, depression, grief, and children’s behavior and personality development. The program also featured specialists in economics, technology, indigenous rights, women’s labor rights, sustainability, environmental, and pollution issues.



*L-R: Priscilla Gutierrez Fernandez; Elizabeth Cordero Vargas; Yadira Jimenez*

The program offered tips on how to be happy and control anger, how to motivate children, how to prevent aggression in the family, how to nurture children, and how to protect mothers to give stability to children. We produced a short video on children's behavior.

Another exciting theme in the show offered education on Japanese culture, such as an origami class. We collaborated with reputable beauty and health brands to introduce their items and goods. Another feature allowed viewers to participate live by calling in with comments and questions for the panelists and professionals.

These are just some of the topics and programs that have been shared on national television with the help received from Japanese volunteers: Mrs. Nobumi Shiratori, Mrs. Setsue Hamano, Mrs. Eriko Inada, and the support of the Hyogo Province in Japan.

Women's roles in society are evolving, and every decade we have succeeded in challenging traditional social restrictions. Undoubtedly, the future of women will be very different from earlier eras. Much work remains to be done, and we must work together to make good things happen.



## CREATION OF THE GLOBAL WOMEN'S PEACE NETWORK

*By Mion Tsuchiaka, International Administrator, WFWPI*

On July 16, 2012, the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) was launched as the final global event hosted by Dr. Sun Myung Moon before his ascension. The Cheongshim Peace World Center in South Korea was the location where more than 13,000 women leaders and representatives of Women's Federation for World Peace from 193 nations came together for this historic inaugural event.

Co-Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon emphasized that from the perspective of God's will, the establishment of a God-acknowledging United Nations is an absolutely necessary step in building a world of lasting peace. The United Nations was established in 1945, yearning for global peace.

For renewal of this original vision, women

leaders must surmount the present limitations by engaging with other women's non-governmental organizations. Peace movements should take root as the cornerstone of a new system to solve social issues.

In his keynote address at the inauguration of the "Abel Women's UN" (which later became the GWPN), Dr. Sun Myung Moon recognized that women would play an "Abel" providential role in leading the establishment of a new world of peace. He encouraged the renewal of the founding spirit of the UN and offered his guidance, "I believe that a women's peace movement based on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) needs to take root as a new system to resolve problems that arise in the field. One individual or one NGO alone cannot carry out this women's





peace movement; rather, it is only possible through a global organization exercising global solidarity.”

In this way, GWPN’s path to a peaceful world will be accomplished by joining forces with other NGOs, with other women leaders, and governmental officials through a wide umbrella of cooperation. This pathway will allow realization of our historic mission.

Since its inception, GWPN has expanded and developed meaningful projects and conferences (online and in-person) to realize its vision of partnerships with a wide variety of women’s organizations and networks.

This is done in the spirit of the Co-Founders’ message to spread the model movement

by “creating a true family movement that emphasizes living for the sake of others based on true love and carried out in conjunction with education and proper values. War and conflict arise from selfish motives, desiring to take others’ land, others’ possessions, and the like, by force. On the other hand, peace arrives from investing oneself for the sake of others, that is, giving based on love...”

“Transitioning beyond a century of power and technology, women will be the central axis in building a new century characterized by its loving, peaceful culture, and their role will be more important than ever before.”



## MOVING FORWARD WITH WILL, COURAGE, AND PERSEVERANCE FOR THE SAKE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S PEACE NETWORK

*By WFWP Dominican Republic*

Mrs. Teiko Kono is currently the regional secretary-general of WFWP Central America and the vice president of WFWP Dominican Republic. Her husband was designated as a missionary for the Dominican Republic in 1996; she originally stayed in Japan with her young children. Along with taking care of her family, she also worked as a volunteer and educator for WFWP in Japan in programs such as Sexual Values Education. She silently carried out many responsibilities.

In 2005, Mrs. Kono was able to move to the Dominican Republic to join her husband, which incidentally, is the first European colony in Latin America. This was the same year that Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon made a world tour proclaiming the establishment of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). Although her children were grown, she still had the heartfelt pain of missing them when she moved to the island. Unfortunately, a few months after her arrival, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo two surgeries within the

next five years. She continues to undergo cancer treatment.

This difficulty could easily have defeated her and stopped her from doing public work. However, with strong faith in God, she doubled her efforts and initiated events that became very significant and newsworthy. Her work awakened the interest of thousands of women leaders in the Dominican Republic and throughout the Central American region, and even on the world level.

Furthermore, when she contracted the COVID-19 virus recently, she did not give up. She has continued with faith, love, and absolute obedience to God, pursuing the goal of giving the message of peace to as many people as possible. She truly is an example for all of us.





### PERSONAL TESTIMONY FROM MRS. TEIKO KONO

In July 2012, I was invited to a special conference organized by the Co-Founders of WFWP in Korea, where they launched the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPNN). There we welcomed Father and Mother Moon, who had just returned to Korea from the United States. They discussed that the United Nations had lost much of its influence and leadership in the world and had become largely a place for powerful countries to assert their own interests.

According to the Co-Founders, women needed to help lead the establishment of a peaceful world, becoming one of the two "wheels" of this effort alongside men, who are the other "wheel." Women need to be empowered for building peace and for this reason, the GWPNN was launched.

I was deeply moved by vision of the Co-Founders and their extraordinary determination to achieve peace on earth. For me, it was even more moving than the inaugural speech of WFWP in 1992, which proclaimed the coming of the era of women. But a few weeks after the founding of GWPNN, we were shocked by the passing of Father Moon.

Although I was inspired by the GWPNN speech, I had no idea how to actually carry it out in reality. Then I heard a report on activities from WFWP Belize, and I thought we could do the same and planned the first GWPNN meeting in the Dominican Republic. We booked a hotel and asked members for donations. We also asked participants to make a voluntary contribution and invited 30 government VIPs and Ambassadors for Peace.

The first program began with participants introducing themselves, and then reading the keynote speech by Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Our greatest hope was that all the participating women leaders could understand the message of a world of permanent peace and commit themselves to working together with us. As guests of honor, we invited the wife of the Cuban Ambassador to the Dominican Republic and the Mayor of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

Seeing these successes, Mrs. Kyoko Kuramoto, WFWP South American coordinator, proposed to continue the conferences at the regional level and arranged for WFWP Japan to support the necessary expenses. Topics of focus included peace, women and education, youth issues, moral decay, and family breakdown.





At the second event in 2013, the number of participants increased to 120. We presented our topic on “Education for Purity,” and the response was great. Within a month after the conference, we received eleven requests for the lectures, which we then gave at schools, churches, NGOs, etc.

For the third year, based on the requests of the participants, we held group discussions on issues such as politics, education, and NGOs. We asked the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Ambassadors for Peace who specialized in each field to moderate at the table discussions. Looking at the results, I felt that this was a model for the “Women’s UN.” After listening to a character education lecture on Conflict Resolution, a government parliamentarian volunteered to organize a seminar for educators in her area. After that, UPF and WFWP organized eight workshops attended by 250 educators, including principals and vice-principals and received a certificate from Sun Moon University.

One of the most outstanding GWPN events was in 2016, with the participation of WFWPI President Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and four WFWP Vice Presidents from Europe, North America, South America, and the UN Office.

It was difficult to choose speakers, with more participants than ever before, including acting First Lady of the Dominican Republic and the Minister of Women’s Affairs, as well as participants from abroad and important personalities from Japan.

At the suggestion of the WFWP UN office, we decided to set up smaller breakout sessions by topic. After this great event, a similar event was organized by the Ambassadors for Peace. One national senator mobilized people in her hometown and invited 250 women leaders, including local governors and mayors—the highest number to date. They supported the office of the Acting First Lady and the Minister for Women’s Affairs.

Another highlight was the 8<sup>th</sup> GWPN conference in 2019, held in conjunction with the UPF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Summit. We had the honor and privilege of having WFWPI Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon, three international vice presidents, and representatives of WFWP from different regions. Various personalities from overseas, such as former first ladies and members of the National Assembly also participated in this event.





At the 9<sup>th</sup> event in 2020, we limited the participants to 50 because of the coronavirus pandemic. An Ambassador of Peace who is a doctor gave the keynote speech about the pandemic.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held on November 10, 2021, was attended by 100 women leaders and happened to be at the same location as the first meeting.

As a final result of these ten annual meetings, we hosted 1,318 participants, including 14 countries, 12 NGOs, including former first ladies, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, ministers, university professors and other educators, local governments, community groups, and churches.

To a large extent, GWPN was able to play a role in promoting a network among these countries, groups, and women leaders to deepen mutual understanding and share challenges and ideals.



In addition, it was a great exchange between the different WFPW national headquarters who shared their situation and activities from their country. They also sent specialized speakers to share their knowledge.

In the future, I would like to further explore how GWPN can specifically contribute to the realization of world peace and come up with practical solutions for the needs of people in today's society.





# HISTORY OF THE GWPN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1

- November 22, 2012
- "Solidarity of Women for World Peace"
- Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santo Domingo
- 36 participants; 4 nations

**High Level Participation:**

Representatives from the First Lady's office and from a Senator's office; a former Minister of the Women's Department; the wife of the Cuban Ambassador to the Dominican Republic; Mayor of Port-au-Prince, Haiti

2

- October 31 - November 2, 2013
- "The Role of Women for Constructing a Nation of Peace"
- Legislator's Club, Santo Domingo East
- 126 participants; 7 nations

**High Level Participation:**

Peru - Senator's wife, President of WFWP Peru; Honduras - President and Vice President of WFWP Honduras; Cuba; St. Kitts and Nevis; Haiti; Japan; Dominican Republic - representatives from the First Lady's office, the office of a Senator, the Women's Department and the office of the Mayor of Santo Domingo East; the wife of a Congressman; the former Vice President of the National University, 4 professors, and 13 presidents of NGOs

3

- October 31 - November 2, 2014
- "Reconciliation and Solidarity for Peace"
- Legislator's Club, Santo Domingo East
- 116 participants; 7 nations

**High Level Participation:**

Peru - Vice President of the National University; 4 WFWP Peru members; Haiti - Secretary of the Supreme Court, President and Secretary of the Association of Educators of Latin America & Caribbean (AELAC), President and Vice President of WFWP Haiti; St. Kitts and Nevis - former First Lady; USA - Vice President of WFWP USA; Puerto Rico; Japan; Dominican Republic - 3 congresswomen, Colonel of the National Police, former Vice President of the National University, Representative of the Venezuelan Embassy, President of the National Council of Women, professors and teachers, and NGO leaders





**4**

- 📅 November 7 - 9, 2015
- 💬 “The Role of Women in Society and Education for the New Millennium”
- 🌐 Legislator’s Club, Santo Domingo East
- 👥 178 participants; 9 nations

**High Level Participation:**  
Cuba - President of AELAC, professors from the University of Havana; Haiti; President of WFWP Costa Rica; President of WFWP Trinidad & Tobago; President of WFWP Venezuela; AELAC; USA - WFWP International Vice President; President of WFWP Peru; Japan; Dominican Republic - 3 congresswomen, 7 representatives of government institutions, 6 professors from the National University, 4 school principals, and 12 presidents of NGOs

**5**

- 📅 September 30 - October 2, 2016
- 💬 “Women, Peace and Education”
- 🌐 Legislator’s Club, Santo Domingo East
- 👥 192 participants; 11 nations

**High Level Participation:**  
Korea - WFWPI President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, and secretary; Haiti - 2 representatives of the Director General, President of WFWP Haiti; Cuba - professor from the University of Havana; Costa Rica - 4 WFWP Costa Rica members; Nicaragua - President of WFWP Nicaragua and 2 members; Japan; WFWPI Vice Presidents for USA, Europe and South America; President of WFWP UK; Dominican Republic - Minister of Women’s Department, a representative from the First Lady’s office (director in charge of an NGO), 1 senator, 3 congresswomen, 9 political leaders, 6 professors from the National University, 4 school principals, and 11 NGO presidents

**6**

- 📅 October 18, 2017
- 💬 “Peace Starts With Me”
- 🌐 Auditorium of the Family Federation for World Peace
- 👥 150 participants

**High Level Participation:**  
WFWPI President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon, WFWPI Vice President and Director of the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in NY, Mrs. Alexa Ward; Vice Minister of the Women’s Department, 5 congresswomen, and 7 NGO leaders



**7**

- 📅 November 3, 2018
- 💬 “The Role of Women in Constructing World Peace”
- 🌐 Auditorium of Youth Center, La Romana City
- 👥 250 participants

High Level Participation:  
Minister of the Women’s Department, 2 representatives from the First Lady’s office, a representative from the Vice President’s office, a senator, a governor, and 2 mayors

**8**

- 📅 December 15, 2019
- 💬 “The Family as the Essential Foundation for World Peace”
- 🌐 Hotel Gran Almirante, City of Santiago de Caballeros
- 👥 Number of Participation; 120, 16 nations

VIP: 2 Ex. First ladies, 4 Senators and congresswomen, Dr. Sun Jin Moon Senior Vice President and 2 Vice President of WFWP international

**9**

- 📅 December 11, 2020
- 💬 “The Role of Women Leaders in the Time of Transition”
- 🌐 FFWPU Hall and YOUTUBE Live
- 👥 60 (+21 YOUTUBE Live)

VIP: Ex. Congressman, Director of Puerto Plata Hospital: Dr. Carlos Martínez, Director of Intersectional Coordination: Lic. Carolina Alvarado, Director of the National Youth and Children’s Library, Professional Singer: Lic. Alicia Baroni

**10**

- 📅 November 20, 2021
- 💬 “The Family is the Corner Stone of World Peace”
- 🌐 Crowne Plaza Hotel Santo Domingo
- 👥 128 (96 guests)

VIP: Ex. First Lady of Haiti: Hon. Ginette Michaud Privert, Vice Minister of Dept. Supreme Education: Prof. Carmen Evarista Matias, Director of Plan & Development of Dept. of Women: Dr. Esminia Jimenez, Ex. Congress man: Dr. Carlos Martinez, Ex. Congresswoman: Lic. Antonia Suriel



# CULTURE IS A BRIDGE TO UNITY, NOT A BARRIER OF SEPARATION

*By WFWP Brazil*



The Nations Festival is an initiative of WFWP Brazil, which began in 2005 in Sao Paulo. This cultural event started as a small gathering of international WFWP members, but soon it greatly expanded. By 2018, the city of São Paulo included the Festival in their official event calendar. It is now sponsored by the town in partnership with the City Hall. The Festival is held at a popular tourist site in the city, Praça da Liberdade, and has brought thousands of participants together.

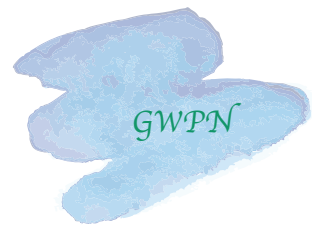
Brazil has welcomed immigrants from all over the world with their unique customs, cuisine, and historical background. All of this inspired WFWP Brazil to start the tradition of celebrating





culture. The philosophy of WFPW is that commonalities exist in all cultures, and as we get to know others, we can find the common ground. Therefore, differences in culture do not need to create barriers but can be a bridge for unity.

The annual Nations Festival showcases the cultures of different countries, including various traditional clothing, dance, music, and food, in a celebration that brings people together. In this way, WFPW helps people overcome cultural, racial, and religious prejudices and celebrates the cultural diversity of Brazil. The Festival includes 15 to 20 countries each year, with people from each country happily sharing their culture's treasures.



WFWP members have visited and maintained contact over the years with more than 40 consulates in Brazil, and now some of the consuls actively support the Festival by providing food, entertainment, and event sponsorships, with interest in spreading the culture of their country.

Moreover, the Nations Festival has grown in size and has become a significant event in Sao Paulo. Many authorities, including governors, mayors, and politicians such as first ladies and deputies, have become involved in its operation and participate in the event.

A primary goal of WFWP Co-Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is unity through culture. As much as language differences, political disagreements, wealth disparities and other difficulties separate us, the 21<sup>st</sup> century can be the time when the beauties of each culture can unite us.







# GWPN USA

*WFWPI Archives*

The Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) was launched in South Korea on July 16, 2012, by Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, with leaders from one hundred ninety-four nations in attendance. The purpose of GWPN is to facilitate the world of lasting peace.

The Co-Founders stated in their inaugural speech, “One individual or one NGO alone cannot carry out this women’s peace movement; rather, it is only possible through a global organization exercising global solidarity...The work for world peace carried out until now need not remain at its current stage. It has the potential to expand and develop to the next stage, so it should work together in cooperation with women leaders and NGOs from all parts of the world and strive together to follow the path to the ultimate establishment of the world of peace.

To do that, WFWP has to go beyond the level of a women’s NGO and bring together governments, organizations and individuals across the world and march forward.”

Thus, the purpose of GWPN is “to create a true family movement that emphasizes living for the sake of others based on true love, carried out in conjunction with education on proper values. War and conflict arise from selfish motives, taking others’ land, others’ possessions and property by force. On the other hand, peace arises from investing oneself for the sake of others; that is, giving based on true love.”

The Co-Founders declared that “Transitioning beyond a century of power and technology, women will be the central axis in building a new century characterized by its loving, peaceful culture, and their role will be more





*GWPN Panel, Las Vegas, June 2019*

important than ever before.”

Later that year, after the unexpected passing of her husband, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon determined to continue the development of GWPN. She traveled to Las Vegas and led a three-day convocation and benefit from October 25-27, 2012. This event was appropriately titled, “The Turning Point” and participants came away renewed, refreshed and re-determined to bring peace to the global level.

In 2018 a Global Women’s Peace Conference was held in New York, and WFWPI Professor Yeon Ah Moon reminded attendees that America has received much blessing and grace, not for itself, but so that it could help other nations achieve unity, harmony and peace.

The three areas of activity for GWPN were outlined by WFWP USA President Angelika Selle as: women’s leadership, family values, and environment—both physical and spiritual.

Even though women are central to Women’s Federation for World Peace and Global Women’s Peace Network, “feminist” ideology is not at the core of the organizations. Rather, feminine qualities that melt away hate and,

as exemplified by the heart of a mother, can give birth to a new way of life, are the focus.

In 2019, regional GWPN forums were launched from the West Coast to the Southeast regions in America, emphasizing that women do not need to compete with or imitate men but rather should appreciate their innate, divine, feminine gifts that bring balance and well-being to the planet and to a culture of peace.

WFWPI Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon gave the keynote address in each of the launching regions and affirmed that women are the turning point for peace. She stated that now more than ever, women need to turn toward God and come together as a global family.

GWPN Forums included panels of successful women entrepreneurs, media personalities, representatives of NGOs, and leaders of various organizations who offered practical information in their areas of expertise, cultural background, and life experiences.

After the panels, discussion tables allowed participants to brainstorm and make proposals for projects promoting women’s leadership, family, and the environment.



*Angelika Selle speaking at New York GWPAN 2018*



*Las Vegas GWPAN, June 2019*

Brainstorming ideas were then presented to the GWPAN committee.

Several new educational programs were also initiated by GWPAN USA, beginning with the Leadership of the Heart seminar. This includes exercises and lectures helping people develop their inner strengths and focus on positive ways of thinking and interacting that can have a positive impact on creating peace in the world. The Leadership of the Heart seminar also highlights the most powerful feminine leadership qualities and teaches how to balance both “feminine and masculine” leadership styles. Future workshops are being developed to take things a step further by helping participants learn to collaborate with like-minded women and organizations in such areas as relationship development, good governance, and stewardship.

Another seminar, The Cornerstone for Happiness, is an interactive workshop for women and men of all ages developed to improve family and marriage relationships based on the unique philosophy of “living by the logic of love.”

The curriculum illustrates that inherent challenges in intimate relationships are faced by everyone and often make it hard

to experience a healthy marriage and family. No matter how many years of married life, whether five months or fifty years, commitment to a healthy marriage requires continuous learning. Practical tools are needed. Seeing marriage as an active spiritual practice is an important part of the discussions.

According to the American Psychological Association, “Healthy marriages are good for couples’ mental and physical health. They are also good for children. Growing up in a happy home protects children from mental, physical, educational and social problems.” However, achieving happy and healthy families is often very difficult. Rising rates of divorce, domestic violence, damaged relationships in the family, fewer healthy role models for children, profound loneliness among individuals, and over-sexualization of popular culture all contribute to our current social problems.

WFWP’s Cornerstone for Peace seminar is designed to help married couples find a new vision for marriage and family and start a journey to strengthen or restore true love in their own lives and relationships.

The Cornerstone for Peace introduces a



profound vision for marriage and family inspired by the life work and peace philosophy of WFWP's Co-Founders. This seminar is awakening a new sense of the importance of marriage and family for couples and also for those preparing for marriage in the future.

Another popular program is the "HerStory" Award, which recognizes exemplary women of compassion and wisdom whose stories are often unknown. With the HerStory awards, WFWP USA recognizes and honors women not only for their accomplishments in various fields, but especially for the "story behind it." Each HerStory Award recipient is selected for her courage, compassion and commitment to using her gifts and talents to uplift others, despite often overwhelming challenges.

Upon receiving this award, the recipient is asked to share a few practical points or lessons learned to encourage others, including the next generation. The purpose of the HerStory Award is to encourage all women to realize that by investing in people and relationships, you are a leader, regardless of title or position, and thus you have the ability to accomplish extraordinary things for the sake of the greater good.

Global Women's Peace Network asserts that women are indeed essential to the realization of a peaceful world. Regardless of one's social position, Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon reminds all of us to: "Follow the path of a true mother, the path of a true wife, true daughter, true sister, and the path of a true woman leader who will build a unified world where freedom, peace and happiness overflow."

She invites everyone to "Begin in your family, your church, and your community to live a life of true love, of living for others, spreading light through the world and wiping away the tears of those less fortunate."





## WOMEN AS THE TURNING POINT FOR PEACE

*By WFWP USA*

When Women's Federation for World Peace USA launched the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) around the country in 2019, an effort was made to find key people in each region to ignite the project. The inaugural Midwest meeting took place on October 18 at the Marriott Chicago O'Hare titled "Women as the Turning Point for Peace." Dr. Sun Jin Moon flew in from Korea for the occasion and made her first public speech in the United States in her new role as the senior vice president of WFWP International.

The room was filled with leaders of NGOs, young professionals, and participants from throughout the country who came to show their support for the efforts that lay ahead. There were delegates from Canada, as well as the American Clergy Leadership Conference Women in Ministry.

The program began with a warm welcome to the heartland of the US by Kathryn Davis, Midwest Regional Director of WFWP USA (representing 15 states), and key contributor in bringing the launch to fruition. The auspicious occasion was marked with a proclamation from the Governor of the State of Illinois, JB Pritzker, who proclaimed October 18<sup>th</sup> as "Global Women's Day—Peace Starts With Me."

The keynote address was by Dr. Sun Jin Moon; she recalled Mother Moon's founding address during the inauguration of the GWPN in the US in 2012. Dr. Moon acknowledged the divisions of humanity and how difficult it is to find true love and peace in this world. Despite growing movements emerging to speak out against injustices, we continue to live in a world pained by religious and racial



*Chicago GWPN Panelists*



*GWPN Midwest Organizers and Speakers*

intolerance, violence against women, even mass shootings. Furthermore, we have the potential to destroy our planet. To change and correct this destructiveness, we need to unite, now more than ever, and regain sight of the solutions: to turn our hearts and minds to God, and overcome extreme self-centered materialism and egoism.

Dr. Moon encouraged listeners to master our inner power of unconditional love, to create balance in the world by bringing women out of background and shadows, and to come together as a global family. With the understanding that every child is a valued child of God, we can respect one another. Her message and presence of love opened hearts in the room, which gave others the space to share throughout the day.

Next, the HerStory Award honored four exceptional women who have contributed to

the service of others and their communities. WFWPUSA recognizes and honors women not only for their outstanding accomplishments in various fields of endeavor, but especially for the story “behind it.” Each HerStory Award recipient is selected for her courage, compassion, and commitment to using her gifts and talents to uplift others, despite often overwhelming challenges. This brings “her story” to the foreground.

The day ended with a call to action, prayer, and toast for peace. Before departing, each participant signed a “launching” Declaration, becoming founding stakeholders of the Global Women’s Peace Network in the Midwest region and committing to solve pressing social issues and realize a world of peace for generations to come.



## GIVING FOR GOOD

#GivingForGood #Wfwpj



*By Dr. Sun Jin Moon, Senior Vice President, WFWPI*

*“Aloha!”*

*Greetings of eternal love and well wishes from the Big Island of Hawaii!  
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the WFWPI General Assembly 2021!*



We are convening from throughout the globe in this virtual forum due to these unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic times, and I wish you and your families abundant health, wellness and safety! I know that many of you are participating at all hours of the day, so I wish you a glorious morning, a fantastic afternoon and a stellar evening! Once again, “Mahalo!” Thank you all for attending this important event!



I had hoped this year’s General Assembly would be in person, but with the current complicated state of the world, “normal” life and in-person gatherings remain uncertain with the Delta variant and other variants of the threat. And sadly, with just four months until 2022, the world and all our lives are also at a planetary crossroads. Now of course, I only wanted to bring you good news and a hopeful outlook for the future, but in these trying times we must face the facts of what a sad reality we are in, to motivate us to make a real difference with our actions, to get us to where we want to be in the future.



I hold as a mantra my parents’ words that “women will save the world.” I do believe that we can and will be the Feminine voice and force of





goodness, love, compassion, aid, and wisdom to make that dream come true.

I know that as mothers, sisters, daughters, and all feminine bonds, we are united by one common universal truth, to live for the sake of others with a sincere culture of heart. I see this truth to be the beacon of light and hope for the world and the only embrace big enough to love all life on this precious "Mother Earth." Only women can truly know and give the earth the eternal respect, fair and right action and noble dignity She deserves.

This is because "She" is us. She is the cornerstone of love, nurturance, life, harmony, peace, abundance and happiness in our homes and the outer realms beyond. She is the embodiment of true love, living for the

sake of others and She is the role model for all generations to live with that same heart of unified goodness, gratitude, care, stewardship and prosperity for all life to come. Now more than ever, the world needs you and your families to stand with and for the longevity and flourishing of all life on earth.

Can we as women, the center of our families, united globally, save our world? I know with absolute certainty that we can! Do you agree? Yes!

Thank you for your heroic commitment and confidence because our global peace work must start now! With the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the outlook for "Earth, our [collective] home," is catastrophic. With climate change



no longer a “myth” but a global reality, no one can turn a blind eye to the devastation we are witnessing daily.

With wildfires consuming and polluting multiple cities, states, and nations across the globe, blanketing us with suffocating ash and pollution, leaving a horrifying expanse of burnt wasteland and suffering, our hearts can only sink with each flareup and snapshot of our scorched earth. We have all seen it in news reels of the Western US, Canada, Greece, Turkey, and Siberia with the largest wildfires “now bigger than all other fires in the world combined,” and “releasing 505 megatons of emissions released since June, [which] would be more than Britain’s entire carbon dioxide emissions for the whole of 2019.”

The jaw-dropping scale of devastation in Siberia is a colossal calamity and although not as big a wildfire, I am sad to report that even on

the Big Island of Hawaii where I live, we just witnessed the largest wildfire ever recorded here, which heartbreakingly consumed over 40,000 acres of land, wildlife, and homes. As devastating as our Waimea fire was, this is nothing in comparison to the Dixie fire in California, which has consumed over 705,000 acres and the voracious Caldor fire threatening multiple states and estimated to take 33,679 homes. Our prayers go out to all around the globe suffering from the calamity of climate change.

Wildfires are just one issue of climate change. In the 1,300 pages of the IPCC report, it lists every possible form of life and land on the planet in jeopardy. Even without reading the report, I’m sure you have all experienced extreme heat waves in your respective countries leading to drought and desertification in some areas, or massive rainfall like in southwestern Japan that caused the evacuation



of five million people, or the deluge of precipitation topping the weather charts with devastating record-breaking floods like in Germany that tragically swept away hundreds of lives, homes, and livelihoods.

With multiple storms around the globe wreaking havoc, America is currently reeling in the wake of category 4 Hurricane Ida that brought from the Southern gulf to the Eastern coast of the USA a state of emergency, flood and disaster. Unprecedented wind and rainfall from Louisiana up to New York City and New Jersey tragically took the lives of 43 people on the east coast, with the death toll expected to rise as the disaster is surveyed.

Heartbreaking photos show a wasteland of homes, families, communities, lives and livelihoods tragically struck, leaving one to continue to mourn daily as the tearful stories of our fallen brethren engulf our news feeds. Our prayers are endless with the loss of life from

the COVID-19 pandemic at 4,579,216 persons and the additional global loss of life, property, and creation due to climate change.

It is almost apocalyptic with unprecedented weather patterns, tornadoes, immense storms, hurricanes, hail, landslides, and sinkholes consuming our lands and colossal fires and floods in areas and in magnitude never seen before. All the climate news I listed above is a mere snapshot of global devastation occurring just this summer season—necessitating that I update the data in this speech repeatedly in accord with our globe's worsening conditions.

We are all witnessing the planet and all life on it trembling under threat of mass extinctions of species and a forecast of a multitude of future catastrophes on the horizon. Life as we know it hangs in the balance.

The IPCC report clearly defines in its opening summary the root cause of these ominous



## Environment and Climate Initiatives

natural disasters; namely, it is “...unequivocal that human influence” is leaving a path of devastation and loss of all precious life and life-sustaining needs.

Therefore, as we gather here to celebrate our achievements and pave a path forward for peace in the future, Mother Earth must be included in that grand plan. If She does not exist and flourish, neither shall we. As a women’s movement for peace, I don’t see how we can leave Her out of our global peace equation.

I am proud to report that since March 2020 WFWPI has done something to raise awareness of the pressing issues of climate change and the impact on the peace and security for people and the planet. With the visionary leadership of our WFWPI Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who is also my beloved mother, and our WFWPI IP Julia Moon, who is also my beloved sister-in-law, and generous donations from our immediate family and global family, we have raised funds through circular fashion to the amount to date of over a quarter of a million USD for noble humanitarian and environmental aid across the globe in a social venture project I founded, Giving for Good International (GFGI). Today you will hear reports from our amazing WFWPI global leaders and our GFGI family.

Giving for Good began as a humble effort, inspired by a dream I had of my Father: to offset climate change by utilizing circular fashion to reuse, recycle, repurpose fashion and other items from going into our landfills. The fashion industry “remains the second-largest industrial polluter, second only to oil,” and “worldwide that adds up to 26 billion pounds of clothing that go into landfills. Sixty percent of the clothes are made of non-biodegradable synthetic materials (polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, and plastics) that



[will] sit in landfills.

These synthetic fabrics also release nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is 310 times stronger than carbon. When I shared with our WFWPI Co-Founder the impact of fashion on pollution and the potential of circular fashion being a solution, she whole-heartedly gave the first donation of her clothing and her full support, which launched our first heroic fundraising efforts to help those in need during the time of COVID-19 pandemic and the compounding stress it places on already desperate humanitarian and environmental projects in the works. Dr. Moon’s clothing donation raised \$99,414 USD in the first auction and \$71,882 USD in the second auction in Japan under the great pioneering leadership of WFWP Japan, President Moriko Hori, and her dedicated team.

This amazing triumph was the ray of hope in Japan during these most difficult times where membership and funds were declining,



and all our affiliated charities were in greater need than ever.

This victory then inspired WFWPI USA and UN New York office team, who then spearheaded our GFGI efforts in the US, under the passionate and amazing leadership of Alexa Ward, Angelika Selle, Merly Barlaan and the collective great works of Kiyomi, Tamara, Sun Hwa, Grace, Mako, Mrs. Perrottet, Mrs. Heying, Mrs. Hirano, Mrs. Nilson, Jennifer, Iris, Alex and many awe-inspiring volunteers to raise over \$87,000 USD in the USA. Together, our GFGI international efforts have brought us to \$258,723 USD mark, giving aid to dozens of charities worldwide.

We are looking to continue to expand our efforts to save our world with the UN's "five P's: the people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership." I offer eternal gratitude to those who valiantly took on this task and brought the great results we can share with you today, and we hope to invite you all to join and expand these victories exponentially! I hope this WFWPI project, GFGI, can be adopted worldwide and offer hope in these unimaginable times to bring relief, aid, and an actionable path of a better way forward for all life. I hope you join us in our future efforts and fundraisers to make "Earth, Our Home, All Life, Our Family," a living, peaceful, sustainable, flourishing reality.

If there is one truth and word that made all this possible, it is the truth and eternal impact of the love of family. That is why I know my parents' dream will come true: "women will save the world," because at the heart and center of all life born is a mother who gave her mind, body and soul for the sake of her family—starting with our Mother Earth, to our Mother of Peace, and all of you moms and future moms here today.

You are the reason we are alive and trailblazing a path of how we shall all thrive in harmony, prosperity and peace going forward. We are one family under our Creator. Let us join all our efforts to save this glorious gift of Creation, our most precious family member in need! Can we do it? I hope you all chat in text and in heart with a resounding, collective, pledge saying, "Yes!" Please join our efforts at [givingforgoodinternational.org](http://givingforgoodinternational.org), follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and donate or offer to volunteer!

I offer eternal love and gratitude to you all who have made the impossible possible with your undying love, faith, devotion, and absolute commitment to peace on this precious earth. May Heavenly Parent always bless, love and protect you and your precious families! Namaste!





# WFWPI RESPONDS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

*By Mako Mori, Public Relations and Media Coordinator, WFWPI UN Office NY*

With the recent news of floods, droughts, alarming heat levels, and other environmental calamities being experienced all throughout the world, it is no doubt that solving the climate issue is one of the greatest challenges of our time.

As an initiative to offset the existential threat of climate change, Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) launched Giving for Good International (GFGI) in 2020, under the leadership of Dr. Sun Jin Moon, Senior Vice President of WFWPI. GFGI is now a new signature project of WFWPI that aims to conserve the Earth and all life through outreach, humanitarian aid and circular fashion. Since 2020, the GFGI auctions have raised more than \$200,000 to support the global effort to mitigate environmental degradation.

## IT BEGAN WITH A SPARK

The initial inspiration for GFGI came at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as Dr. Sun Jin Moon was reflecting on how to generate funds for WFWPI, while also responding to the Co-Founder of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's deep heart for environmental sustainability.

While watching an episode of "Tidying Up With Marie Kondo," Dr. Sun Jin Moon was taken aback by the 80 trash bags that were accumulated from tidying up a single home. She then felt called to research what happens to trash bags full of clothes. To her surprise, research showed that 60% of clothes bound for landfills are made of non-biodegradable materials. These synthetic non-biodegradable fabrics in landfills produce nitrous oxide, emitting a greenhouse gas that has about 300





times more heat-trapping power than carbon dioxide. In an effort to mitigate the emissions from trash bags filled with clothes, Dr. Sun Jin Moon was inspired to promote circular fashion as a way to decrease our carbon footprint.

### **CIRCULAR FASHION**

Circular fashion simply means to reuse and recycle clothing to keep them in the cycle rather than the landfills. Giving For Good encourages people to buy second-hand and think twice before throwing clothes away. Next time you feel the urge to throw clothes away, think a bit more deeply about how you can sell, give, or repair them to make them new again. This consciousness of one's own impact on the environment is what GFG hopes to widely cultivate in people's hearts.

### **GFG AUCTION**

Between January 24 and February 13, 2021, the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in New

York held a GFGI fundraising launch project centered upon the theme "Giving For Good: Earth, Our Home. All Life, Our Family."

Over this three-week fundraising period, WFWPI and GFGI held an online auction consisting of donated items from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's closet, as well as items from several of her family members, which culminated in over 200 items up for bid. All proceeds from the auction benefited select WFWPI projects around the world related to climate action, for humanitarian efforts, as well as the WFWPI UN Office.

### **FUNDRAISER EVENT**

In addition to the auction, a fundraising event hosted by Dr. Sun Jin Moon was held on February 6, 2021, attended by nearly 400 participants from 15 countries. During this event, the international audience was able to hear firsthand from her about her vision and inspiration behind GFG and how GFG encourages each of us to be empowered in

the global effort to care for the earth through getting involved in circular fashion. Dr. Sun Jin Moon explained how GFGI aims to support WFWPI projects that are related to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 13 on Climate Action.)

After Dr. Sun Jin Moon's presentation, the audience heard from Mrs. Angelika Selle, International Vice President (IVP) of WFWP North America, on the legacy WFWP USA has had on raising funds for humanitarian projects around the world. This was followed by presentations of two WFWP projects in particular. The first, presented by Mrs. Merly Barlaan, Deputy Director and CAO of the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations, was on a very successful permaculture project that has been developed for years by WFWP Philippines. The second presentation, given by Mrs. Susan Kone, IVP of WFWP Africa, was on a green solar energy project funded by WFWPI HQ and implemented by WFWP Kenya, which has brought a clean and consistent source of light into remote areas of Kenya. These presentations gave the audience just a glimpse of the incredible work being done by WFWP around the world.

Following these presentations, Mrs. Moriko Hori, IVP of WFWP Japan, shared an incredible testimony about a WFWP member in Japan who successfully bid on the Co-Founder's dress during the first GFG Japan auction in 2020. Mrs. Hori moved the audience by reading an account of how the woman, who had been partially paralyzed, was able to stand on her own when she put on the dress.

Dr. Sun Jin Moon closed the program by highlighting how we all have the power to impact all 17 SDGs and realize this shared vision of peace on earth. She shared how GFG's motto "Earth, Our Home, All Life, Our Family," encapsulates WFWPI's mission to love and care for all people as our global family.

These events have been a great opportunity to showcase many of WFWPI's green and humanitarian initiatives around the world, since proceeds raised by GFG are donated to WFWPI's charitable works.

## **CLIMATE ACTION GRANT PROJECTS**

In July 2021, WFWPI announced ten winners for the GFGI Climate Action Project Grant as WFWPI's contribution to the "United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030," which was launched by the UN in June 2021 to promote the UN SDGs. This grant was made possible by the funds raised from the GFG auction and event.

The GFGI Climate Action Project Grant supports projects and activities related to solving environmental issues aligned with UN SDG #12: Responsible consumption and production to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; ensure good use of resources; improving energy efficiency; sustainable infrastructure; providing access to basic services; green and decent jobs; and ensuring a better quality of life for all. The grant also supports

SDG #13: climate action. The winners selected demonstrated innovative ideas, unique to the needs in their communities, and a concrete plan to bring their plans to fruition.

In addition to WFWPI's "Permaculture Peace Garden" project in the Philippines and "Green Solar Energy for the African Villages" in Kenya, the following 10 winners were funded by the 2021 GFG Auction proceeds:

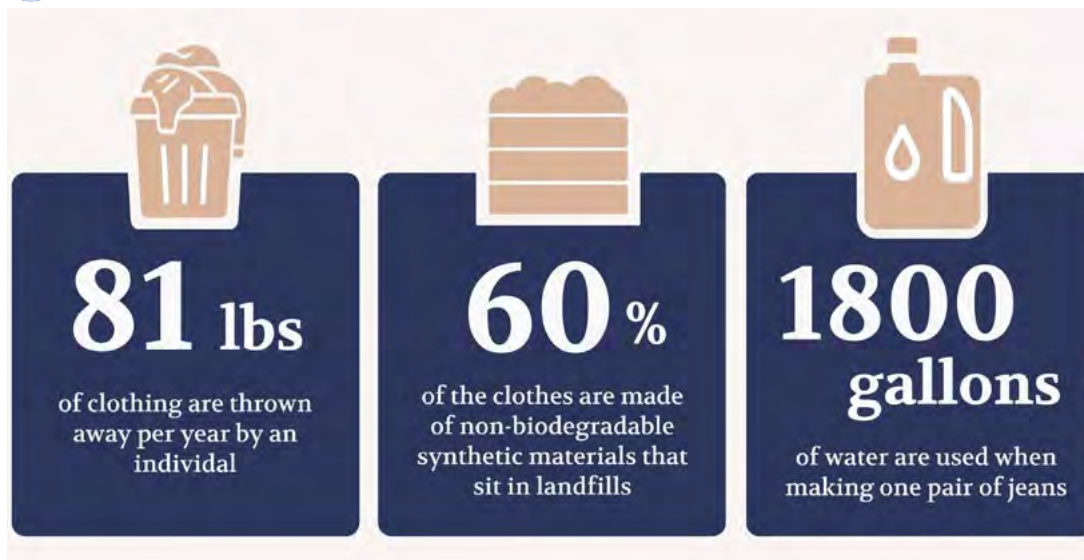
1. Albania - Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Campaign
2. Brazil - Clean drinking water for families living in riverside communities
3. Burkina Faso - Environmental awareness and call to action
4. Cameroon - Separation of waste and collection of chemical waste for a healthier environment
5. Ghana - School mobilization for responsible consumption and production
6. Mali - "Let's improve the life and health of families with solar lights" themed project
7. Paraguay - Cubierta Roga (Tire House), collection center for out-of-use tires for repurposing
8. South Africa (Limpopo) - Cloth Nappy Green Project
9. South Africa (Soweto) - Solar power awareness project in settlements in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa: "Giving the Gift of Light"
10. Zambia - Combating climate change and its impact by strengthening tree planting in areas where there has been deforestation as a result of charcoal burning.

An additional, 10 projects were granted funding from the proceeds of WFWP Japan's GFGI Auction held in December 2020:

11. Senegal - Support for management of vocational training schools "JAMOO1 & JAMOO2"
12. Solomon Islands - Educational equipment support for "New Hope Academy"
13. Bangladesh - Repairing the school building and replacing desks and chairs of the "Jaigeer Elementary School"
14. WFWPUSA - Support for Black women's organizations and COVID-19 relief, in which the African-American community has been disproportionately affected.
15. Niger - Construction of a water tower and water supply facility at General Health Center in Madeni Tadeta Village (Constructed by WFWP)
16. Thailand - Installation of Water Purifier for the "Sawaijeek Pitthayakom School"
17. Afghanistan - Support for after-school programs such as character education for Afghan refugee students of the "Sayed Jamalludin Afghan School" in India
18. Cuba - Support for Character Education Program
19. Bangladesh - Expenses for management of the "Jaigeer Elementary School"
20. Rwanda - Equipment to construct "New Hope Technical School"

The project initiatives which received the grant include the production of reusable diapers to mothers in Limpopo, the distribution of safe solar lights to homes in Mali, as well as funding a recreational park made out of old, painted tires in Paraguay, just to name a few. WFWPI hopes that GFGI can establish a tradition of recognizing and supporting climate action projects that contribute to the healing of the planet.





## UN SDGS ADVOCACY

GFG took part in the Global Week to Act for the SDGs in September 2021, held during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly. GFG initiated five actions that people can take, in order to help drive the SDGs, specifically, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. The purpose of this campaign was to inspire collective action, mobilizing key stakeholders from all sectors to create change while reminding world leaders that people around the world are doing their part to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

Over the course of five days, GFG introduced a new theme each day:

### DAY 1: REDUCE

On this day, GFG encouraged participants to “Take a moment to look inside your home and your closet. How do you feel? As most of us do, you probably don’t feel the proudest about how much clutter you’ve accumulated over the years...” The goal was to bring focus to the practice of decluttering, as it can have positive psychological benefits since our space often reflects the clutter in our minds. To display this action, we showed a brief 30-second video of how to declutter your closet using Marie Kondo’s “KonMari” method.

### DAY 2: REUSE

For reuse, GFG gave three creative ideas on what the participants can do with old t-shirts, jeans and button-up shirts. With just a few snips, old shirts can be made into handy produce bags. Jeans can be reused into material for making a denim tote bag and button-up shirts can be reused as pillow covers. Finding new ways to make your textiles last, rather than buying new is a sustainable way of living.



### DAY 3: REIMAGINE

Oprah Winfrey famously said, “If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more. If you look at what you don’t have in life, you’ll never have enough.” With new trends and fast fashion being so affordable, it’s easy to feel like you are constantly chasing “the next new thing” rather than being happy with what you have. GFG teamed up with Yun-A Johnson, an innovative stylist who empowers women to beautify their homes and closets by creatively using what they already have. By using Yun-A’s quick guide to “Find Your Aesthetic Style,” participants can create three new outfits in their closets without spending a penny!

### DAY 4: RECYCLE

Did you know that recycling can simply mean to “use again?” This means that any time you make a choice to give your clothes a second chance to be worn, you are contributing to reducing your carbon footprint for the Earth. GFG developed a guide with different options on how participants can responsibly recycle their clothes!

### DAY 5: WATCH & LEARN

On the final day, GFG recommended three environmental documentaries that can be shown at a “watch party.” We encouraged participants to organize their own, invite friends and family, and learn more about how our conscious behavior can truly restore the Earth.

GFG’s five actions were registered on the Act for SDGs global map, in contribution to the one billion actions the UN hopes to have registered by 2030. GFG hopes these small behavioral changes can inspire others to cultivate a heart that cares for nature and their global family.

In 2022, GFG plans to host another virtual auction and this time we will be auctioning off items from the WFWPI Co-Founder’s home in Hawaii. You can stay informed and up to date with our latest activities by following our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter @giving4goodintl](#).





## GIVING THE “GIFT OF LIGHT” IN MALI

*By Catherine Diarra, President, WFPW Mali*



Mali is facing a serious lack of energy access, although it has improved greatly in recent years. Access to electricity has doubled in the past decade, but still only 25.6% of the country is connected. In rural areas, this percentage drops to only 11.9%, and in urban areas, only a little over half of the population is connected.

WFPW Mali carried out its solar lamps donation activities during the month of October 2021 as part of the “Giving the Gift of Light” project sponsored by Giving for Good International (GFGI). WFPW Mali visited seven villages in October, bringing together a total of 605 participants, with 70 solar lamps distributed.

On October 16, 2021, the WFPW Mali team traveled to three villages: Baguineda, Sebela and Tiema. They began with presentations on the purpose and objectives of WFPW and the Mother’s Heart Peace Network. Next, the GFGI Climate Action project was introduced, which is the sponsoring organization of this project.





In closing, they gave a talk on the importance of family and offered tips for maintaining a strong and healthy family—on how to grow mutual understanding, trust and good communication between husband and wife. After the presentations, WFWP Mali gifted solar lamps to ten women. They offered many blessings in return and expressed their gratitude to the donors. One of the beneficiaries shared that “they had never had an important day like today and it was their first time to receive a gift of this value.”

WFWP Mali is proud and happy to share the joy and light to these women and their families who will be able to work when it is dark; the children will also be able to study well. The solar lamps have become more than just a light source for the Mali people. They are improving their lives economically, socially, and educationally, and creating a peaceful and safe space for the villagers to live.



# GIVING THE GIFT OF LIGHT: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAM JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

*By Flory Yadao Ledwaba, Regional Secretary General, Africa*



Townships across South Africa have existed since the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a part of the old Apartheid system in the country. Today, in Johannesburg these townships are home to more than five million people. Often, the poor living conditions in these communities contribute significantly to pollution, affecting the long term health of the people and the environment. To combat this issue, WFPW created an environmental awareness program.

The environment is crucial to the survival of the human race, providing significant resources of food, water, and fuel for our everyday lives. Especially in rural areas where people are away from needed services, they continue actions that hurt the environment, particularly through improper disposal of waste. This is what WFPW has witnessed in our outreach to the community where there is a lack of awareness of the consequences of the effects of human behavior on the environment.






Is it because people do not care about the environment, or can we inform them better so they can make changes?

With our awareness programs in the community, we hope to shed some light on the issues that cause people not to care about the environment. We want to encourage the community to take action. Through WFP’s “Giving the Gift of Light: Environmental Awareness Program,” we engage the community to look more closely at the effects of climate change. So far, the project has reached more than 300 households. We hope that by talking to the participants about environmental sustainability and global warming in the local language, we can motivate them to take action.





 **WOMEN'S FEDERATION**  
FOR WORLD PEACE - SOUTH AFRICA


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## Benefits Of Solar Energy


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Eco - friendly


  
Renewable

  
Prevents Global Warming

  
Saves Money

  
Low Maintenance

**Sustainability, It's a Lifestyle.**  
**Sustainable living means a successful life.**


 **WOMEN'S FEDERATION**  
FOR WORLD PEACE - SOUTH AFRICA

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## Effects of Littering

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1. It can harm people's health through exposure.
2. Can contaminate the environment and poison animals.
3. Air, water, and soil pollution.
4. Global warming.
5. Visual pollution.
6. It costs millions of taxpayer money to clean up each year.



This program was made possible with the support of the “Giving for Good” project of International Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon and WFP. We introduce the 3R’s: reducing, reusing, and recycling in the local language. The communities we reached were happy and grateful for the empowering information. On the other hand, the solar lights in their homes serve as an ongoing reminder to do what they can for a sustainable environment, as well as the gift of truth and love that it brings to each one.

There is a big problem with electricity in South Africa, with frequent electricity interruptions. People in rural areas are disproportionately affected by the outages. They are forced to use coal or kerosene to power their homes, which can affect health and cause air pollution. Moreover, children from these communities have to use candles to study at night.

Through the distribution of solar lights and environmental awareness activities, we hope to encourage communities to use more sustainable, alternative energy sources, such as solar power, reusing and recycling as a means to a more sustainable environment and to be in-tune with mother nature.



“My children will no longer have to study under candlelight when the electricity goes off.”

“I will no longer stress about where to find money to find gas to keep the light going during electricity cuts.”

“We are grateful for the gift of light.” These are songs that were spontaneously composed to express their gratitude!

During our programs the women expressed their concern, and they desired to contribute to a sustainable environment. We also envision poverty alleviation programs that do not harm the planet and can uplift the lives of the families throughout the community. Moreover, the Giving the Gift of Light Project titled “Environmental Awareness” addresses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12 and 13; namely, responsible consumption and production, and climate action.

To all the communities that we have reached out to, the symbolic meaning of the lamp is never lost. They are grateful for the healing and ensuring that the light of truth keeps burning in their families.



# THE ASIA PACIFIC FIRST LADIES SUMMIT 2019 - PALAU

WFWPI Archives



*The Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019 was co-hosted by UPF, Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), the First Lady and the Office of the President of Palau, and civil society organizations in Koror, Republic of Palau, December 9-12, 2019.*

The Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019 uniquely showcased the positive impact of cooperation between government and civil society through the network of first ladies focusing on development, prosperity and solving critical issues in society.

A highly selective group of delegates attended, drawn from over fifty nations of the Asia Pacific region, including first ladies, current and former heads of state and governments, parliamentarians, interfaith leaders, women leaders, and representatives of the media, academia, business, the arts, youth and civil society.

The principal organizer of the summit, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and its partner, WFWP, both hold general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. UPF and WFWP have active chapters in more than 150 nations around the world.

With WFWP's activities focusing on the role of women in peacebuilding, reconciliation and humanitarian service, first ladies are seen to be in a pivotal position, where they can deeply make an impact in their perspective nations. They know firsthand the situation of their fellow countrymen and countrywomen.





*Representatives from WFWPI, UPF and the newly inaugurated IAFLP*

## **INAUGURAL SESSION**

The Inaugural Session was the opening plenary and the keynote session of the summit. Speakers included First Ladies, eminent women leaders from around the world as well as representatives of the Co-Founder (Dr. Julia Hoon Sook Moon, and Professor Yeon Ah Moon), and of Universal Peace Federation. Distinguished speakers shared their valuable

experiences in addressing critical challenges of our time with the focus on peace-building and reconciliation. They addressed the concepts of interdependence and mutual prosperity with a special emphasis on the need for universal values. In this session, a resolution to launch the International Association of First Ladies for Peace was presented and signed.



# RESOLUTION

Launching the  
International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) - Asia Pacific

As participants in the Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit – 2019 held in Koror, Palau from December 9-12, 2019, jointly co-hosted by the First Lady and the Office of the President of the Republic of Palau, the Universal Peace Federation, and the Women's Federation for World Peace International with a focus on the theme "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values," we affirm the unique and essential role that women leaders are called to play in bringing about a world of lasting peace.

We sincerely appreciate the complete and unreserved support of the First Lady and Office of the President of the Republic of Palau, Mme Debbie M. Remengesau and H.E. Tommy Remengesau Jr., along with the Government and people of the Republic of Palau for jointly co-hosting this historic Summit.

We applaud with deepest gratitude and respect the leadership of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, their vision, and their sacrifice over many decades to create a world that is interdependent, mutually prosperous and based on universally shared values of "One Family Under God." We seek a world in which people of all nationalities, ethnicities, races, cultures, and worldviews live together in mutual respect, harmony and cooperation. Throughout human history, women and mothers have not only played a central role in supporting their husbands and nurturing and raising their children to be virtuous citizens, they have also been decisive contributors to reconciliation, peace-building, reconstruction and development in the wider society and world.

A woman's motherly nature, her empathy toward the vulnerable, her preference to work in consensus, her natural bridge-building instinct, her commitment to peace and to defending social justice, and her consideration for the roles of nurturing and healing are but a few of many essential character traits needed to bring harmony and reconciliation in a wounded world.

At these unsettled times, when loneliness, conflicts, and humanitarian crises affect masses, it is vital that we are reminded of the significance of a balanced approach to problem-solving where the ethical leadership of men and women working together harmoniously and fully committed to the development of all people, has never been more critical to sustainable peace and development.

We propose that women leaders from all national, racial and religious backgrounds and all sectors of society unite in solidarity through the merits of volunteerism, public-minded dedication, and faith. That they take on the challenge to overcome extreme selfishness, moral decline, family breakdown and social disorder that is faced at this time.

Encouraged by the commitment and compassion of women leaders here at the First Ladies Summit in Koror, Palau, a new partnership and grassroots movement will be launched. This initiative is being taken by the leaders of governments, civil society and the private sector, for the sake of providing a life of dignity for all people and a world of lasting peace.

On this, the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of December, in the year 2019,  
the participants of the  
**Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019**  
held in Koror, Palau, do unanimously endorse the  
proposal to establish an association, known provisionally as the  
**International Association of First Ladies for Peace**





# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRST LADIES FOR PEACE BUILDING A WORLD OF LASTING PEACE: A FIRST LADIES INITIATIVE SUMMIT

*WFWPI Archives*



The International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) was inaugurated internationally at the World Summit 2020 after its initial launching in Palau. World Summit 2020 was held at the Kintex Center in Seoul, Korea, from February 2-8 and was a special centenary celebration of the life and work of Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

IAFLP is a project of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), one of the primary programs of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the main sponsor of the World Summit 2020. Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) partnered with UPF in the organization of this event.

The assembly, titled "Building a World of Lasting Peace: A First Ladies' Initiative" was organized with the assistance of Women's Federation for World Peace and the First Lady of Palau, Mme. Debbie Remengesau, who convened the Asia-Pacific First Ladies Summit in December 2019 in her country.



*Little Angels Dance troupe representatives pose with IAFLP attendees*



The founding Resolution of the IAFLP states, “We propose that women leaders from all national, racial and religious backgrounds and all sectors of society, together with those who have lived the responsibility of first ladies in their nations, uniting in solidarity to respond to today’s challenges. The loving and sacrificial leadership of women working together to empower our youth for goodness, to build cohesive communities and, with men, establish models of ethical and balanced leadership to guide them has never been more critical.”

Unanimously passed at the conclusion of the

assembly, the IAFLP Resolution stands up for the central role women and mothers have played throughout human history as “decisive contributors to reconciliation, peace building, reconstruction and development in the wider society and world.”

IAFLP proudly takes its place supporting the International Summit Council for World Peace (ISCP) and the Summit’s main sponsor, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and its core associations, which are dedicated to creating a world that is interdependent, mutually prosperous and based on universally shared values.





## RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRST LADIES FOR PEACE

As participants in the World Summit 2020 on Peace, Security and Human Development in Seoul Korea, from February 2-8, 2020, we affirm the unique and essential role that women leaders are called to play in bringing about a world of lasting peace. We also appreciate and recognize the very significant role that First Ladies have in their countries and within society as leaders, visionaries, role models and examples to the citizens of their country.

The Universal Peace Federation, in convening World Summit 2020, has established several associations that are developing collaborative networks in several core areas. Among these associations, which are projects of UPF, the flagship among them is the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), an association that brings together current and former heads of state and government to deliberate on the critical issues facing humanity at this time. The ISCP will also include current and former first ladies.

With this in mind, and as a part of the ISCP and with the support of the WFWP, an initial meeting of the International Association of First Ladies for Peace was convened in December of 2019 in the Republic of Palau, hosted by the First Lady of Palau, Madame Debbie Remengesau. The theme of this high-level meeting was "Building a World of Lasting Peace: Towards a First Ladies' Initiative."

We seek a world in which people of all nationalities, races, and cultures can discover their uniqueness and value, learn to love and be loved, and live in peace and harmony. Throughout human history, women and mothers have played a central role in supporting their husbands and nurturing and raising their children to be virtuous citizens. They have also been decisive contributors to reconciliation, peace building, reconstruction and development in the wider society and world.

A woman's motherly nature, her empathy toward the vulnerable, her preference to work in consensus, her natural bridge-building instinct, her commitment to peace and to defending social justice, and her consideration for the roles of nurturing and healing are but a few of many essential character traits needed to bring harmony and reconciliation in a wounded world.

We applaud with deepest gratitude and respect the leadership of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, for their vision, sacrifice and example over many decades to create a world that is interdependent, mutually prosperous and based on universally shared values: One Family Under God.

Today we propose that women leaders from all national, racial and religious backgrounds and all sectors of society, together with those who have lived the responsibility of First Ladies in their nations, unite in solidarity to respond to today's challenges. The loving and sacrificial leadership of women working together to empower our youth for goodness, to build cohesive communities and, with men, establish models of ethical and balanced leadership to guide them has never been more critical.

Encouraged by the commitment and compassion of women leaders here present and around the world, a new partnership movement is being launched. This initiative is being led by first ladies, civil society and the private sector for the sake of providing a life of dignity for all people and a world of lasting peace. On this, the 5th day of February, the participants of the World Summit 2020 held in Seoul, Korea do unanimously endorse the resolution to establish the International Association of First Ladies for Peace, as a part of the International Summit Council for Peace. We will support the great work of ISCP and will work collaboratively with the other associations that are part of the Universal Peace Federation.





*Director of the WFWPI United Nations Office, Mrs. Carolyn Handschin as the in-house emcee during the High-Level Assembly of the IAFLP*



*First Lady Mme. Debbie Remengesau and Dr. Julia Moon lead the signing of the Resolution of IAFLP*



*Dr. Sun Jin Moon and Prof. Yeon Ah Moon sign the Resolution of IAFLP*



*Former First Lady Mme. Flutura Ahmeti and First Lady Mme. Ingrid Jacinta Aingimea sign the Resolution of IAFLP*



*Former First Lady Mme. Bernadette Meme Tong and Former First Lady Mme. Adi Koila Mara Nailatikau sign the Resolution of IAFLP*



*Former First Lady Mme. Callista Jennie Mutharika signs the Resolution of IAFLP*



*Mrs. Graciela Rompani signs the Resolution of IAFLP*

*Global Committee*

**Kahoot!**

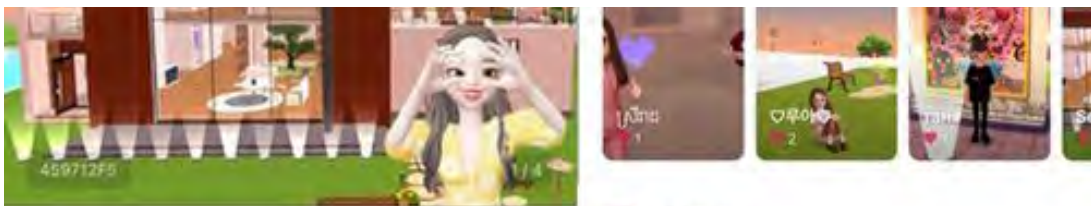


## WFWPI GLOBAL COMMITTEE: INTERGENERATIONAL CREATIVE THINK TANK TO PRACTICE CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

*WFWPI Archives*

The WFWPI Global Committee is an international network of integrated and interrelated development committees dedicated to WFWPI's vision of women working together to realize one global family rooted in the culture of sustainable peace. Launched in March 2021, the Global Committee focuses on seven key development areas: Global Women's Peace Network; International Association of First Ladies for Peace; Women in Peace Progress; Humanitarian Activities; Education; Environment and Giving for Good Project; and Young Professionals Team.

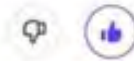
The committee members, who are mostly WFWPI leaders, members, supporters, and friends, serve on a volunteer basis and meet regularly in the fourth week of every month. They actively discuss the latest trends, developments, best practices and share "voices from the field" to create



WFWP\_COLOR MY HEART HOUSE

👍 84% (19)

Recently viewed by (27), Tatu Viana (2)

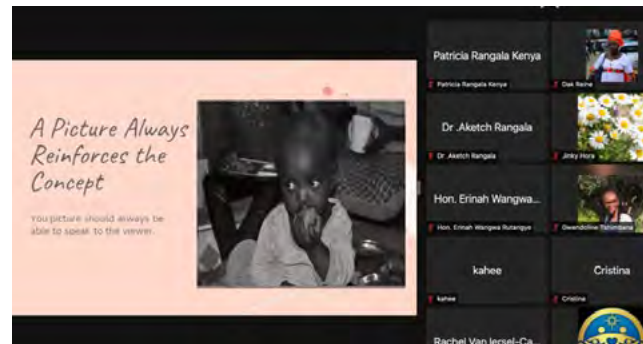


Serena

1 Mo(y)

Liked · 2021.09.18

We made a home for WFWP!  
Please use it a lot!

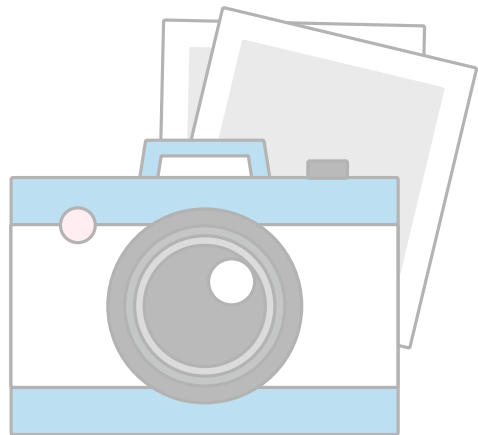
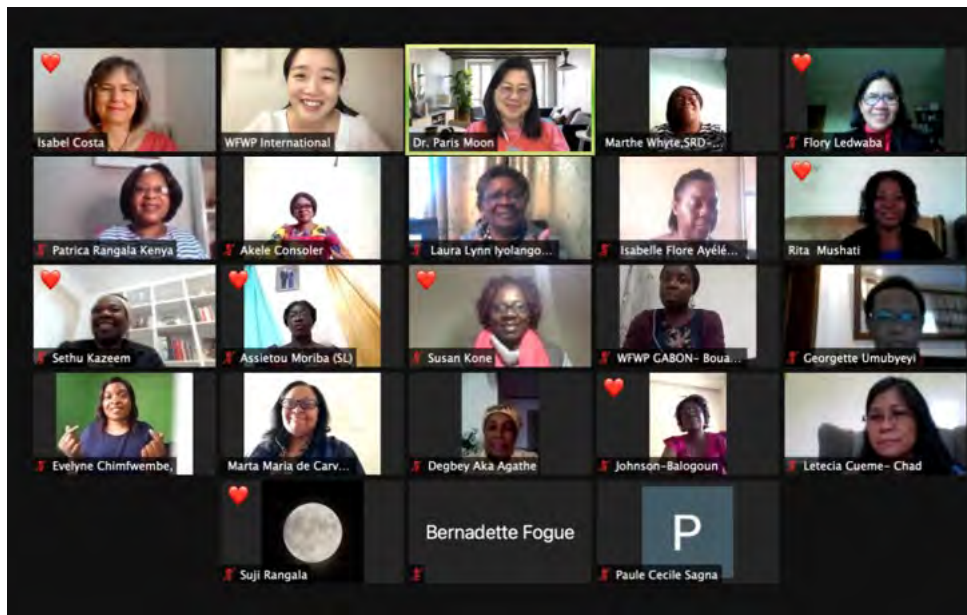


projects and activities based on the current needs of people in each country. With their help, WFWPI was able to implement various educational and therapeutic programs to support women and youth around the world.

From 2022, WFWPI has been focusing on two key areas identified as particularly needed and urgent: “Education & Humanitarian Activities” and “Young Professionals.”

The Global Committee will continue to function as an international-level creative think tank that can brainstorm, develop, and propose ideas related to the goals and direction of WFWPI. It will serve as a collaborative networking system of WFWP senior and junior leaders and members for intergenerational education and communication platform to practice the cultural diplomacy.



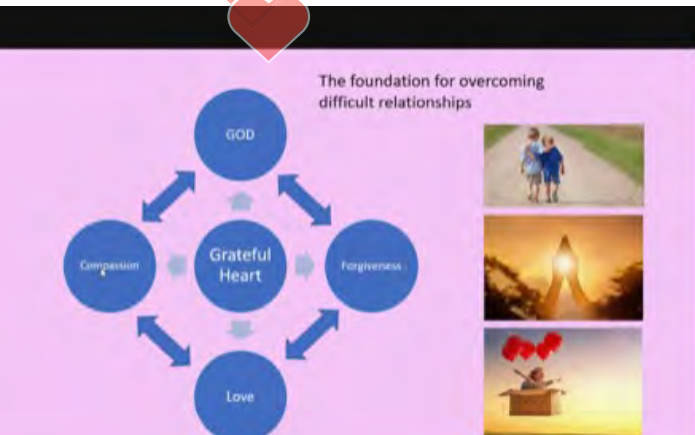
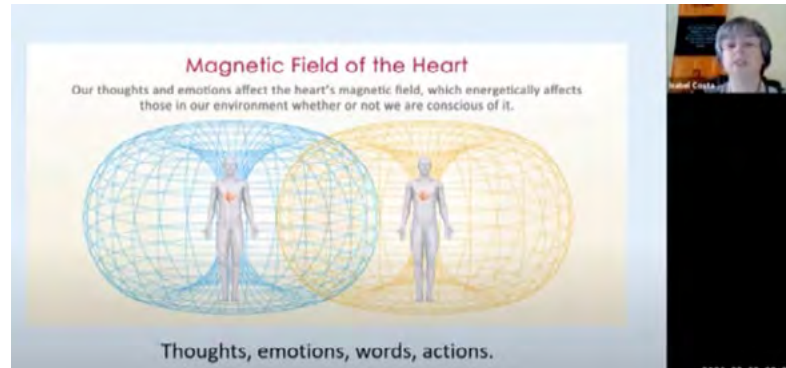


## SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS OF WFWPI GLOBAL COMMITTEE

“Healing Women’s Hearts” involved five sessions of virtual therapy, featuring Dr. Isabel Costa, who is founder and teacher of the Holistic Nutrition Course and is also a happiness consultant with the Offices of Physicians Industry, Portugal. These therapy sessions were designed for inter-cultural couples, mainly Asian wives and African husbands, currently living in Africa. Dr. Costa created an educational curriculum to help couples understand and develop healthy problem-solving skills in relationships. These sessions were particularly profound and relevant to couples in intercultural marriages, who face both blessings and roadblocks with communication and cultural differences. After the sessions were completed, participants said they felt refreshed and peaceful. They learned to identify obstacles and challenges in their hearts and improve their relationships.

WFWPI believes that happy women who are healthy are empowered to create happy families and homes, which leads to healthy communities and a much more peaceful world. WFWPI will continue to offer online healing sessions to support women worldwide.

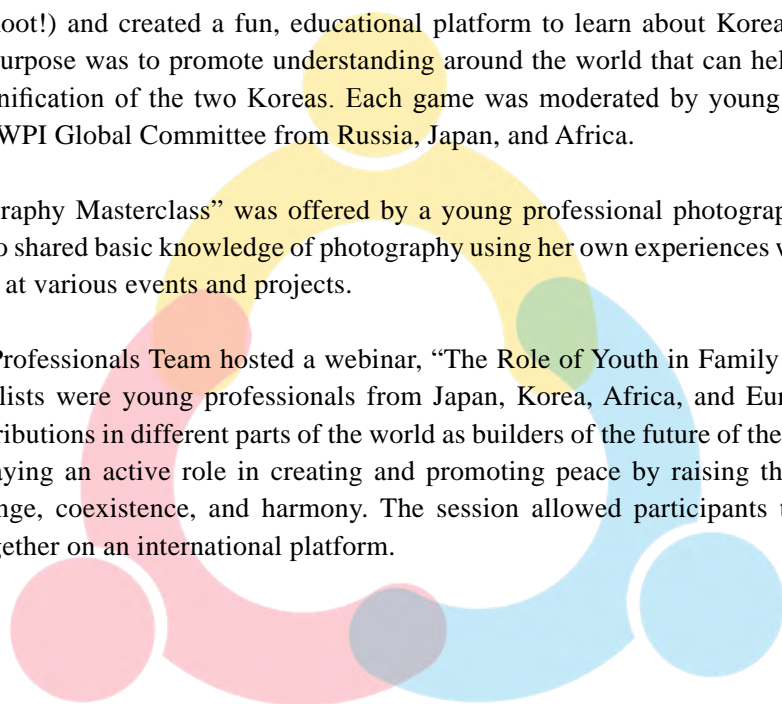
The “Peace Golden Bell” was a popular elimination-style quiz game, created in commemoration of the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Korean War. The virtual event used a participatory online quiz



contest (Kahoot!) and created a fun, educational platform to learn about Korean history and culture. Its purpose was to promote understanding around the world that can help bring about peaceful reunification of the two Koreas. Each game was moderated by young professionals with the WFWPI Global Committee from Russia, Japan, and Africa.

The “Photography Masterclass” was offered by a young professional photographer, Ms. Suji Rangala, who shared basic knowledge of photography using her own experiences while showing photos taken at various events and projects.

The Young Professionals Team hosted a webinar, “The Role of Youth in Family and Society.” Invited panelists were young professionals from Japan, Korea, Africa, and Europe, who are making contributions in different parts of the world as builders of the future of their community. They are playing an active role in creating and promoting peace by raising their voices for positive change, coexistence, and harmony. The session allowed participants to collaborate for peace together on an international platform.









The background of the page is a watercolor wash. It features soft, blended colors of light green, teal, and pale blue, with some areas appearing more saturated than others. The texture is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and color gradients. The overall effect is calm and natural.

*Women of Peace  
Planting Seeds  
of Love*

The background of the entire page is a lush, close-up photograph of purple hydrangea flowers with vibrant green leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, creating a textured and colorful backdrop. The central text is set against a white rectangular area.

# **1,600 Volunteers**

*A Tribute in  
Gratitude to the  
Women of Peace*





# *30 Years of Undaunting Determination*

**Streams to the River, River to the Seas:  
1,600 WFPW Japan volunteers dispatched to  
160 UN member state nations with 10 volunteers to each country.**







# RECORDS OF MOTHERS' LOVE 1,600 JAPANESE OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS

*By Chika Yasojima, Staff of International Affairs Department, WFPW Japan*

## BACKGROUND



Women's Federation for World Peace Japan (WFPW Japan) started its overseas volunteer activities in 1994. Before traveling to the various nations, Co-Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon directly guided a workshop to prepare 1,600 Japanese women for overseas activities. At the conclusion, ten volunteers were sent to each of the 160 UN member countries. An important mission was to then educate team members in their countries about operational knowledge they learned and cultivated in Japan.



Most of the participants were housewives raising small children and felt great anxiety about leaving their children behind for long periods of time. Therefore, the cooperation and support of their husbands and families was essential. These 1,600 remarkable volunteers overcame great obstacles and went to their respective mission countries in the summer of 1994 to begin their activities. Despite language and cultural barriers, the volunteers who arrived in each mission country attracted people's attention by introducing Japanese culture, serving at various facilities, and by assessing the needs of the people.



Starting with their own mission countries, the volunteers worked hard to build a foundation for WFWP. They also provided advice and support to strengthen the organization where it had already been established. Their goal was to acquire 10,000 local members in each mission country in order to influence the women of each nation. The first two countries to achieve that goal were Israel and Colombia. In countries that had experienced civil war, there was an overwhelming lack of education and economic independence for women. Therefore, when volunteers realized this need, they immediately embarked on school construction and establishing vocational training school projects.

WFWP International was accredited as an NGO in General Consultative Status by the UN ECOSOC in 1997. The widespread recognition of Japanese volunteer activities in 160 countries, especially developing countries, was a major contribution to this achievement.

### **MAIN FOCUS: EDUCATION AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

In 1997, Dr. Sun Myung Moon visited the WFWP Japan office and advised that WFWP should work more on education and poverty eradication as a motherly, women's organization. This was when the volunteers began to realize that introducing Japanese

culture, providing material support, and volunteering at various facilities were too sporadic to build a foundation. More sustainable support was needed, and that spurred them to start providing educational support, support for women's economic independence, medical support, etc. Since 1997, WFWP International has gained credibility as a UN NGO and the consultative status has been renewed every four years with ECOSOC. Without Rev. Dr. Moon's advice and clear foresight, the volunteers might not have realized the importance of sustainable support.

Meanwhile, in 2000, the United Nations announced the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At that time, it became apparent that development projects by Japanese volunteers were contributing to the achievement of all eight goals. Since 2015, the volunteers have been enthusiastically volunteering to achieve Goals 1 to 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which succeeded the MDGs.

Currently, around 260 volunteers are managing about 100 development projects in 49 countries and working hard in 6 fields: School education support; women's economic independence; health; educational activities; youth development; and women's empowerment.





School and education support volunteers build and operate schools in areas where there are none, provide financial assistance to schools that are difficult to operate, and manage foster parent systems and scholarship programs for children who cannot attend school. In many rural areas of developing countries, there is a persistent custom that girls are not required to go to school, compared to boys. However, in the schools established by WFWP, the enrollment rates for girls and boys are about the same. WFWP also supports art and music education, which is not offered in schools in developing countries.

Volunteers build and operate vocational training schools for girls and women, as well as literacy classes for adult women who could not enroll in elementary schools due to poverty. This supports the goal of women's economic independence. Many graduates of these vocational training schools have since become financially independent. In addition, volunteers also conduct microfinance programs which gives access to funds for many people in poverty.

Health support volunteers provide mobile health checks, construct clinics in villages without doctors, offer hygiene guidance, build toilet facilities, and offer nutritional education and support for recovery. One example was the assistance offered after the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. To improve the health of rural people, volunteers are also repairing wells and constructing water supply facilities.

In the field of educational activities such as AIDS prevention education, volunteers use educational materials developed by WFWP Japan. They promote comprehensive prevention education because the distribution of condoms alone is not enough. At the

root of widespread HIV infection is the influence of moral disorder and drug use. Seminars are held to teach not only medical knowledge of HIV/AIDS, but also sexual ethics, abstinence and self-control, character education, and family renewal education. The target audience ranges from upper elementary school students to adults.

WFWP also supports activities to guide the youth, who will create the future. Examples include education centers to prevent human trafficking in Eastern Europe and WFWP USA supporting schools of Africa for many years. In order to support all their activities, WFWP Japan has established a system whereby each of the 47 prefecture federations (branches) chooses a mission country to support, and a target amount to sustain activities. Volunteers report on their activities at charity events and at debriefing sessions organized by the district federation through which they are dispatched. Through these various activities, the ideas and thoughts of WFWP have become widely known. Volunteers are always grateful for the generous support of WFWP members and supporters worldwide.

## **THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND VOLUNTEERING**

Overseas volunteer participants celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. This means that each original volunteer will have been working for 30 years, and succession is very important. Since 2005, WFWP Japan has been developing the "Youth Volunteer Project for International Cooperation" in mission countries, dispatching WFWP Japan youth members and daughters of volunteers to let Japanese youth experience "One Global





Family” and to nurture successors of the volunteers. The daughters of the volunteers, “who needed their mother’s love most at a young age,” were especially touched by the many achievements their mothers have made in the mission countries. Some of them even decided to join the overseas volunteer program as successors.

What has been the driving force behind volunteering for over 25 years? Perhaps it lies in the deep bonds between volunteers who have shared and supported each other’s difficult experiences in the mission countries. It may be the passionate gazes of the girls and women in the mission countries who are studying at WFWP schools seeking to realize their dreams in a desperate environment. Or it may be the smiles of their sons and daughters who say, “Have a safe trip, Mommy.” Perhaps it is the long lines of people waiting for aid even in extreme weather as well as the warm support and hospitality of mission country partners and co-workers who say, “You are part of our family now, so come here anytime.” Unfortunately, in recent years it has been

impossible for volunteers to enter many mission countries due to terrorism, political instability, and COVID-19. However, even though they are in Japan, they continue to seek what they can do every day to support the mission countries. With communication tools such as Zoom, Japanese supporters and their counterparts in the mission countries can now connect online in real-time, making communication more active than before.

Based on the foundation that 1,600 overseas volunteers have built with the vision of “One Global Family,” volunteers continue to support activities around the world today, bringing joy and unconditional love to many people.





## MOZAMBIQUE SCHOOL BUILT ON THE TEARS OF LOVE

*By Akiko Hozan, Vice-President, WFPW Mozambique*

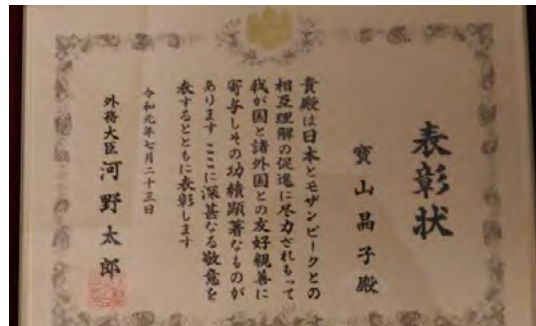


In June 1994, I left for my mission country of Mozambique as a WFPW overseas volunteer, leaving my husband and three children (ages 7, 5, and 4) in Japan. By the time three months had passed, I missed my children so much. The atmosphere in my room felt like a heavy wall, and there were times when I wiped my pillow with tears thinking of my children in the middle of the night. But at those moments, I thought about the two million people of Mozambique who were forced to live as slaves in other countries. How many tears they must have shed being separated in a foreign country and thinking about their beloved family. I felt that my tears were the tears of the slaves.



In October of the same year, the first general election was held in Mozambique. Until then, the independence war and civil war, which lasted for 30 years, caused the death of one million people, and five million people had become refugees. The country was in ruins, and to prevent the recurrence of civil war, UN peacekeeping forces, including the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, were stationed there. International election observers gathered from all over the world. The day before the general election, I went to Zimbabwe for a meeting. As soon as I arrived at the capital, Harare, I received a phone call and was told that my eldest daughter had been injured in an accident and was in critical condition and that I should return to Japan immediately. During the flight from Harare to London, I could hardly breathe and struggled to calm myself down. When I returned to Japan, my daughter was lying in a bed at a hospital in Tokushima prefecture.





She was connected to a respirator and was in a vegetative state. She passed away six months later at the age of 8, but I had several dreams about her while she was in the hospital. She would stand behind the ironbarred door of my house in Mozambique saying, “Mommy, I’m gonna be okay. I want you to do your best in Africa.” Through the hard work of an acquaintance who belonged to the Rotary Club of Tokushima, during my daughter’s hospitalization the club supported a fund for constructing a school, and I immediately sent the money to Mozambique. A junior high school was then founded in March 1995.

From 1996, while administering at the school in Beira, I began a Japanese language class for university students at the capital, Maputo. At the time, Maputo was a very unsafe and crime-filled city. I had been broken into by robbers four times. One night, a group of eight robbers removed iron bars from a door and entered my apartment when I was alone. They hit my face forcefully and tied up my hands and legs. They looked around my room for approximately one hour and finally left. My face became swollen and remained black and blue for several weeks from internal bleeding. Even after such an incident, I could not leave the capital and continued to live in the same apartment. Meanwhile, I had a dream about giving birth to a baby girl.





After I temporarily returned to Japan, I became pregnant, just like in my dream. I was 45 years old. Two years had passed since the opening of the school in Mozambique, but in order to retain the school, it had to be rebuilt with concrete due to legal reasons, and we needed at least five million Japanese yen. To raise the construction fee, I made T-shirts with a sketch drawn by a famous Mozambican artist. Since I was in my early pregnancy stage, I sold these by telephone and postcards while occasionally lying down.

Though there were many risks for women my age giving birth, I was able to safely deliver our baby by Caesarean section, though she was born prematurely. My eldest daughter passed away, but Heaven sent me another beautiful baby girl.

When my youngest daughter was eight months old, I returned to Mozambique and looked after the school construction.

Currently, 500 to 550 students attend this school every year as junior and senior high school students. There are approximately 40 teachers and 12 staff members. The total number of students who have attended the school since its opening in 1995 has surpassed 10,000. Over 800 graduates have been accepted into national universities. As for the administration, 60% is managed from the students' tuition and 40% from the support of the District Federations of WFWP Japan. Thanks to the support from WFWP Japan, it has been possible to keep the tuition at a low cost and enable students from low-income families to attend the school. Due to the influence of recent climate changes, Mozambique has been hit by large-scale cyclones every year. At other schools, it has become difficult to hold classes for long time periods due to damage such as the roof being blown off; however, our school received



minimal damage and was able to begin classes after only a few days' closure. With the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, measures such as sterilizing classrooms every morning and thorough instructions of washing hands and wearing masks have been effective, and there have not been any major cluster infections in the school.

Twenty-seven years have passed since I left my young children in Japan and came to Mozambique. I can hardly imagine how lonely they must have felt not having their mother with them when they needed me the most. They are now in their twenties and thirties, and all of them are married. I am a grandma of four beautiful grandchildren. My husband, who looked after our children for a long time, says, "I have been able to deepen the bond with our children. I don't have anything except for feelings of gratitude for that."



# VOLUNTEERING WITH WFWP AUSTRALIA

By *WFWP Australia*



**SUZANNA HOFFMAN**

Suzanna is a passionate educator and humanitarian. She joined WFWP Victoria to contribute her skills, knowledge, and services to humanity. What drew her to the foundation as a volunteer was that WFWP is an international peacekeeping organization and an international network recognized by the United Nations. To create cultural change today, we need to work together globally to create a shared understanding of values, knowledge, and equality to bring about harmony and world peace.

Evident from her teaching background, Suzanna believes that it is in our school system that women and families play a critical role in a child's development, particularly in instilling



family values. When children are born into respectful, loving families, they become students who are more likely to succeed in all areas of life. We now know that children from broken families bring with them many traumas, which ultimately affects their learning and development.

Working with WFWP Australia has provided Suzanna with many exciting and empowering opportunities to develop her own personal skills. These include leadership, working with people, event planning and fundraising, upskilling in business, marketing, and finance. Suzanna shared that these skills assist her in many ways within and outside of her personal career.





**KATHERINE GONZALEZ**

Katherine joined WFWP Victoria this year to help as a bookkeeper. Ever since, she has had the opportunity to meet inspiring women who demonstrate leadership, which Katherine believes is much needed today. She greatly enjoys being part of the WFWP organization because she gets to liaise with different people and participate in events that foster her knowledge about leadership and its impact in communities. As an economist, she is an advocate for education, and WFWP's values align really well with her beliefs.

Katherine believes that to see change in society, people should start by being a better version of themselves. The programs run by WFWP foster personal and professional development for women, which on the larger scale contributes to the general well-being of the community. In recent months Katherine has volunteered to participate in the "Leading into the Future Mentor Program," where she has been a "mentee" matched with a woman leader. She is very much looking forward to all the learning this program will bring and is committed to supporting her mentor in any way she possibly can.



**ELGY KOAY**

Elgy is part of WFWP Australia's social enterprise committee led by Dr. Jennifer Huang. They are developing activities and enterprises that empower and assist women working in island nations of the Pacific.

Elgy is also a mentee in the "Leading into the Future" mentor program through the Global Women's Peace Network project of WFWP Australia.

The main reason she volunteered with WFWP is because its goals and mission statement resonate with her. Elgy believes that we need more, strong female leaders/role models who are intelligent, yet compassionate, to help build and better shape our society, whether in business, government, or other aspects of society.



## LAN YOUNG MOON: PIONEERING WFWP TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

*By Tamara Starr, Multimedia Journalist and UX/UI Designer*

*Dr. Lan Young Moon served as secretary-general for WFWP from 1992 to 1997, when she took on the role of WFWP International president, serving until 2014. During that time, she led tremendous growth and development of the organization. She was interviewed by Tamar Starr for this article and the following is a summary of that interview:*

After the establishment of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon was invited to speak in 1993 at the United Nations in New York by the president of the UN General Assembly. Dr. Lan Young Moon stated that she was excited and grateful to accompany her to that event and also gave remarks at the UN as WFWP Secretary-General. Mrs. Gil Ja Sa gave remarks as international president.

In 1994, in historic “sisterhood ceremonies,” the Co-Founders of WFWP brought together over 300,000 Japanese and Korean women to reach beyond long-standing national divisions. That year, 1,600 Japanese women

volunteered to represent WFWP around the world, and they went out to 160 countries, ten to each country.

With the understanding that they were to develop programs according to the needs of the people in their respective nations, the volunteers sought to create “familial ties,” patterned after the sisterhood ceremonies. They were sensitive to varying cultures and religions and followed the guiding philosophy of WFWP to reach out to others from a parental position.

On this tremendous grassroots foundation of service by the volunteers, Dr. Lan Young Moon worked to help WFWP gain affiliation with the United Nations as a non-governmental organization. In Korea, the headquarters staff coordinator advised her that UN protocols needed to be followed in order for WFWP to apply, so she should study the reference book.



*Dr. Lan Young Moon and her husband, Dr. No Hi Pak*

“The fact is, I didn’t even know in the beginning what an NGO was, so I carried this very thick protocol book with me and studied it for a month!” she said. Co-Founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon encouraged her in this initiative.

### UN SELECTION PROCESS

In any initiative, much of the success is first decided by how much homework is done. Dr. Lan Young Moon oversaw the NGO application for WFWP with staff members in the UN New York office, following all the needed steps. They researched expectations of the UN to satisfy the requirements for an NGO, doing a lot of homework. Those early staff members, including WFWP USA President Nora Spurgin, Secretary-General Karen Smith, Administrator Linda Perry, and volunteer Lerato Rapoo spent close to one year in preparation.

*The Washington Times*, under then-publisher Dr. Joo Dong-moon, printed articles on philanthropic organizations.

Virtually unknown to the public at the time, WFWP was introduced in those articles and the Bridge of Peace ceremonies and service work were profiled.

In 1995, WFWP was offered a wonderful opportunity to participate in the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The Co-Founders and international staff understood the importance for WFWP to be represented at that conference. Dr. Moon said, “I went to Beijing twice in preparation for the conference and saw that it was going to be difficult to accommodate many visitors in Beijing. I suggested that perhaps 100 women from WFWP could come, but it was decided that anyone who wished to go, could go. We were pleased and surprised that more than 500 women came from 16 nations!”

Ms. Maureen Reagan, daughter of US President Ronald Reagan, led the WFWP delegation in that Beijing conference. She expressed her full support of WFWP and offered insights on the importance of the family. Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama joined



the conference as director of the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations as well as WFWP Japan President Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki.

Dr. Moon explained that WFWP's participation in the 1995 World Conference on Women in activities for achieving UN consultative status. It was very helpful to have a world-level event with a strong theme.

WFWP volunteers continued their work in the field, offering inspiring reports on worldwide activities. The membership grew yearly and, in May 1997, WFWP finally received its coveted position as a UN NGO with general consultative status, the highest level. At that time, WFWP was the only women's organization in Korea with UN status on that level.

Gaining general consultative status with the UN was a long journey and a remarkable accomplishment. Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama assumed her formal position of leadership for WFWPI at the UN Headquarters in New York. Her team conducted UN activities on-site twice a year.

When it came to funding, it was clear that WFWP needed to be self-supporting. National chapter membership fees were created in order to support global activities. WFWP chapters worldwide sponsored fund raisers and bazaars to support activities.

Dr. Moon explained that contributions came in other ways: "Women's Federation has many talented people internationally; in the United States, I got a lot of help

from outstanding people who are very good at everything, such as Alexa, Laura, Sugiyama-san, and Caroline," she said.

As with many non-profit organizations, building the initial foundation required much investment and sacrifice. WFWP Co-Founders had very high expectations for WFWP and asked that 100 million KRW a month be donated to charities.

Dr. Moon felt her position extended her to the max, to the point of tears; she could not see how such a goal could be met. It felt too much to handle—preparing the programs and the budget and wondering how to raise that amount for such wide outreach. Going back and forth with the Co-Founders, she pleaded the case, eventually receiving the initial funding from them, which she determined to put to the best use.

Dr. Moon was offered seed money to expand WFWP's early foundation but felt all the money left over after their initial outreach should be accounted for. She did not want to receive without being conscious of what she was given. "So, I calculated the remaining money down to the last couple hundred won... and I went to the Co-Founders to give back the remaining money..." Her desire was to repay every last penny of their original investment.

Then Mother Moon recognized that Dr. Lan Young Moon could have kept the remaining funds and not reported it. But that was not Dr. Moon's attitude; she understood the investment behind it. Mother Moon told her that all funds should be kept by WFWP for ongoing broad outreach,



*Dr. Lan Young Moon with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon (2008)*

which expanded from there. Others also contributed financial support, especially from Japan, who provided much of the support for international activities and for the Middle East Peace conferences.

### **NORTH KOREAN 1% LOVE SHARE PROJECT, AND EXPANDING GLOBAL EFFORTS**

The systematic volunteer work, service activities, and continued investment did not go unnoticed by others. Under the leadership of Dr. Lan Young Moon, the WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project began in 2002 with a donation of 30,000 pairs of undergarments to children in North Korea and continued with other gifts.

Because of the incredible outreach of the WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project, Dr. Lan Young Moon was invited to Cheongwadae (the Korean presidential residence known as the Blue House) by then-First Lady Mrs. Lee Hee-ho. She introduced the initiative to other female leaders attending the meeting and

stated, “This is what the whole nation should do.” Mrs. Lee Hee-ho wanted to make the WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share project a global movement and expressed much gratitude for what WFWP Korea had done. Dr. Lan Young Moon did interviews on TV and radio stations in South Korea to help promote this initiative.

Regarding the WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share Project, Dr. Moon explained, “We held many bazaars, and each district formed a sisterhood relationship not only with North Korea, but also with North Korean defectors, and that continues to this day....Of course, we couldn’t talk about it in front of people in the North because they looked at defectors as traitors, but we continued to help them. Eventually it was decided to change the name from “North Korean 1% Love Share” to “World Family 1% Love Share” to expand its scope.



### MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS, AND THE MEW CONFERENCES

In 1994 as secretary-general, Dr. Lan Young Moon had the responsibility to create a women leaders' meeting for peace in the Middle East. Particular emphasis was placed on the conflict between Islam, Christianity and Judaism, understanding that the root was in Abraham's family and the discord between his two wives and two sons. Such long-held enmity and conflict deeply rooted in the Middle East must be solved with a mother's love.

Mrs. Hisae Kobayashi was the regional leader for the Middle East and was trying to form a 1997 "Middle East Women's Conference" with participants from twenty Middle Eastern countries. Reports were to be presented not only about the Middle East, but also about the broader UN activities in which individuals connected to the UN would be asked to speak.

In the beginning, many of the Palestinian women who came were very reluctant to

participate with Israeli women. After an Israeli Women's Deputy Justice Minister spoke, some women expressed strong feelings against both Israel and the United States. The Israeli speaker was confronted harshly by some participants, to the point of her fainting and having to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. This was the explosive atmosphere that needed piercing.

Therefore, when it was Dr. Lan Young Moon's turn to give her speech on behalf of Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, she decided not to follow the script. "I spoke from my heart with tears and said, 'Do you think you are the only ones that are suffering from...persecution?'" She described the suffering of refugees in the Korean War, like herself, and how Japan and Korea were enemies for many bitter years. But she emphasized to participants that "A program like this could not have been accomplished without us Koreans and Japanese working together. In fact, we have become like siblings."





*Dr. Lan Young Moon, speaking with Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon*

She continued, “The Japanese ladies who came here to help everyone are not high-level people like military generals, members of Congress, or professors. They are every day housewives. And for Middle-East peace, they have raised donations and collected money for your airfare. They have made this event possible. How could you take it all for granted?” Hearing these words, everyone became quiet and thoughtful.

### ADVICE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION AND BEYOND

Such examples show the earnest heart invested by WFWP as mediators in tinderbox areas of the world. Seeing the ongoing, worldwide work in support of our Founder’s vision has brought gratitude, delight and encouragement to Dr. Lan Young Moon.

One last hurdle to cross, she said, is bridging the divide of the two Koreas in this politically difficult time.



*Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon with Dr. Lan Young Moon*

“We really need to create the Heavenly Unified Korea as the center of the global peace movement. I think that the unification of the two Koreas should be the top priority for all the people of this peninsula. We want to open the hearts of North Korean people to the true love of God.” She explained that this is what Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon emphasize.

Dr. Lan Young Moon finished her interview by stating that God’s true love should be embodied and practiced, especially by women with a mother’s heart. She said that is the only thing that can truly penetrate and overcome entrenched positions. Mother Moon’s leadership and WFWP’s efforts to practice true love are the best way to resolve every problem.

# **YEON AH MOON: INTERVIEW WITH A GLOBAL PEACE-LOVING WOMAN LEADER**

*By Youngsoon Clare Quinn, Administrator, American Clergy Leadership Conference*





Joining WFWP International was a destined position that Professor Yeon Ah Moon honestly felt in her heart would happen. She began her journey first serving as WFWP International vice president from 2009 to 2014. On that foundation Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon gave her more responsibilities, and she was appointed as the third president of WFWPI, which she lovingly served from 2014 to 2019. Professor Yeon Ah Moon knew that it would be a great shift from vice president to president; however, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon assured her that she was not alone in the task, that she had competent sisters from all around the world who would work alongside her.

After hearing these encouraging words, Professor Moon decided she could do it, and that she would focus on inheriting from the previous leaders, to lead not just as an individual but as part of a team.

As Professor Moon immersed herself in the responsibilities, she gained a deep understanding of the purpose of WFWP International, realizing that education must be based on strong family values and that family values need to be incorporated into the work and ethics of WFWP. She also spearheaded initiatives to launch the Global Women's Peace Network, a final signature project proposal that WFWP International Co-Founders announced before the passing of Dr. Sun Myung Moon.





Professor Moon has supported numerous projects under her leadership. She has always been moved by the women who continuously devote themselves to WFWP activities and educational programs despite any difficulties they may have. Because of their desire to help others and invest not only time but heart, it made a difference, even if it was a small gesture. She added that every project is important, and can make a powerful impact if it operates consistently.

Professor Moon always encouraged WFWP members to work hard, but at the same time to also take care of their health. She shared that as we age, our bodies may have less energy, and so when the weather is warm we should walk outside and enjoy the natural environment. Professor Moon also taught that it is just as important to take care of our mind and heart as

well as our physical health. At times when she has felt unease, she would read messages and speeches that uplift her spirit, and would find time to organize her thoughts and decisions. She would also occasionally watch short, touching stories on social media that equipped her with deeper insights to having a caring heart.

Her words of advice to young women—and all women—is to overcome any doubts while they happen, as when time passes by it may be difficult to do later. Really take time to make plans instead of rushing through. Professor Moon said, “When something unbearable comes, it only gets more difficult when you make yourself shrink and feel small. So you have to keep your long term goals in mind.” She also said, “It is better to combine your great talent, creativity and passion for projects that help others instead of just doing things



to improve yourself, because as you work for the sake of others or for something other than yourself, you will naturally mature and develop in ways you cannot imagine.”

Professor Moon also emphasized that making friendships with other people by maintaining communication with them and by cooperating together on projects will accomplish more in the long run and is essential for lasting peace.

Professor Moon especially advises young women to not miss the opportunity to get married and to have families, as working with the heart of a mother and carrying out WFWP International projects or any activities in general goes hand-in-hand. She adds, “Never neglect the opportunity to get married and create a family. Get married when you can and have children when you can and don’t regret it later. While there are important things in

our life, never delay the dream of having a marriage or family, and courageously jump into that world.”

Even as Professor Moon advises all to pursue marriage and family, she did encounter challenges while leading WFWPI. One was finding the balance in her role as leader and that of being a mother and raising her children. However, she stresses that her experiences in her life as a mother to her children grew her abilities to help more people and develop WFWP International. Therefore, she worked with passion, both as a mother, as a woman leader to her family, and in the world.

Professor Moon also said that women have great influence and power in the family, so doing all things in the home, the society and world with a mother’s heart leaves an impact of great love.





Professor Moon reminisced about working all day at the WFWP International office, saying that some of the most precious times were having coffee, snacks and delicious foods while in the company of others. She also shared that being in a beautiful and natural environment, with nice weather while enjoying conversations together with those around her, was one of the best moments she had in WFWPI.

To Professor Moon, WFWP International felt like a real family, with sisters from all around the world who were working together on an incredible mission that consistently went beyond boundaries. She expressed how grateful she was for her many friendships and memories from each of her travels and gatherings. Since 2019 Professor Moon has been serving as chair of the Universal Peace

Federation (UPF) in Korea, an affiliated organization cofounded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. UPF, like WFWP, is an NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations.

After transitioning to her new position, Professor Yeon Ah Moon said that her work with WFWPI had helped to grow as a leader, and she has no choice but to keep growing. Through her experience with WFWPI she was able to see Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon's vision for world peace centered on the perspective of a mother's heart. She also noted that UPF and its activities are closely aligned with the UN, and that through her past experiences with the UN at WFWP International, she became familiar with key terminology, current world affairs, and the procedures for high-level conferences and





meetings. Professor Moon mentioned that she cherishes the precious relationship with her sisters from WFWPI.

She honestly and lightheartedly expressed that because the majority of the members of UPF are male, it was a new environment for her in the beginning. But she has learned to adapt and gain insight on the significance of women in all sectors.

Professor Moon believes that WFWPI International is a special and unique organization because its vision and purpose is to convey the heart of a mother that has deep love and concern for all. The power of WFWPI comes from always serving others and pouring out a little more love to those in need of intensive care. She is proud of the women who have supported each other through the years, pushing each other with

great love and strength. Professor Moon also sees the future of WFWPI International filled with hope because of the young women rising up right now. The foundation of so much sincere devotion has inspired a new generation to work to bring a joyful reunion of all women and people in the world; she is impressed by the creativity and artistic talent emerging from young people and sees their potential for creating a harmonious and joyous environment.

Even as Professor Moon continues her work elsewhere she will always have a connection in her heart with the Women's Federation for World Peace.



# WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR THE PEACE OF ASIA INAUGURAL MEETING アジア平和婦人連合設立総会

1987. 3. 18 於. ホテル・ニューオータニ はぎの間



## NORIKO OYAMADA: INITIATOR OF WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR PEACE IN ASIA

By Moriko Hori, International Vice President, WFWP Japan



Moriko Hori

*Mrs. Noriko Oyamada was the first president of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia, which was established in Japan in 1988. Always young and pioneering, she is a true woman leader with strong convictions and a loving heart. She is also the mother of Mrs. Moriko Hori, the current International Vice President of WFWP in Japan. This interview is a dialogue between the mother who laid the foundation of WFWP and her daughter, who inherited her spirit and is developing WFWP into a new dimension while preserving its tradition and culture.*

### WHAT WAS YOUR REASON FOR STARTING THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR PEACE IN ASIA?

In 1987, I was called by the Co-Founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, to a meeting in the United States where he suggested that I establish a Women's Association in Japan. He said that throughout the history of humankind, women have been neglected. Both men and women were created equal by God, but women have been oppressed for too long. The vision of our Co-Founders was to liberate women, and by creating this organization, both men and women could contribute to world peace together.

I did not have the necessary experience or knowledge to start an organization from scratch. However, the vision of a women's

organization struck a chord with me, and I knew I had to accomplish this project, so I set about preparing to establish the organization.

### **WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE, AND HOW COULD YOU OVERCOME THEM?**

At that time, there were not as many women's organizations in Japan as there are now. Moreover, women were not making many inroads into society. The reaction of people around me to the idea of forming a women's organization was very severe, and I faced a lot of opposition and interference. Initially, the Co-Founder warned me that there would be strong opposition from male leaders, but at the time, I didn't understand what he meant. When I started the organization, there was unthinkable persecution from the male leaders who complained that I was not qualified. Although Dr. Moon instructed the leaders of the associated organizations to help me, they were just saying, "What can women do? It's unrealistic to make a women's organization." I was the target of the accusation.

Japan is one of the top developed countries in the world, but the status of women was quite low, and there was not much tolerance for women to enter society. I was keenly aware of this every day. Sometimes I was so frustrated and angry that I shed tears without even knowing it. I didn't have the experience, talent, or money to start an organization. I was at a loss. However, I gritted my teeth and did my best to realize the grand vision that the Co-Founders had hoped for.

At that time, it was my husband who helped me a lot. My husband understood better than anyone else the vision of establishing this organization. He supported me by giving

lectures to legislators, corporate executives, and university professors about the purpose and vision of the organization's establishment.

One of my friends was the president of a youth group, and he introduced me to excellent university students. He also introduced me to a student at the University of Tokyo who was working on a student newspaper, so I started going with that student when he interviewed politicians and business people. I wanted to learn how to approach such people, taking the student's approach as a PR cue. A middle-aged woman following behind a college student to offices of politicians must have seemed rather odd, but I was more driven by the passion to accomplish the mission than the embarrassment of following behind students.

To connect with women leaders, I accompanied them to play golf, which I had never done before. I also learned various manners from scratch, such as serving English tea and the art of flower arranging. As a result, I was able to build wonderful relationships with some of the most prominent female leaders in Japan. The next step was to educate the women leaders about the philosophy and vision of the Co-Founders. We conducted a total of 18 overseas seminars visiting the U.S. Congress and various newspapers, with 120 participants in each seminar. On this foundation, we were able to get acquainted with many supporters and women leaders, including the wives of legislators, corporate CEOs, and academics, who agreed to help with establishing our women's organization.

### **HOW DID WFPA DEVELOP AFTER ITS ESTABLISHMENT?**

In 1988, the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia (WFPA) was established, and I was





ected its first president. Dr. Moon became an advisor to WFPA and visited Japan every year to give a congratulatory speech at the General Assembly. I was amazed at the love and support of those who worked to establish WFPA. “Old people should give full support to young people,” they said, giving up their position on the board of directors and promising to give full support to the development and growth of the organization as an original member.

The main activity of WFPA was to support female students from Asian countries and educate them to become women leaders who could protect their families and contribute to world peace. We also dispatched overseas volunteers to 23 countries, which later became the basis for the Women’s Federation for World Peace’s international cooperative activities.

The WFPA office was located on the second floor of my house. Several staff members who worked in the office with me would come and go day and night, so we couldn’t live like a family at home. I spent so much time and effort establishing WFPA that I didn’t have time to pay attention to my children during their adolescence. I didn’t know their homeroom teachers, and I didn’t know the names of their

closest friends. I am especially sorry for my children, as they must have felt very lonely.

Shortly after WFPA was established in Japan, the Co-Founders gave the organization another mission: to establish WFPA in Korea. I went and stayed in Korea for six months for this mission and visited many congresspeople and organizations. In 1992, WFWP was established, and Dr. Hak Ja Moon became its first president.

### **MORIKO HORI: THE WFWP VISION INHERITED FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER**

I remember that my mother (Noriko Oyamada) was given the mission by the Co-Founders to “establish a women’s organization that would work for peace in Asia.” With no experience and no one to rely on, my mother struggled and suffered a lot.

I was struck by the way my proud mother was willing to overcome herself for a great cause. I could never imagine how my mother followed along with a student from the University of Tokyo who was establishing an on-campus newspaper as he interviewed members of



the National Diet (Japanese legislature). My mother took on the challenge of starting the WFPA with tremendous determination despite her hardships.

I remember my mother always being busy. Even when she came home, she was so occupied with work and never had time to be with us. Sometimes she would be away from home for months at a time; sometimes she would send me postcards from abroad; and sometimes she would buy me souvenirs when she came back to Japan, but I was not happy at all. My mother was too busy to come to my school events or class visits, and she didn't even remember my birthday.

After the establishment of Women's Federation for Peace in Asia, many work-related people came in and out of our house, and we did not have a homey atmosphere. I often felt jealous when I saw staff talking with my mom day and night.

There was no room for me, and whenever I tried to talk to her about what was happening at school, she would say, "I'm busy right now," and eventually, I gave up talking to her. Leaving Japan at the age of 12 to study abroad made me more desperate to live fully, and I

believe it was a good opportunity for me to resolve my conflicts with my mother.

WFPA was not a fun organization for me, but I always wondered what was driving my mother to work with it without a break. Something happened when I was studying in graduate school to become a scholar. I was at a loss because I had a disagreement with my professor about my dissertation, and I was looking for a path other than academia. I was called by the Co- Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who offered me a position at the Women's Federation for World Peace in Japan.

Immediately after I received this offer, there was a series of major tragedies in my family: my mother and mother-in-law were hospitalized at the same time, and my father-in-law was suddenly fired from his job. My husband is an only child, so as a wife and daughter-in-law, I had to decide whether to prioritize my family or my mission at WFP. I recalled my first visit to Dr. Moon a year before the job offer.

When she walked into the room where I was waiting, I heard a voice echoing in my mind, "This is the person you will serve with your life." Then Dr. Moon told me, "In the near future, I will use you as a leader." I didn't know



what that meant, but now I am convinced that Dr. Moon had given me a mission to fulfill her vision of WFWP.

In 2014, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon was appointed as the International President. She first instructed that the chapter presidents should be around the same age as the International President. Fortunately, I had known President Yeon Ah Moon since I was in junior high school. Her presence was very encouraging.

Before coming to WFWP, my life as a scholar was spent reading books in the library. Therefore, I was worried about whether I could serve as the president of WFWP Japan or not. President Moon often came to Japan and participated in local events. It is because of her presence that I was able to do my best at WFWP. She allowed me to speak at big events such as the United Nations Conference and challenged me in many ways, which gave me the confidence to lead one of the largest WFWP national chapters.

When I first met the WFWP Japan board members, I tried my best to act cheerful, but their cold stares made me very scared. My honest thought was, "I came to the wrong place!" I remembered that my mother had

made preparations for the establishment of WFWP despite great opposition from people around her, so I thought that my situation was nothing compared to hers. I decided that I would endure for three years no matter what. When I was told that I would not be recognized unless I could increase the number of members, I did my best to increase the number. I also took the initiative to do work that the president would not normally do. Even so, I was not recognized by the executives of WFWP Japan Headquarters.

Looking around the workplace, it was obvious that there were a lot of elderly people, and the generational change that Prof. Moon had hoped for was not taking place. It was a major issue that the work environment and organizational management were not suitable for the current generation. To realize the vision and the mission entrusted to WFWP, there was an urgent need to improve work efficiency and change generations.

When I joined WFWP Japan, I made various proposals, but at first, most of them were not understood and were rejected.

I knew that I had to get like-minded people to join me at headquarters. I approached my





trusted friends and asked them if they would be interested in working with WFWP. Among them, there was one person who stood up and immediately said, “Okay, let’s work together.” That was Ms. Ishii, who is now the vice president of WFWP Japan. I can’t tell you how much her presence moved the other staff members and me, and the number of likeminded people gradually increased.

I have encountered many hardships and trials in my life, but I have been able to overcome them because I had the best role model. My mother’s stubborn adherence to the Co-Founders’ teachings has strengthened my resolve to face difficulties. You can’t lead an organization half-heartedly. To become a good president, you need to be recognized by the staff and members, understand the vision and mission of this organization better than anyone else, and work harder than anyone else.

Since I came to WFWP, I have been working without a break and have written 14 notebooks with various ideas on how to develop WFWP. After six years as president, I was finally able to see the “harvests” of my work.

I have been blessed with wonderful leaders and colleagues: International President Dr. Julia Moon; Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon and her husband, Dr. In Sup Moon; International Secretary General Dr. Paris Moon; and International Vice Presidents. They are all a source of inspiration to me. I am also always inspired by WFWP’s overseas volunteers and Japanese members who serve their mission countries daily. I am grateful for my mission and will continuously work to realize the vision and mission of WFWP.

# MOTOKO SUGIYAMA: VISION, CONVICTION, COMMITMENT, AND CONSISTENCY

By Merly Barlaan, Director, WFWPI UN Office NY



L-R: Karen Smith; Motoko Sugiyama; Kei Sugiyama; Merly Barlaan

Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama served as an international vice president and the first chief administrative officer of WFWPI, as well as the first director of WFWPI's Office for UN Relations until her retirement in 2013.

Her leadership was pivotal in WFWPI being granted general consultative status from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1997.

I had the fortune of spending 13 years with Mrs. Sugiyama as my mentor and mother figure. Her warm and vibrant personality is very much reflected in her leadership style, which is deeply rooted in love and service for the world. For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WFWPI, I interviewed Mrs. Sugiyama to get a glimpse into the life and heart of a fearless woman

leader who trailblazed the bright trajectory of WFWPI in the last 30 years.

## **DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU WORKED AT WFWPI? HOW DID YOU FEEL DURING THAT TIME?**

The Co-Founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, appointed me as the first president of WFWP Japan in 1992, and I traveled to the Middle East and Africa to promote our international service projects. There, I witnessed the grim consequences of civil war, conflicts, and the effects of poverty on people's lives. Women and children were the most vulnerable and suffered tremendously. I witnessed women



living on the streets, unable to find decent work, and children without schools to attend due to the vast destruction. These dire situations shocked me and moved my heart greatly. Seeing is different from watching or listening to shocking stories. These experiences strengthened my resolve to do anything to help them as members of the same human family, which comes from the Co-Founder's guiding principle and the founding spirit of WFWP, "living for the sake of others."

**WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES DURING YOUR SERVICE AS THE CAO AND AS THE PIONEER DIRECTOR OF WFWP'S UN OFFICE?**

Although everything was a challenge, the

financial situation was especially difficult. I had to open the UN Office and start pioneering UN activities with very little funds. I negotiated with WFWP Japan to support me monthly and started to fundraise. Since WFWPI is the headquarters of all national chapters, I created a membership system in which sponsoring memberships paid \$3,000 and small nations paid \$200 annually.

**WHAT WERE THE SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS YOU CREATED?**

I focused on the International Day of Eradication of Poverty conference and invited our Japanese volunteers from the countries in which we have developed service projects to share their best practices. Though the needs





were much greater, the volunteers focused on educational projects with our limited abilities and resources, because they believed in the importance of not only feeding people temporarily but “teaching them how to fish” to help them feed themselves. This is essential in empowering the people we are committed to serving.

Remarkable accomplishments were made possible by the volunteers who began their journey to live for sake of others in 1994, far from their native country. When WFWPI applied to the UN for ECOSOC general consultative status in 1997, WFWPI was already a large international NGO with many service projects, such as building and managing schools, including vocational schools for women and children, and operating mobile medical service clinics in developing nations around the world. These projects target most of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) introduced after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration during the UN General Assembly in 2000.

### **WHAT WERE YOUR MILESTONE EVENTS DURING YOUR TIME AT THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE?**

The year 1994 was the turning point for WFWP to become an international women’s NGO through our International Sisterhood Projects and International Service Projects (ISP), which I referred to as WFWPI’s two signature projects. While promoting ISP, we prepared to apply for the UN NGO status. We incorporated WFWP International in New York in 1994 at the time our 1,600 Japanese volunteers went to 160 countries and established national chapters and began service projects around the world.

As I reflect, I know I was very lucky. God guided me to meet the Chief of the NGO Branch when I opened the WFWPI UN Office in New York in 1998. Both of us were beginning new assignments and looking for ways to build good partnerships between NGOs and the NGO Branch of DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs), which oversees all ECOSOC affiliated NGOs. The Chief needed an NGO sponsor for their workshops and I needed guidance from a UN insider so that WFWPI could become a trusted UN NGO.



WFWPI provided sponsorship for the NGO workshops and the DESA Chief guided us to collaborate well with the UN. WFWPI and the NGO Branch co-sponsored several conferences on pressing UN agendas.

The strong cooperation and partnership with the NGO Branch continued and the former Chief of the NGO Branch DESA, Mr. Andrei Abramov, attended WFWP's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in Korea to offer congratulations on this milestone anniversary.

Mr. Abramov stated in 2014 during a WFWPI luncheon at the UN, "I should praise WFWPI for its consistent effort to support the priorities of the UN. And because of this, I should state that WFWPI is one of the most significant NGOs in consultative status with the UN." Thanks to Mr. Abramov, any opposition and suspicion against WFWPI disappeared. After 15 years of working to gain recognition at the UN, we were able to claim victory.

### **WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR SUCCESS?**

The ISP is aligned with the UN's priorities, which are peacebuilding and the eradication

of poverty. The International Sisterhood Project addresses peacebuilding and the International Service Project addresses the eradication of poverty. These issues can not be viewed as separate because they are deeply interconnected. If we work and live according to our Co-Founder's guiding principles, I believe that we will realize the same goals and ideals as the UN. We experience true happiness when we witness other people's lives improving for the better, through our humble yet sincere service to them.

In order to make an NGO successful, we need to have one "V" and three "Cs": vision; even if the original vision came from somewhere else, you have to have ownership of the vision. Next, you need conviction followed by commitment and consistency. I worked hard to inherit the Co-Founder's vision as my own.

### **WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE LEADERS OF WFWPI?**

My advice for the leaders of WFWP is to learn a lot humbly and eagerly; do not hesitate to do your best, and continue what you determine to do. Please remember to have your own vision, conviction, commitment and consistency.



## THE VITAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN ACHIEVING WORLD PEACE THE DEFINING MOMENT

*By Mako Mori, Public Relations and Media Coordinator, WFWPI UN Office NY*



In 2011, Mrs. Alexa Ward and Mrs. Sheri Rueter, president and vice president of WFWPI USA at the time, were interviewed by Brett Moss, producer and host of an interview-based talk show, “The Defining Moment for Creating a Culture of Conscience.” The topic was on “the vital role of women in achieving world peace.”

The host began the interview by asking Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Rueter about the defining moments which prepared each of them to take on the work of becoming a peacemaker.



Mrs. Ward shared about her childhood and how she grew up in a very public family. Her father served as a member of the U.S Congress for 25 years. At age 19, Alexa volunteered to teach children how to swim in a small, quaint town in the area of Quebec, Canada. At that time, the town had no electricity or running water and she described it as an experience that “gave me back more than I gave.” It was from this moment on that she realized she wanted to do something in her own life that was “other-oriented.”





*L-R: Sheri Reuter; Susan Felsenthal Janer; and Maria Davila, Mayor of South Gate, CA Bridge of Peace in 2018*

Mrs. Reuter opened up about her background, growing up in a Jewish family where the topic of the Holocaust was talked about often in her home. She felt strongly from a young age that “I wanted to make the world a place where something like that would never happen.” Mrs. Reuter recalls her defining moment a few days after she gave birth to her first son. That night, she and her husband had been awakened multiple times throughout the night by their newborn son. As she cradled him back to sleep, she thought, “I’ve never loved anyone before.” Although she believed herself to be a loving person, it was at that moment that she understood true love is when you are willing to sacrifice for the happiness of another.

WFWP defines itself as an organization with three key focal points, its founding spirit: commitment to strengthen the family; living for the sake of others; and peace and reconciliation activities centered on the Bridge of Peace Ceremony (WFWP’s signature project), with work at the United Nations, among many others.

When asked about what is unique about the work of the WFWP, Mrs. Reuter highlighted that the motivation of the people working in WFWP is not a business relationship, but rather a “heartistic” one. Mrs. Reuter spoke about an experience at an annual conference where she shared a hot tub with six African women, each from different countries. Despite differences of language and culture, they were able to deeply share their hearts with one another. She described this experience of going beyond



*L-R: Angelika Selle, Nora Spurgin, Alexa Ward (current and past presidents of WFWP USA)*

cultural limitations as a crucial component of peacemaking that WFWP brings out in people.

In addition, the interviewer asked about particular strengths of women in peacemaking. Alexa Ward stated that “women come with a connectedness of heart,” and naturally emulate the characteristics of unconditional love, forgiveness and empathy—qualities deemed by many powerful leaders of society as unsuitable for decision-making. But these are the very qualities that move people’s hearts and should guide leaders to make decisions to benefit the whole society.

Alexa Ward also gave insight as to how Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon were able to bring people from different backgrounds and cultures together. Their vision was large and it helped people overcome self-centered thinking. She made the point that people normally fight over viewpoints or opinions, but not the heart. The Co-Founders “challenge people to go above the idea level and the position level, and get into the realm of heart, which is really the only place you can begin to reconcile.” This is the secret to bringing about a world of sustainable peace.

As the interview came to a close, Sheri Reuter reminded us that “peace is not just the absence of conflict, but really the presence of love.” WFWP sincerely hopes to continue creating an environment of peace, where the presence of love can override the limitations in each individual’s heart.



# NORMA ROSA BANEAGA: PASSION IS THE BEGINNING OF SUCCESS

By WFWP Argentina



Norma Rosa Banegas is director of WFWP Tucumán, Argentina, and is responsible for the activities in the northwest region of Argentina. She has been married for 34 years and has seven children and five grandchildren, with two more are on the way.

Mrs. Banegas has never stopped contributing to WFWP and other affiliated organizations. The following is an interview with her:

## WHAT DOES YOUR WORK WITH WFWP CONSIST OF?

In 2002, I started a campaign for values-based sex education called the “Pure Love Campaign.” As WFWP is the UN NGO in general consultative status, we could reach many people in leadership. In collaboration with the National University of Tucumán, we offered courses on HIV prevention and addiction to teachers and nurses, and in a three-year project, we were able to train 2,500 people through lectures and workshops.

## WAS YOUR WORK JUST WITH THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF TUCUMÁN?

No, there were hundreds of lectures at the universities and the schools where all those people worked. HIV is serious disease that people, especially teenagers, were not aware of, and teachers do not know how





to deal with this topic. Unlike some groups, our conferences don't use explicit materials or hand out condoms at the end of lectures. Our talks are adaptable to all ages and educational levels, and they focus on family values, with the main goal of restoring those values, and prevention. Therefore, there was a lot of interest among the young people, and their parents welcomed the lectures. More than 20,000 people heard the lectures, not only in Tucuman but also in different provinces of Argentina. We were also invited to give talks in the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Corrientes, and Santiago del Estero. We continued these activities until 2012. After that, I suspended my activities and resumed them in 2015.

### WHY DID YOU STOP WORKING FOR 3 YEARS?

We live in Tucuman, which is the smallest province in the country. We did great things, but we were unable to continue at that time due to financial limitations.

### IN ADDITION, HOW DID YOU RESTART ACTIVITIES IN 2015?

Japanese volunteers in other parts of Argentina were aware of our activities, and one day I received a call from WFWP Buenos Aires, where the headquarters is located. I was asked if I could work with Mieko Iketo, the leader of this group. I immediately agreed and organized several lectures and interviews with authorities from 2015 to 2019. Mieko visited us every year, accompanied by other sisters, including Rosetta Conti, president of WFWP Argentina; Gloria Dantas, director of Latin America's 2<sup>nd</sup> sub-region; and Laura Correa, president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Mieko also invited two

Japanese young professionals: Mika Minoda and Rina Fujita. Every time Mieko comes, we receive donations from our Japanese sisters who have visited Argentina before. This helps us cover the cost of our activities.

### HOW DID YOU CONTINUE YOUR WORK THROUGHOUT THESE TWO YEARS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

Due to health protocols, we couldn't give lectures, but we continued through webinars, so we were able to connect with other activities related to women and learn about other countries. We were also able to provide social support to families in need. We helped deliver meals to children.

We also helped celebrate "Children's Day" and "Mother's Day" and gave gifts. We are eager to get back to our work soon. By the end of the year (2021), we were invited to give lectures in rural areas, for children as well as their families, who attend the lectures together.





# SUSAN KONE: MY LIFE PURPOSE

By WFWP Africa



*“You must have the faith and conviction that you are a lighthouse lighting a dark world. The lighthouse will shine forth even in the worst kind of weather because that is the time ships need the lighthouse most. When you are surmounted by the thickest fog you must shine forth. The more adversity, the greater must be your light.” [Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon]*

Dr. Susan Kone is a social worker whose passion and life goal are to create a better world. She currently lives in Kenya with her husband, Rev. Moriba Kone, a missionary who in his youth was a great practitioner and promoter of the Unified Martial Arts. They have one daughter. Dr. Kone has lived and served in many countries in Africa, including her husband’s homeland of Cote d’Ivoire and also in Zambia. She is currently the president

of WFWP Kenya and the international vice president of WFWPI for Africa. On October 2, 2021, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Humanities by the United Graduate College and Seminary International.

## **TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR EARLY LIFE.**

I am a Kenyan and grew up in a village environment in central Kenya, East Africa. My father was a civil servant, my mother a farmer, and we were a family of six, two boys and four girls. I am the fifth child, so I grew up surrounded by family members who had homes in the same village and many close relatives. I fondly remember walking a long way to school with the neighborhood children and returning in the evening to find my mother



*Dr. Susan Kone with Dr. Lan Young Moon*

waiting for me with a hearty, hot natural meal from her garden. On days off from school, I would tend to the farm and enjoy the freedom of village life: fresh air, healthy food, and true friendship with my neighbors.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE AS A WIFE AND MOTHER IN AFRICA?**

Life in Africa is very dynamic, and as a wife and mother, I have to have balance to keep everything running smoothly in our home. For example, when our child comes home from school, I have to make time to be with her and also fulfill other duties which require my attention. To be honest, when it comes to housework, I often ask for house help to keep up with my schedule. My husband and I are both involved in public missions, and since the spread of COVID-19, we have had to attend many Zoom conferences, so we converted a space in our house into an office. We are a great team because we help each other to achieve specific goals related to our missions. Sometimes we also go outside all day to get in touch with nature, refresh ourselves, and do outreach.



### **PEOPLE PURSUE A LIFE THAT THEY BELIEVE WILL GIVE THEM A HAPPY AND SATISFYING LIFE. WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL?**

I believe that the path I have chosen to contribute to humanity is the right one. Ever since I came across the vision and mission of WFWPI, I have never looked back.

My inspiration comes from the Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who never ceases to amaze me. Every time I listen to her speeches and see what she has accomplished so far, I feel hope for the realization of world peace.

Dr. Moon has given herself and sacrificed so much for the sake of humanity, and it is bearing fruit. Whenever I do something that impacts someone's life, I feel immense joy and happiness. Throughout the years, I have learned that life is all about giving and sharing what you have, no matter how small. I just feel that I have to give more and more of myself to make this world a peaceful and ideal world for all of us.

### **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE YOUNG GIRLS OF TODAY?**

It is important for young girls to have a mentor and an overall goal in life so that they can work on it at a young age and boost their confidence. It is also very important for mothers and



*Dr. Susan Kone with her husband and daughter*

daughters to develop a close relationship in order for the girls to get the emotional and physical support they need as they grow up. Peer pressure only takes place when there is a vacuum, and building true friendships at the family and community level will protect girls from harm and bad influences. Character education is important, and WFWPI has such forums that encourage girls to learn good character in the pursuit of their goals to true womanhood.

### **HOW DOES YOUR PASSION HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS IN LIFE?**

My passion is to make a difference in people's lives, especially the lives of women and young



*L-R: Sec Gen Paris Moon, Dr. Kone, Pres. Julia H. Moon*



girls. At some point, someone saw something in me and uplifted me. It allowed me to break through the barriers I had in terms of confidence, self-worth, ability, and potential. I have always looked at the possibilities of breaking the yoke of negative energy, self-doubt, worthlessness, hopelessness, and despair, and have made it my life's goal to help people discover their potential and open the small windows and doors to their future so that they can reach their full potential.

In this way, we have been able to empower women and youth groups to lead better lives in ways they never imagined before. In order to realize a peaceful world, each of us, without exception, must do our part and do our best, as Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon said, "Peace starts with me."





# OLGA VAKULINSKAYA: HARMONY IN THE FAMILY - HARMONY IN THE SOCIETY

*By Natalia Koteskaya*



*Olga Vakulinskaya, WFWP Russia president*

Peace and harmony begin in the family and extend to the social, national, and global levels. That is why the activities of the Women’s Federation for World Peace focus on highlighting the value of the family and empowering women with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve peace and harmony in the family and society.

Following is an interview with Olga Vakulinskaya, president of WFWP Russia about the priorities of modern women and their role in the family and society.

## **YOU HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE MOSCOW STATE LINGUISTIC UNIVERSITY AND ARE A CERTIFIED TEACHER OF GERMAN AND ENGLISH, BUT WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES?**

Since 1996, I have been organizing moral education programs for youth in schools and universities, and I have realized that I can give my students something more valuable than just knowledge of a foreign language.

We have implemented moral educational programs such as “Love and Sexuality in the Era of AIDS,” “Preparing for a Happy Family,” and “My Choice is a Healthy Lifestyle.” We have also enjoyed organizing programs for the elderly, children in orphanages, and the disabled. For the past seven years, children in Moscow and St. Petersburg have



*“Family World” festival, 2017*





*“Family World” Festival, Moscow*

been collecting toys and clothes for children in Africa through a project called “From Russian Children to African Children.” For many children, the toys sent from Russia were the first toys in their lives. I strongly hope to touch the hearts of many more people and be able to provide young people with the information and advice they need.

**HOW DO YOU THINK WOMEN TODAY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL BOTH AT HOME AND WORK, AND ALSO HELP CHARITIES?**

We are working on organizing exchange events such as “Family World,” an annual intercultural family festival held in collaboration with the Moscow Central Cultural Center. This project aims to promote the value of true family and the beauty of each culture and nationality. Also, we founded a song and dance ensemble called “Angels of Peace,” which just celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is an annual intercultural and interreligious festival that provides children of different nationalities with an opportunity to learn about each other’s cultures and become good friends. It is very precious that children don’t only take part in the festival but also

participate in different charity and social projects together.

Of course, all of these projects would not have been possible without the understanding and full cooperation of my family. Before a woman can become successful and influential, she needs to become a truly loving wife and mother. And with the help of husbands and children, we will be able to contribute more to society. No matter how busy I am, I always cherish the time with my three precious daughters and my husband. My family is the source of my energy. And just as my family supports my activities, I am trying to support many of their initiatives.

**HOW OLD IS YOUR ORGANIZATION? WHAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED IN COOPERATING WITH OTHER NGO PARTNERS AND BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS?**

Our organization was founded in 1992. I am very grateful to have gotten to know many talented people from different fields. Of course, I hope that we can cooperate more fruitfully and effectively in the field of moral education





in the future. We are deeply grateful to all our partners, many of whom have become true friends to us. It is very pleasant and fun to work together, and most importantly, we can trust each other completely.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR MAIN PROJECT?**

One of the main projects of our organization is the Bridge of Peace. This program is held in countries that have experienced conflicts in the past and still have very difficult relationships with each other. Crossing the Bridge of Peace helps to heal past wounds and build very close and warm relationships with people of different countries, nationalities, and religions.

In the last few years, in cooperation with other branches of WFPW, we have been able to organize “Bridges of Peace” with representatives of Russia and countries like Poland, Austria, the Czech Republic, and others. In May 2019, representatives of almost all European countries took part in the European Bridge of Peace program in Prague. It was a very valuable event for all of us which will remain in everyone’s heart and memory.

#### **WHY DO YOU THINK WE ARE ABLE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD AND CARE FOR OTHERS DESPITE LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES FILLED WITH STRESS, UNHEALTHY COMPETITION, AND NEGATIVITY?**

I think the most important thing is to not lose sight of yourself. Each kindness and good act, no matter how small it may seem, is very precious. We have to do our best to make this world a better place and look for new partners, as a famous Russian proverb says about being a team player, “One in the field is not a warrior.” But first, we need to focus our efforts on raising our children properly. The most important thing is to raise them to be kind, responsible, and not indifferent toward the needs of people in society. This is because the future of our country and the world is in their hands. “The role of a woman is very important because a mother’s heart is able to guide us toward creating a more peaceful and harmonious world.”





# MOTHER'S LOVE AND HEART BLOSSOMS IN GUYANA: REFLECTIONS FROM TWO WFWP VOLUNTEERS

*By Grace Kellett, Administrator, WFWPI UN Office NY  
Interview by Grace Kellett and Donna Martijn*

*Prince Harry has visited Joshua House*

• *Photography by Mario Glasgow  
Claude McKenzie*

In 1994 Guyana was one of the 160 nations to receive WFWP volunteers from Japan. A total of 130 volunteers came to Guyana to establish a foundation centered upon the mother's love and heart. Mrs. Susan Harris Rijkaard, current president of WFWP Guyana, and Mrs. Gladys Accra, WFWP member and administrator of Joshua House Children's Center, reflect on their experiences with the first WFWP volunteers, the fruits thereof, and their continued efforts that embody a mother's heart in Guyana.

## **MRS. SUSAN HARRIS RIJKAARD: WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE FIRST WFWP MEMBERS FROM JAPAN?**



*Susan H. Rijkaard*

I first met the ten Japanese WFWP volunteers in 1994, when they had an origami class. By 1996, we had 120 volunteers coming in, and periodically, more were coming. I began working with them fully from 1997 in various visits, places, projects and so forth. They brought new light and energy to Guyana.

They adapted very well. Most didn't speak English, but that didn't stop them from mixing with the local folks. They loved to cook and learned to cook local foods and they were always very open. If they saw you do something different, they would want to know how you did it and wrote it down on paper so they could learn.



Language barriers should not prevent us from building relationships because we are one people and communication is always possible. We didn't speak Japanese; they didn't speak English, but we smiled, used hand signs and were able to build deep relationships. They left a lasting impression.

### WHAT WERE SOME OF THE VICTORIES AND PROJECTS OF WFWP?

WFWP was always busy, working in groups and putting together what we needed to accomplish that day. They were able to meet lots of very important people from the government, first ladies, the Prime Minister's wife and other government officials.

With the Japanese volunteers, we were able to establish a primary school in Bamia in 1998. The population in that area is indigenous and the kids weren't going to school because the families couldn't afford it. One volunteer moved there and started to teach them until

WFWP officially opened a school. For one year WFWP paid the teachers; then the government included that area in their budget.

Since then we've been visiting and donating to them. Now the government is building a school that will accommodate around 800 children from several communities in Bamia.

The Japanese volunteers stayed at Joshua House Children's Center, so the kids always latched on to them. The volunteers helped with laundry, played Japanese games, taught them origami and brought out the creativity in the children, as this was a novelty for them.

They'd never experienced such things before. Having the volunteers around brought new life and new meaning to the children of not just living in an orphanage, but being able to meet someone from another country who did not speak the same language. They laughed, played, and enjoyed each other's company. The volunteers still give donations to Joshua House. They really helped to elevate and support the work that was started by Mrs. Barbara Van Praag, the founder of Joshua





House, which is continued by Mrs. Gladys Accra.

I was there when Prince Harry visited Joshua House. It was organized by the British High Commission and Joshua House itself, and we joined efforts in making an environment to welcome the Prince to Guyana. I saw his interaction with the kids when he came. He even baked a little chocolate cake and brought it over. He had very good interactions with the children.

**WHAT DO YOU CARRY WITH YOU FROM YOUR TIME WITH THE JAPANESE VOLUNTEERS AND WFWP?**

Personally, the way they used their heart inspired me to serve and complete tasks. Also, the Japanese volunteers awakened in me a “can do” spirit, that nothing is impossible for us as long as we try. They also brought the heart of a parent, this motherly heart. Even though the Japanese volunteers are not here

now, we continue with what they started all those years ago.

**MRS. GLADYS ACCRA:  
WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE JAPANESE VOLUNTEERS AT JOSHUA HOUSE?**

Before the first ten Japanese volunteers came, there was one Japanese woman here married to a Guyanese man. So when more Japanese volunteers came, I was so happy because I feel that the Japanese have special something. I don’t know if it’s a cultural thing but they have a different feel and a positive attitude in the way they relate with people.

My family moved to Guyana in 1992 and in 1994 the community leader asked me to take care of Joshua House Children’s Center. From that time, we tried to fix up the place using donations. The place was falling down, so there was a lot to fix.

We were living in the same compound with





the WFWP volunteers. We had a very good relationship, like a family really. At that time we did not have any staff to help wash clothes and provide overall supervision. My husband worked more at the back in the garden and I concentrated on the front, where people were visiting to bring donations. I was so pleased because the Japanese were helping. They talked with the children and helped wash and sweep. After they left, sometimes they would send little packages for the children. All of them were such nice people and have such wonderful hearts. You talked with them and felt love and care even though they did not speak English well. I didn't speak English well either, but we have one heart.

### HOW DO WFWP AND JOSHUA HOUSE WORK TOGETHER?

Susan (Rijkaard) works very hard. She comes every day and helps if we need it. WFWP also has little programs for the children. For Peace Day, they planted trees together with the children on the road in front of the home, and planted trees in other places. With Joshua House, we have the ability to contact people from different areas of society. Many people, including Prince Harry, famous artists like Saint Jhn, and the First Lady of Guyana have

come here. Joshua House is now very famous. We try to share the blessing. We give whatever we have to WFWP so that they can share them with other people. Now the school in Bamia reopened and we donate supplies in the name of WFWP.

We are connected, we are the same. You come and you find a family.

### WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF THE WFWP VOLUNTEERS FROM JAPAN? HOW DO YOU EMBODY THE HEART OF WFWP IN YOUR WORK?

You could feel a mother's heart among the Japanese. They had unity, they were supportive of one another, and they prayed and prayed. I tell you, this place makes you develop more and more faith in God as you can see God's presence. He's always there, always helping. People here are very generous. There isn't one day where someone doesn't come. Even when I go to my bedroom, I pray about everybody who is donating. I ask Heavenly Father that their contributions can be a way that they can really see God in their lives and it can help them to become a better person.

# PEACE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

*By Laura Laycock, Intern, WFWPI UN Office Vienna*



*Laura Laycock*

As part of the Women's Federation for World Peace International's (WFWPI) healing and reconciliation projects, "Color My Heart with Peace" was launched in 2020. Its purpose is to foster the hope of peace among our youth through cultivating their talents in the field of visual arts. Specifically, the project seeks to raise awareness about the situation of the divided Koreas. While the Korean War took place over seventy years ago, the two sides remain divided by the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), which divides the Peninsula roughly in half. This legacy of bitter division is marked not only along geographical lines but also cuts through the hearts of its people who remember the history of Korea as a unified nation. Decades of separation have caused the evolution of North and South Korea into very different territories;

formal political unification remains a difficult reality to achieve. WFWPI however, seeks to bridge the gap between North and South Korea on the community level, bringing healing and reunion for sustainable peace.

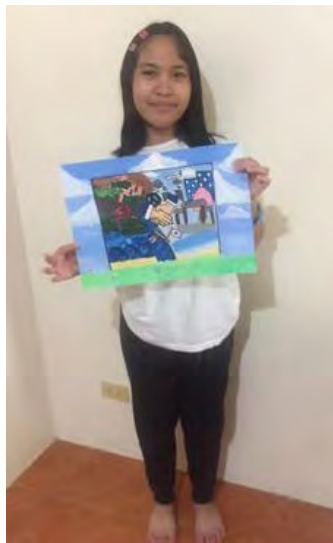
Color My Heart  
with Peace  
Children's  
Art Contest



“Color My Heart with Peace,” therefore, was created with the aim of promoting sustainable peace between the two Koreas through the power of art, and inspiring the younger generation as peacebuilders. The contest encourages self-expression through the field of visual arts to foster the realization and message of peace coming from them. The contest is focused on different themes each year including, “World Peace is My Happiness,” and “Water for Peace,” for example. Since its inception, between 500 and 1,000 children have participated in the “Color My Heart with Peace” project each year. The three main objectives are: to highlight awareness about the history of the two Koreas and their division; to nurture the idea of peace and harmony; and to provide a platform for young students to express themselves through their artistic talents.

“Color My Heart with Peace” invites young artists from around the world in two groups: from the ages of 7-9 and ages 10-12. They are encouraged to develop relationships with local schools and sponsors to promote the contest. The task is to produce a piece of artwork on the target theme which will be uploaded to the “Color My Heart with Peace” Facebook page










along with the hash-tagged nationality, name, age of the artist, and the title of the artwork. Submissions are judged on their creativity, interpretation of the theme, and the overall impression of the artwork alongside Facebook likes. Results are released and distribution of awards certificates is exhibited online. Forty-four of the highest-rated submissions internationally receive a prize or acknowledgment, ranging from iPads, Apple watches, art supply sets, and achievement awards. Two Gold, two Silver, and two Bronze Awards are available for the overall winning pieces, as well as Merit and Achievement Awards. Ages, country of participation, among other factors are taken into account. The 2021 “Color My Heart with Peace” Project received 146 artworks from over 31 countries making it a truly global campaign.

By creating a platform for young artists to share their vision for a reunified and peaceful Korean Peninsula, WFWPI promotes its central vision of peace and unity through the concept of a global family.

Color My Heart  
with Peace  
Children's  
Art Contest

 **WOMEN'S FEDERATION**  
FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

# COLOR MY HEART WITH PEACE

**ABOUT THE CONTEST**

**HOW TO APPLY**

GO TO <https://www.wfwp.org/>

 [cmhwp.com](http://cmhwp.com)



 <https://www.facebook.com/2020dmz/>



 [colormyheartwithpeace](https://www.instagram.com/colormyheartwithpeace)





## SCHOOL WHERE “HOPE IS A WAKING DREAM”

*By Nishimwe Jean, New Hope Technical Institute, Rwanda*



*Nishimwe Jean*

In 1994, I lost my family in the Rwandan genocide, but I managed to survive. With nowhere to go, I returned to my hometown and was rebuilding my broken house. However, I could not complete it because the people who killed my family in the genocide set my house on fire when they returned home after their sentences. I was in the house at the time and was badly burned. I was on the verge of life and death. Fortunately, I escaped death in the nick of time, but I had to spend a long time in the hospital.

After being discharged from the hospital, I found my aunt, the only relative I had, and went to see her. However, her husband refused to live with me. With nowhere to go and nowhere to live, I was at a loss. The rest of my life was unspeakably painful. I ran around looking for help wherever I could find it. I also lived as a street child.

One day, I happened to meet the president of New Hope Technology Institute on the bus. The president must have felt something for me because she brought me to the school. She listened to me as I explained to her what I had been doing. In the end, she advised me to study at





this school and look for a job so that I could survive in the future. I felt so relieved because when I was alone, there was no one to talk to face to face.

Without the support of New Hope Technical Institute, I would not be where I am today. The president introduced me to the Foster Program, which helps students in need to graduate from the institution with tuition assistance. I chose the beautician course. There were days when I couldn't even eat well, but I was so dedicated to my studies that I once walked two hours to school. Also, with the support of letters from my foster parents in Japan, I was able to graduate without giving up. After graduation, I visited my acquaintances to have them see my new skills and gradually gained their trust, and now I have many customers.

I participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of New Hope Technical Institute in 2018 as an alumni representative. At the preparation meeting for the ceremony, I heard that my foster mother, Mrs Hiroko Misumi, would be coming to the event. I thought it was a miracle.

When I met Mrs Hiroko Misumi on the ceremony day for the first time, I was thrilled

and moved.

When a Japanese volunteer introduced me to her, saying, "This is your mother," I instinctively showed a picture of her that I had received ten years ago and said, "I always put this picture in my wallet and made it the wallpaper of my phone. Thanks to your support, I have been able to stay alive." I couldn't help but speak to her in my native language, Kinywanda, in rapid succession.

Mrs Hiroko Misumi, who did not understand Kinyawanda, looked blank. However, when a Japanese volunteer interpreted for her, she smiled happily with tears in her eyes and said, "Now I understand why I had to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony." On the day of the event, even though I had to help prepare for the ceremony, I found myself always sitting beside my foster mother.

Today, I have a job that utilizes the skills I learned at this school, a family, and three children. When I entered school, my dream was to become rich. Thanks to New Hope Technical Institute and my foster parents, I can now pursue that dream realistically. I am truly grateful.



# HOW “MAKING FRIENDS” IN KOREA LEADS TO WORLD PEACE

*By WFPW International Women in Korea (IWK)*



The year 2006 marked a turning point in the lives of many of us international women living in Korea. Although many of us had not met each other yet, we were invited to a meeting in Seoul where Mrs. Alexa Ward, president of WFPW USA spoke to us. She inspired us, filling our hearts and heads by encouraging us simply to “become friends” with Korean women. This was how we could begin to create peace on the Peninsula and throughout the world. We learned that ladies in Cheonan (city south of Seoul) had previously begun holding meetings and had presented guest lectures on teaching English and on Korean history. To continue reaching out to Korean and other international women living in Korea, the International Women in Korea (IWK) came into existence.



We English-speaking women from many nations continued meeting informally and, after Mrs. Ward’s talk, asked to join the WFPW as a new branch of the organization. Our group would have a unique perspective on life in Korea. We also offered Korean women and those from many countries living here for various reasons the chance to use and expand their knowledge of English. We planned to offer a



series of talks and discussions in English.

Mrs. Robin Debacker, who was teaching English at Kookmin University in Seoul, was elected our leader, and Dr. Betsy Colford from Sun Moon University served, and is still serving, as emcee and scribe of our group. As for our new branch's name, we thought that our Korean and international lady friends would be delighted to attend the monthly meetings in English of the "International Women in Korea."

Thanks to a grant from the Seoul Global Center, in September of 2008 we hosted the inaugural celebration of IWK. Our banner proclaimed our purpose, "EAST MEETS WEST: Women Bridging and Healing the Cultural Divide." One hundred twenty Englishspeaking women, 60 from Asia and 60 from the West, met to hear

uplifting talks by women from diverse cultures, to take part in a "Bridge of Peace" ceremony to find common ground as sisters and mothers, and planned to engage in projects to promote peace.

The very next month we introduced ourselves to the public at a booth at the Seoul Information Fair. Also in October of 2009, we began our "Coffee Mornings" to keep in touch with our new friends who met at these events. At these programs, we welcomed the Korean and other international women who have so bravely come to visit, and, over a cup of coffee or tea, we introduce our speaker and topic for the day. We native speakers of English have been in the minority of the ladies giving talks over the years, and thus we are appreciative of the efforts our guests have made when sharing





their passions and talents in a foreign tongue. Over lunch, we frankly exchange our views on all topics in an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and support. Many of our guests have even confided that they would never think to discuss at home the opinions that they share with us. Sometimes our lady friends are called to other posts or have returned to their hometowns and counties, but we do manage to keep in touch with them through monthly meeting reports we send to them. Now they can join our meetings on Zoom. We were able to enjoy 121 Coffee Mornings together before the COVID-19 pandemic, but we squeezed in one more luncheon meeting in 2020, at which we announced a change of leadership, from Dr. Betsy Colford to our musically talented Russian lady, Mrs. Angelika Birdsong. We also fooled the virus by getting together for a walk in the splendid Seoul Botanic Park that same year. Recently we decided to put modern technology to good use and have so far held

four Coffee Meetings, with speakers from different lands, on Zoom.

Over the years, we have enjoyed learning from women medical doctors and practitioners about topics dealing with health and nutrition, and have practiced yoga and meditation. We have discussed marriage as a spiritual partnership, followed an American military family in their moves around the world, heard the story of an American “lady leatherneck” (Marine), and learned about various world cultures, such as Ethiopia (complete with their excellent coffee and popcorn). We also learned about life in the UAE from the wife of the UAE’s ambassador to Korea, and heard stories of Philippine women who married Koreans, told by a woman lawyer at the Philippine Embassy. We heard remembrances of the brave women of Italy from our favorite Italian professor, and had glimpses into the culture of such far-flung countries as Iran, Mexico and Panama, all from



representatives of those countries.

We have also had hands-on experiences making masks to express who we are, making art while listening to music, and learning to arrange seasonal flowers with our generous Doctor of Horticulture. We also hosted, at the request of Korea's Unification Ministry, 12 Book Cafes over two years on the theme of North-South Reunification, complete with the testimony of a North Korean refugee at each final session.

We have walked in the forests and gardens of Seoul and have ended each year with time for personal reflections of the previous year, a chance to make New Year's resolutions, and then a spirited Christmas party complete with talks of Christmas traditions around the world, the singing of Christmas carols and the reading of the classic poem "The Night Before Christmas."

Our Coffee Mornings proved to be very popular, but at times difficult to get to from other places in Korea. And so an offshoot of our monthly meetings was launched in Seorak in 2017. Named "Tea Mornings," these Saturday get-togethers also attracted both Korean and international ladies and were also conducted in English. With the appearance of the COVID-19 virus, however, these meetings over tea were merged with our Coffee Mornings and have been held via Zoom.

We have accomplished all of these things following our desire to "make friends" with women from all countries of the world who, like us, yearn for peace and an end to forceful aggression. We are grateful for our experiences of meeting these women friends and will continue meeting them through Zoom or, we hope, soon in person to prepare for the realization of a peaceful new world.





## “RENEWED” HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE

*By Uwineza Immaculee, New Hope Technical Institute, Rwanda*



I lost my parents in the Rwandan genocide in 1994 and became an orphan. After the genocide, my older brother took over as my parent and raised me, but I was heartbroken by my parents’ deaths and had no dreams or hopes. That was when I was ten years old.

Time passed by without any opportunity to study at school. However, one day in 2003, I learned that New Hope Technical Institute had a foster parent program. I applied for admission and was finally able to enroll in the cooking course.



Without the support of foster parents, it would have been impossible for me to study at the school. In addition to the knowledge I gained from the cooking and language classes, the moral classes I took at this school have made me the person I am today. I am proud to have studied at the New Hope Technical Institute.

After graduation, I got a job at a hotel where I did an internship. Later, I worked in a restaurant and was appointed kitchen chef, enabling me to support my family financially. A few years ago,





I started my own business, and now I hire people and teach them how to cook.

I will never forget my Japanese foster mother, who helped me pay for school. She gave me the confidence to live and the hope for a bright future. Thanks to her, I have been able to live a wonderful life. I have gained so much from a life that I thought was far from happy.

Even after graduation, I continue to help out whenever there is an event at school that serves food. When New Hope Technical Institute decided to hold a ceremony to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I was in charge of entertaining the guests and giving a speech on behalf of the graduates at the ceremony. Volunteer staff for the event was gathered from graduates, and a preparation committee was set up. Prior to the ceremony, I would be meeting with Japanese volunteers who had come to Rwanda. Also, my foster mother, the woman who raised me and supported my education, would be participating in this ceremony! When I heard the news it made me jump with joy. It was such a wonderful gift from God that I couldn't help but shout,

“Oh my God!” The Japanese volunteers were very surprised by this seemingly inevitable coincidence and suggested that we make it an unforgettable ceremony.

I was so excited that I couldn't sleep until the day of the ceremony. The day came, and I met my foster mother for the first time on the ceremony day. I couldn't stop crying. I was able to express my gratitude directly in front of her, and when I touched her warm hands, I was filled with the greatest sense of happiness. My mother also cried with me and was happy for my safe growth. If I had not met my foster mother, I might not have been able to overcome the painful experience of losing my parents in the Rwandan genocide. This day has been renewed as the happiest day of my life.

When I entered this school, my dream for the future that I wrote on my application was “to be able to work to help orphans.” I would like to support children just as I have been supported by my foster mother and this school. Thank you for bringing me to this school and letting me meet with my foster mother.

# MY PRECIOUS HISTORICAL T-SHIRT!

*By Zoe Bennett, International Vice President, WFWP Middle East*



It was on March 28, 1992; we received notification that WFWPI Co-Founders were calling for representatives from all nations of the world to participate in the inauguration of a new women's organization. I was the only Greek member in my area, so I knew I needed to go as a representative. I began frantically searching for someone to take care of my two-year-old daughter, as my husband was working at the Middle East Times newspaper. Finally, a kind Latin-American member agreed to help.

Together with an actress, a close friend whom I invited as a guest, we traveled to Korea to attend the inauguration of Women's Federation for World Peace. April 10, 1992, was a rainy day! Traveling to the venue was very

impressive, with many buses arriving from all over Korea. We could see the stadium filling up quickly from the VIP area where we were seated. The spirited speeches and celebrations were new to my guest. The program lasted a long time by western standards, and she was getting restless, but the care from the staff made things much easier. After lunch, we went back to our lodgings to rest.

Suddenly, we received the news that Dr. Sun Myung Moon was calling all the western visitors who had come for the inauguration to gather and meet him in Hannam Dong (his residence at that time). There was another "first" for my Greek mature-of-age guest—sitting down on the floor!





We were lucky to sit comfortably against the wall. And we were even luckier that a Japanese lady sat next to us. After a while, she felt the suffering of my guest, and she started massaging her legs. This was the ticket to Heaven! She became so happy after that and forgot all her difficulties.

At the end of Dr. Sun Myung Moon's speech, lots of talking was going on in the front, and suddenly white shirts came flying our way. My guest was happy to receive it but didn't really know what it was. I was very happy to receive one too. I knew there was the tradition in Korea to offer specially made T-shirts as a souvenir on important occasions. I offered to keep both gifts in my bag until we returned to our hotel. She was careful to put it nicely in her suitcase and take it home.

It was only after I returned to Athens that I took a closer look at this T-shirt. It had Dr. Sun

Myung Moon's and Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon's signatures! It was of excellent quality and very comfortable to wear. At first, I was using it for special occasions and very rarely.

Eventually, I was using it all the time! It was large enough to be practical to wear during my next two pregnancies. It was a lovely feeling of being embraced by Father Moon and Mother Moon. Then I put it away. I almost forgot about it, but it followed me when I moved to Cyprus and later to the UK.

It was cool, of good texture, and fitting for the Cyprus climate, winter or summer. In the UK too, it was lovely to wear it at home.

Now it has become my close companion. Wash and wear, it stays in good shape, and reminds me of the significant time in Korea for the inauguration of the Women's Federation for World Peace International. This is the story of a 30-year-old T-shirt!



## ADDING STONES TO THE BIG “WFWP” EDIFICE

*By Brigitte Galois-Sillitoe, President of WFWP France (1995-2001)*



As we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WFWP in Korea, and as I found the T-shirt that we received at the inauguration ceremony, I tried to recall, after all those years, what happened then and what an experience it was for me. First of all, I should explain what I went through before that.

I had previously spent six years in South Korea and was eventually blessed in marriage in 1989 to my husband, Alan, from England.

Our son, Nicolas, was born at the end of February of 1991 in Paris, France. I was at last at the age of 40 1/2, a happy mother, very concerned about my son's wellbeing.

Then, suddenly, we were asked to establish WFWP on the national level. I started to work on it with a Japanese sister, and I wrote the by-laws in French. In order to do that, we met with other sisters and formed a committee.

Later, voting was organized for the position of WFWP France president; another person receiving three more votes than I did became president. Nevertheless, in 1992, I was asked to join the small group of women from Europe who were going to Korea to inaugurate WFWP. When I was at the airport with my husband and son, our baby sensed my imminent departure and started to cry. It was so heartbreaking. Even though I could not always take care of him during our various meetings in France, it was the first time that we were about to be separated with such a distance and for this length of time.

It is with a heavy heart that I took the plane, even though I felt how important it was for us, as women, to restore past failures together with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. I believe that our mother and child separation must have helped build the foundation.



Under such circumstances, it is hard to remember the details of what really happened then. The only event that is crystal clear in my memory is standing right behind Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon while they were speaking to the crowd at the stadium in Korea.

It was raining heavily, and I was given a plastic raincoat to protect myself. Later on, someone came with an umbrella, which I shared with another lady. It was probably the last place any sensible human being would have liked to be in, but I felt that we were sharing the burden with our Co-Founders and that it was a privilege to do so.

After three years of difficulties, of feeling overwhelmed, in 1995 I was asked to take

over the presidency of WFWP France. I accepted the responsibility with the same heart I had when we created the organization in the first place.

I remained in that position until the summer of 2001 when I left for South Korea after being posted to the French Embassy in Seoul by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I had worked since July 1993. I remained in Korea until 2004. Looking back, I can see that each of us women added our “stone” to the big edifice of the restoration of womanhood.



# THOSE WHO TOUCHED MY HEART WERE KOREANS

*By Isabel Costa, Author and Happiness Consultant*



I was born in Porto, Portugal, and at the age of 18 I had a deep inner calling to a message of peace; one year later I started my spiritual journey following the principles of peace of Rev. Sun Myung Moon in the Unification Movement. I was blessed to follow this path full time for 14 years and to live in several countries and on several continents.



Without a doubt the people who touched my heart the most were the Korean people. I went to Korea in January 1989 and was blessed in marriage, staying in Korea for two and a half years. I worked at the Segye Ilbo newspaper founded by Dr. Sun Myung Moon for the purpose of contributing to the peaceful unification of North and South Korea.

Dr. Moon has dedicated his entire life to God, humanity and the cause of peace. One of the examples of this that I could witness was his meeting with President Gorbachev on April 10, 1990. This was undoubtedly a historic moment, as if it were a meeting of two long separated brothers, just like the meeting he had with President Kim Il Sung of North Korea.





Dr. Moon's work expands to all fields of society and so I also had the opportunity to participate in the International Conference for the Unity of Sciences (ICUS) from August 23-26, 1991, and the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP) from August 26-28, 1991.

In November 1991 the first event of the Women's World Peace Federation was launched at the Asian level and then made official at the world level in April 1992. I also participated in that first event in Seoul together with thousands of participants.

Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, have dedicated their entire lives to building world peace by their own examples of dedication, sacrifice, and hard work in all areas of life so that we can all enjoy a world of peace and love.

I am deeply grateful to God for placing me on this path in my life, and that I intend to continue to praise and work for this world of peace as long as I am in this existence.

Currently, I have been working as a creator and trainer of the Holistic Nutrition Course and by teaching at the Institute of Traditional Medicine since 2014. I am the author of two books on healthy eating and co-organizer of a multi-disciplinary congress in partnership with ComMedida on Healthy Eating. For six years we have published annual editions that bring together professionals from various areas of health in the country. A few years ago, I also began activities as a Happiness Consultant, providing consultation on an individual level and online training in groups.

# FINDING PEACE IN AN UNFAMILIAR LAND

By Flory Yadao Ledwaba, Secretary General, Africa



*Mrs. Flory Ledwaba is Philippine-born and lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, with her three children and husband. She is a foundation phase teacher, home schooler and loves gardening to unwind. After being raised Catholic, she chose to go on a spiritual journey of self-discovery, traveled to four continents, and enjoys embracing all that is possible.*

## **TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR EARLY LIFE.**

I grew up in a farming village in northern Philippines. I am the sixth of eight children. One thing that reminds me of growing up was going to church on Sundays, celebrating Christmas and other Christian holidays. My parents instilled in us the love of reading.

Through reading, I develop a curiosity about the world around me. I wanted to travel and meet different people, and to know and live with them.

In high school, I was involved not only in attending the Sunday Mass, but also in going to the villages to pray. This experience caused me to wonder about people's lives. I thought about what I could do to make them better.

In 1983, when I went to university, I found what I was searching for. I learned about the Unification Movement. It was an enlightening truth and answered many of my questions in life. It was with this enlightenment that I was ready to go anywhere in the world. I realized that I could make a difference. My marriage

has that significance too, and I found true peace in the life I chose to tread.

### **WHAT IS THE DEFINING FACTOR OF YOUR DECISION TO COME TO AFRICA AND START FAMILY LIFE?**

Before coming here, what I knew about Africa was all from books and news. It was my desire to lead a life to make the world a better place and to leave a legacy that would help future generations have a safe and happy world. These are the deciding factors that made me willing to go anywhere in the world.

My husband is from South Africa. We started family life in the US and moved to Africa in 2000 after the birth of our first son. South Africa has magnificent natural sceneries and modern infrastructure, and it has pleasant weather with few natural calamities like typhoons, which I experienced a lot growing up in the Philippines. The countryside has a beautiful landscape.

Here in South Africa, there is a word that people use and is part of daily life, called “Ubuntu,” which means togetherness. Ubuntu is about how all of our actions have an impact on others and society, and that we are happiest by caring for those around us. It resonates well with the vision that I personally uphold and makes me feel at home. It was indeed the base for finding peace in this initially unfamiliar land.

Different societies have different cultures, but they also have some similarities. Blending in with the different ways of life is one of the things I needed to learn and be good at as I settled into life in Africa. And I think that makes life exciting and unique in the path of self-discovery that I have chosen to tread.

### **HOW DOES YOUR PASSION HELP YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL IN LIFE?**

My passion is working with the youth. As a teacher, I love teaching Sunday School. I also do literacy and mathematics tutoring programs for the less privileged children in the community. I believe that the experience in the early years of life can have a lasting significance in children’s lives. And this is what I intend to continue doing to make a difference in the community.

There are things that every person can do to make a mark in life and help make the world a better place. It is our responsibility to prepare the youth of today for the future. We need to provide them with a balanced education: spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The family, church, and schools must work together to educate the youth. Eventually, it is a step toward achieving common ground in building a caring communal life anywhere one may be.





# TESTIMONY OF A PEACE BUILDER

*By Maria Kadima, WFWP Democratic Republic of Congo*



*Mrs. Maria Kadima is a passionate teacher and mother. She lives with her husband, Rev. Pierre Kadima, and her son in Democratic Republic of Congo. For more than 20 years, she has untiringly devoted her life in the frontline of building a better world for all as a teacher and volunteer.*

## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR EARLY LIFE

My name is Akumoere Maria Eneware Kadima. My parents have ten children: seven boys, and three girls. As the eldest, I grew up in a Christian home in Nigeria, where the environment was not so good at that time. My parents were very concerned about raising us safely because of the situation in the country. It was not easy, but they worked hard to guide us, and somehow God protected us.



In 1987, when I was attending the Teacher's College, I was exposed to the Unification Movement. I came to understand many things about life. My life has changed. I started to see things in a broader sense and came to a deeper understanding of God.

### **WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE AS A WIFE AND MOTHER IN AFRICA?**

Africans are very kind, but if selfish desires are pursued, this type of power can be abused, and even living with in-laws can prove difficult....As a mother, you always have to make a constant effort to raise children, and it is not an easy task.

### **PEOPLE PURSUE A LIFE THAT THEY THINK WILL GIVE THEM A LIFE OF HAPPINESS AND SATISFACTION. CAN YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL?**

I always want to live a life of gratitude. Achieving a life of happiness and satisfaction can only come from God, our Heavenly Parent. So, I try to put God first in everything I do. Honestly, it's a journey. We need to work hard every day and deepen our understanding of God. I am happy, but I still have to strive every day.

I try to support the people around me by giving. Not because I have a lot, but because I know what it feels like not to have. I believe that giving in many ways is a way of showing empathy: encouraging, advising, empowering, and supporting others to be better people. Being a role model for others is not always easy, but I believe it is truly worth it.

### **WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN OF TODAY?**

The advice I would give to young women today is to be true to themselves. The true self can only be obtained through a constant relationship with God. For example, you can serve in various ways, such as volunteering to help those in need. By doing so, you can discover your God-given talents and use them centered on God, our Heavenly Parent.

# HEALTHY FAMILY, HEALTHY SOCIETY, HEALTHY NATION

By Olive Tolentino Degbey, WFWP Benin



*Mrs. Olive Tolentino Degbey, the fifth of ten siblings, hails from St. Benedict, Diit, Leyte Philippines. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education from the Leyte Institute of Technology (now the Visaya State University). She lives in Cotonou, Benin, with her husband and two children.*

## **TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE AS A WIFE AND MOTHER IN AFRICA?**

I joined the Unification movement as a student in 1981 and became a member of Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP), and in November of 1981, I volunteered for missionary work and was

able to travel throughout the country. Then I worked with the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA) as an assistant coordinator and with students from different universities. That experience was a treasure for me and gave me the opportunity to broaden my perspective on the world around me.

In 1992, I received the Marriage Blessing with Mr. Degbey Pascal Anice. He is a research technician and currently works as our church's national director in the area of family values. We have two children: a son, Benphil Gou Sung, 22, who is studying at Sun Moon University in Korea, and a daughter, Bless An-Jong, 19.





Before coming to Africa, I received a special mission to work in the United States in 1994. It was an eye-opening and empowering experience. One of my responsibilities was to lead a team for three months, meeting different people in the field. During this mission, I had many unforgettable experiences, many happy moments, ups and downs, trials and difficulties, and finally, I was able to end the long journey with success and victory.

On August 20, 1996, I arrived in Benin. It was my greatest hope, my dream, and my motivating factor to do my best. The marriage Blessing was a decisive factor in my decision to come to Africa and start a family life. At the time, I did not have much information about Africa. Benin is a small, developing country. It is a tropical country like the Philippines, but without many natural resources, and it is French-speaking.

I first met my husband in 1996. He is a gentle, loving, and adaptable man. He won my heart right away. On the other hand, learning French has been a challenge for me. I found it complicated. Also, as a foreigner, it is not easy for me to find a job in Benin.

**PEOPLE PURSUE A LIFE THAT THEY THINK WILL GIVE THEM A LIFE OF HAPPINESS AND SATISFACTION. CAN YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL?**

It takes effort and investment to attain those objectives. My husband was raised in a polygamous family, which is shocking to people in the Philippines. So my husband's family and my family do not have much communication. Nevertheless, we are trying our best to connect our two families. Through these family challenges, we are able to take our

responsibilities more seriously and contribute to peace on earth.

We all want to feel happy, and we can attain joy and happiness when we fulfill our desires and responsibilities. God must be the center of marriage, the center of children, and the center of the family.

I have a peaceful, happy, and loving family. Therefore, it does not matter where we live. What is important is that we let God be the owner, protector, and center of our lives. By doing so, we firmly declare that we will achieve our goal of building a peaceful and happy life.

**WHAT ARE THE WORKS YOU DO TO UPLIFT YOUR COMMUNITY?**

There are two essential things that I consider to be necessary and important in uplifting our community. One is education, and the other is health. In 2010, with the help of my husband, I began an initiative to create educational programs on sexual purity, AIDS prevention, and other sexually transmitted diseases in secondary and high schools. School authorities have expressed their appreciation for the program, saying that it has helped many students to develop good character. We have formed partnerships with many schools, as we were asked to make this activity available to all students in the school. More than a thousand students have participated in our program. In 2016 we launched a program on family values in our community. The work of educating couples is a way to uplift the community. Education is fundamental in building healthy and stable families and is the foundation of a healthy society and a healthy nation.

## A HAPPY WOMAN CAN LOVINGLY HELP MAN TO ACHIEVE PEACE

By Angelika Birdsong, President, International Women in Korea



*Angelika Birdsong, left. Before coming to Korea in December 2001, Angelika was president of WFWP Russia*

*International Women in Korea (IWK) was launched in the spring of 2008 in Seoul as a chapter of WFWP Korea. One day I was invited to one of the IWK's friendly gatherings, for talks and dancing. I vividly remember being in a group of beautiful ladies with Robin Debacker, the first president of IWK, and Snezhana Shapkina, the dance lead.*

December 22<sup>nd</sup> was a remarkable day for me. That day, Robin and her husband Jean played the roles of Queen and King in the Christmas musical "Cinderella and the Magic Apples," performed by a group called Happy Hearts, of which I am the founder. I created this group for my daughter Meadow Jeongwon so that she could enjoy making projects with her friends and their parents. After the musical was over,

I remember giving Robin glitter decorations to help the ladies have a good time at the IWK Christmas party.

Another experience with the IWK was a dance practice that I joined. It started with a core group of ladies and has grown into a large group attracting many people to be a part of. It was so much fun that I decided to invite some Korean women to IWK gatherings to talk about the various topics and to sing and dance. Some of them dreamed of practicing their English speaking skills for various reasons so they decided to join the IWK. My best friend, Vera Sawaya from Lebanon, was an active member of the IWK and was always eager to share with me about the guests and news from the meetings.



I especially liked IWK Christmas Carolings and was invited by Betsy Colford, IWK's second president, to join her and other friends Regina Shin, Lucilla Gray, Michelle Brandner, Myra Meijer, Jitka Ecsedi, and many others to "get into the holidays' tune together."

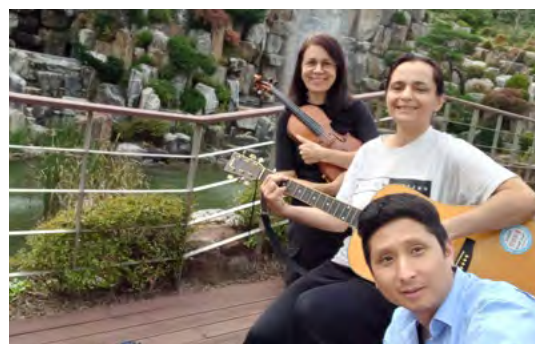
I also recall a few speakers I met at the meetings: Betsy Jones from America and Mme. Aida from the United Arab Emirates. I asked them, "What is the secret to a good relationship between husband and wife? How can I make my husband happy? How can I raise happy children?" The answer was simple: to be happy myself. If I am happy, then my husband is happy. A happy mother makes a happy family.

Before coming to Korea in December 2001, I was the president of WFWP in Russia and the first international vice president of CIS.

I realized that the IWK's way to create a peaceful world is friendship. Friends help, heal, encourage, stand for, understand, cheer, forgive, love, and unite. Through a peer group like IWK,

wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters can lovingly help men achieve peace and fulfill the vision of WFWPI Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. It is simple and it works! Our IWK's Coffee Mornings attract women of all ages and fields by giving them the hope and strength to love and care for their loved ones more.

As the current IWK president, I see a bright future ahead of us and am honored to be working with WFWP International President Dr. Julia Moon, and learning from WFWP Korea President Su Youn Kim. What a beautiful lifetime opportunity this is!





## UNITY IN DIVERSITY

By Michelle Brandner, *International Women in Korea*



*Michelle Brandner, back row center, with husband, Franz, and family*

International Women in Korea (IWK) has been an important and valuable milestone in my journey. I've been involved with organizing activities and events such as information booths, bazaars, outings, sisterhood ceremonies, and conferences to bring women of different cultures and nationalities together. I coined it "unity in diversity," and I am sure with this vision, IWK will continue to be an essential part of stronger interaction for speakers of English and Korean, expatriates, diplomats.

When Dr. Sun Myung Moon co-founded the WFWP in 1992, he spoke of the dawn of the age of women and the global community. In 2001, my youngest son was six months old and we were living in my husband Franz's home country of Austria. I attended a 21-day

women's workshop, in Korea, and at the end, each participant was asked to accept a mission country by lottery, and mine was Korea.

Upon my return to Austria, I had to seriously consider joining the mobilization in Korea. It was a challenging decision to move our family to Asia. My husband and I had a deep conversation about it. I had to empty myself and at the same time let go of all my fears. We have five children whose ages ranged from ten to two years old at the time. The idea of moving to Korea came as a shock to my mother-in-law and many of my friends and relatives. They couldn't understand why we would relocate to a distant country they knew almost nothing about, and those who had heard of it were only talking about its instability and the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. However, my



family gathered up their courage and flew to Korea, settling in a home near the mountains. (It is a five-minute walk from our house to the foot of the mountain). Coming from Europe, you can imagine that everything was unimaginably different: the culture, the sounds, the tastes, the smells, the sights, and the clothes the people wore. What we found so fascinating were the bustling and crowded markets. Neither of us is native to Korea; the biggest challenge was the language barrier as well as securing proper visas for our children to enter school. For the first six months, they were not authorized by the government, so for a while I took them back to my native country of Malaysia and enrolled them in a Chinese school. In the meantime, I applied for student visas for all of them. After two months, they received permission and we could return to Korea.

For the past few years, my husband, a professional artist, has been working in Europe for a few months each year with his art exhibitions. My children and I have been staying in Korea. Thanks to the internet, we can keep in touch via Skype and phone while he is in Europe. We also look forward to family reunions every Christmas. At times I do ponder about the Korean families that have been separated from each other since the end of the Korean War.

International Women of Korea is a special women's group, a place where I feel very much at home. I feel very blessed to be able to mingle with women of different countries, as well as those from Korea. I have always had a strong belief and conviction that if we all work together, we can go farther and be stronger. I also had my children participate in setting up the IWK monthly "Coffee Mornings." By exposing them to different environments and cultures early on, they developed a rich and broad outlook on life. Today, looking back, I am very grateful that I was able to expose my children to other cultures at an early age, giving them confidence and breadth of knowledge.

IWK used to meet face-to-face monthly until constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to use various forms of social media to connect. The change from on-site meetings to technology-based meetings has worked well overall, despite some minor glitches in learning the software. However, the members and guests were patient with us as we tried to learn new software applications, facing the realities of this time. Now IWK is "zooming" so there is no rush to go back to face-to-face meetings. Also, we could once again connect via Zoom with those who left from Korea back to their home countries.

# RAIN IS NOTHING BUT A BLESSING FROM HEAVEN

*By Lisa Janssen, President of WFWP Netherlands (1992-1994)*



*Lisa Janssen, center, with family*

From 1992 to early 1994, I was the president of WFWP in the Netherlands.

Our activities began with regular coffee mornings, mainly with friends, to discuss topics related to the role and influence of women in society. Later, we also held conferences in public settings to introduce the vision of “Headwing,” or seeking a central point of unity, as well as the ideology of Godism, a God-centered view of values.

In 1991, the Balkan War broke out in the former Yugoslavia. This war lasted for several years and eventually resulted in the division of the country into several new states: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Macedonia.

Responding to a call for help from our sister organization in Croatia, in 1992 our Netherlands chapter started a campaign to collect food and toiletry supplies. Sometimes we stood near the entrance of supermarkets with our little children and asked people to buy some extra items for the victims of the war-torn countries.

I was also looking for support in a different ways by requesting help from large corporations, asking them to donate supplies. Most of them expressed their will to help and donated pallets of canned goods, diapers, and other items. In the end, we were able to gather two truckloads of supplies, but the question arose as to how to transport it all to Croatia. After another round of calls to





various organizations, the Dutch chapter of the Salvation Army offered us two trucks and two drivers. Through this experience, I felt we are connected as brothers and sisters, and we should share our blessings.

In April 1992, I had the honor of attending the inauguration of the WFWP in Seoul, Korea as one of four women delegates from the Netherlands, along with guests Mrs. Madzy van der Kooij, Hiromi van Es and Rosie Tijsterman. I vividly remember the day of the event at the main Olympic stadium; it was very cold, rainy, and windy. Our seats were very close to the podium where Dr. Hak Ja Moon would deliver her inaugural speech. We felt like we were freezing even in our warm coats, yet Mother Moon was only wearing her beautiful Korean hanbok dress. Several men tried to protect her from the cold rain with umbrellas. I felt so sorry that our Co-Founders had to endure so much for another providential step forward.

At the same event, a special Marriage Blessing ceremony was conducted for mainly African Islamic couples, a first in this type of setting. The ladies were dressed in the most colorful

and exuberant robes. They were standing in in the pouring rain, facing the podium in the main area of the stadium, but they didn't seem to be bothered at all, which was very touching. I was told later that in African tradition, rain on a wedding day signifies blessings from heaven.

Later, we were invited to the Co-Founders' home in Hannam-dong. They looked very happy and welcomed us warmly. That was another highlight of my stay in Seoul to be so close to Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Moon in their private home. On another day, we took an informative guided tour of their first house in the historic site of Cheongpa-dong.

Today, looking back, I am truly grateful for the development and achievements of Women's Federation for World Peace, which has enabled women all over the world to improve their lives and discover their innate wisdom and the power of motherly love.

Thank you, Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for opening the Era of Women to establish substantial world peace.

# PEARL OF ASIA

By Paris Moon, International Secretary General, WFWPI



Paris Moon, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left, at Hong Kong Heritage and Art Carnival 2016

It was a wonderful week to hike in the great course of trails during the COVID-19 pandemic, even if some of my friends thought it was strange to see me hiking weekly. Usually, I would spend my weekends at home watching films or reading books.

After a scenic hike through the glorious mountains in Hong Kong last year, my mind was very clear about what kind of life I would like to live. I think many of us had similar experiences, looking back on our past while planning for a future full of hope and love.

How great is every day, thanks to the little things that add up in our daily lives!

I have so much appreciation for the beauty of Hong Kong and its heritages, which is surely my second hometown.

## PREPARING THE EPIC HERITAGE AND ART COMPETITION AND CARNIVAL

Thinking back to 2016, Women's Federation for World Peace Hong Kong (WFWP HK) hosted the "Heritage and Art Carnival & Prize Presentation Ceremony" at Repulse Bay just next to the Murray House, which was built in 1846 as a British Victorian-era style building. In front of the seaside, there was a huge outdoor theatre area where many cultural events and open weekend markets were held. Luckily we received funding from the Hong Kong District Council to host a carnival alongside the exhibition. The exhibition also showcased WFWP HK activities and works from the heritage stamp competition.



With years of art management background, I was able to propose to the local district council to support WFWP HK. We aimed to educate local youth to appreciate Hong Kong's heritage through the stamp design competition. The project was divided into three parts: sending the stamp design competition invitation to local schools, the selection process, and the prize presentation ceremony at the Carnival.

### ON THE EVENT DAY

It was a great opportunity to introduce WFWP's local and global activities to the Hong Kong people. We prepared ten booths, and each booth had unique activities, such as Japanese origami, face painting, card game-related heritage education, bracelet making, soft toy amusement land, etc. We recruited volunteers through the government volunteer recruiting website and asked for help from friends.

After the prize presentation ceremony, we had entertainment starting with Hong Kong bagpipe marching groups. It was eye-catching with all the musicians wearing beautiful full Scottish kilts and playing "Amazing Grace." The music performance next to the Victorian Murray heritage house building with a modern outdoor theater stage showed that Hong Kong is a place where "East meets West." Following the bagpipe performance, a youth group from the Salvation Army performed K-Pop (Korean) dance, and Hong Kong Education University

students performed J-Pop (Japanese) dance. The whole project was successful; we were encouraged by the overwhelming support and community engagement.

### LEARN FROM CHALLENGES

When I first organized this event, there were many obstacles. The funding we received from the District Council was not enough to host such a large-scale event. We did not have enough manpower to follow up all administrative matters. We overcame the problem by public fundraising and openly recruiting volunteers. I was amazed at how successful the whole event was and the general public's engagement throughout the project.

I love the words, "Have you ever tried?" of the founder of Hyundai, a Korean global company. We don't grow when things are easy; we grow when facing challenges. I really appreciate our volunteers and friends who gave their support. The challenge of producing such a large-scale event would not be possible without their help. While preparing the WFWPI 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, I found many old photos and wanted to share this story with my global friends.

WFWPI is stepping into the new era of women's empowerment, and I am honored to be part of this moment. Together, let's make the future where women have a more important role in the world.



# REFLECTIONS FOR THE WFWPI 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

By Alexa Fish Ward, Senior Advisor, WFWPI



*Alexa Ward with husband, Thomas, and family*

WFWP has been a significant part of my life since the early 1990s. As I reflect on my time with WFWP, one point stands out: the extraordinary blessing of being involved during the time when the co-founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, were actively engaged in its development.

The Co-Founders, who we affectionately refer to as Father and Mother Moon, laid the foundation for the vision. It was the responsibility of WFWP leaders worldwide to make that vision real, to touch and transform the lives of women and their families.

Father and Mother Moon publicly appointed me to the position of president of WFWP USA on June 1, 1999, at the Belvedere Training Center in Tarrytown, New York.

Two days later my husband, Thomas, and I were invited to meet with them at their home, called East Garden. Father Moon asked me a number of questions about my life of faith that I answered honestly. He sat back in his chair and said that I didn't have the foundation to be a leader in our movement; however, he confirmed my appointment. He also asked if I was ready to sacrifice everything to fulfill my mission. I took these points to heart and have carried them with me to this day.

On that day Father and Mother Moon made an extraordinary commitment to me personally and to my development as a leader, for which I am deeply grateful. My tenure began with a four-month period of travel and learning, guided by the Co-Founders, which took me to Brazil, Alaska, Japan and Korea.



Father and Mother Moon lived in Tarrytown for much of my tenure as president (1999–2010), as they began to spend more time on tours in the US and overseas. I had the opportunity to join them at the breakfast table in the waterfall room at East Garden, to speak with them, to give reports, and to bring WFWP leaders and guests. My relationship with them was shaped by precious personal moments at that table, during larger meetings at East Garden, as well as fishing with them on the Hudson River and in Alaska. I also had the opportunity to be with them in Korea, at their residence in Seoul, in Cheong Pyeong, as well as on Jeju Island.

WFWP is unique as an organization within the Unification movement because of the direct involvement of members of Father and Mother Moon's family, including Dr. Sun Jin Moon, Mr. In Sup Park, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and Dr. Julia Moon. WFWP leaders and members have profoundly benefited from their depth of heart for, and relationship with Father and Mother Moon. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with them and support them.

In the Unification movement there is a special relationship between Korea, Japan and the US. In WFWP, I personally grew and profoundly benefited from relating with elders and members from Korea and Japan. They helped me along the path to become a broader

person. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Lan Young Moon, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki, Mrs. Tomiko Nojima, Mrs. Yasue Erikawa, Mrs. Teiko Kono, Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Inose, and Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Takenaka. I would also like to express my appreciation to all our Japanese members in the US and abroad who worked tirelessly to lay and expand WFWP's foundation and for their extraordinary support during my tenure.

I would like to briefly touch upon some of the many activities we engaged in to advance our work. We established The Schools of Africa Project in 2000, which has raised close to half a million dollars through local benefits for WFWPI schools in Africa. We held Bridge of Peace Ceremonies across the country to bring healing and reconciliation.

We connected to the family of former US President George H. W. and Mrs. Barbara Bush, and we participated in and supported their Celebration of Reading Initiative. We participated in WFWP International Leadership Conferences held around the world between 2000 and 2012. Particularly meaningful for me was the WFWP International Women Leaders' Convention held in Gungang, North Korea in 2007, which brought together 700 people from 50 countries, including a delegation of ten women representatives from North Korea.



After my tenure as USA president, I served as Deputy Director of the WFWPI Office for UN Relations (2013-2021) in New York, with an excellent team of UN representatives, staff and interns. We established an intern program, as well as the Horizon Summit, and engaged scores of young adults. We expanded our participation in the annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and brought hundreds of WFWPI leaders and guests to New York. We supported and worked with Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former UN Under Secretary General, to support the Culture of Peace; with Dr. Rima Salah, former UN Assistant Secretary General, to support the Early Childhood Peace Consortium; and with Madame Therese Tommo, Dr. Amalle Daou and Mrs. Mamie Thompson, to support the work with the UN African Mother's Association.

My time and experiences with WFWP taught me many valuable lessons and helped me to grow as a person. I believe that heaven prepared me for this work with WFWP, first through being raised in a family with a long history of public service in the United States. And secondly through administrative expertise that I developed, having worked for the American Red Cross, Vassar College and the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill in Hyde Park, New York, prior to coming to WFWP.

Through WFWP I came to understand the

importance of focusing on the higher purpose, of patience and timing, and of developing long-term, trusted relationships on all levels. I came to trust that many people were prepared to understand the vision and work of WFWP and the Co-Founders. I learned that our work was best accomplished in teams, and that it was very important to involve young adults, to seek and value their input.

As this goes to print, I continue with WFWP International as Senior Advisor supporting the International President, Julia H. Moon, which is both an honor and a privilege. I also serve in a number of advisory roles and am grateful to be in a position to bequeath what I have learned to those who will lead WFWP forward.

In closing I would like to express my profound gratitude to Father and Mother Moon for their unconditional love and trust. We are so proud of Mother Moon and all of her accomplishments at this critical time. The future is bright.

*Mrs. Ward has been involved with WFWP since the early 1990s, having served as President of WFWP USA; Vice President, WFWP International; Chief Administrative Officer; and Deputy Director of WFWPI Office for UN Relations. She continues to support WFWPI as Senior Advisor, member of the WFWPI Board of Directors, Liaison to UPF, and Advisor to International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP). She and her husband, Dr. Thomas Ward, live in Hyde Park, New York close to her roots.*



# DEBT OF GRATITUDE THAT WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

By Harumi Tawaraki, President, WFWP Gangwon-do Chuncheon



Harumi Tawaraki



I am from Japan, living in Chuncheon and am working as the WFWP president of the Gangwon-do Chuncheon branch in Korea. I have been volunteering since June 2019 at the Chuncheon Daejeon UN Memorial Peace Park. WFWP's Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, stated, "The Republic of Korea should never forget its debt of gratitude," so I decided to volunteer once a month at the this Memorial Peace Park where the flags of the 16 countries that supported Korea during the Korean War are fluttering. In particular I wanted to beautify the Ethiopian site to repay their great cost of participation in the war. [During the Korean War, 122 Ethiopian soldiers lost their lives and 526 were wounded in action.—Ed.]

As I wiped away the spider's silk from the statutes in the garden of soldiers, I cried

because I felt like I was a mother who lost my dear son. I will tell my children that we must never forget this important sacrifice.

When I heard about the reason why Ethiopia decided to help Korea during the Korean War, I cried again. Ethiopia was invaded by Italy in 1935 and called for support from the League of Nations, but the international community turned its back on them, which caused the long history of war. Therefore, when the Korean War broke out, in an attempt to protect it for the sake of world peace, the Ethiopian emperor and his people actively supported the country of South Korea that was unjustly attacked. When I heard this story, I decided to serve with the heart of gratitude, feeling that we should never forget their heart and support.



## MY JOURNEY IN JORDAN STARTING FROM 1994

*By Fusayo Irikura, President, WFWP Jordan*

At the end of June 1994, I arrived in Jordan with two other members as the first group of volunteers, and by August, there were a total of ten members. Not being able to speak English or Arabic, we began our activities by communicating through gestures. We were confused by the culture that was different from Japan, and we ended up losing a lot of time due to misunderstandings and things not going smoothly.

For example, in Japan, it is natural to keep promises, but I realized through various experiences in Jordan that they stress other attributes instead. Also, many people in Jordan do not mind being late for an appointment. They may even naturally be untruthful in conversations so as not to offend the other person's mood. Due to such cultural differences, we went through many bitter experiences and lost a lot of time and money. For the first three years, ten members volunteered at various facilities and the center run by local NGOs.

After three years, most of the members had returned to Japan and only a few remained.

In September of 1997, we received official authorization from the Ministry of Social Development and could start our activities as WFWP. In 2000, we opened a WFWP training center at Wadi Seer in the capital city of Amman. It was in a poor and unsociable area of Islamic society, where women were not allowed to leave the house alone. Therefore, we started to support the independence of women who stayed indoors, and gradually women began to gather at the center. We also began offering financial assistance through microloans, and our activities to support women began to take root. During the same year, I became the only Japanese volunteer, but a few local women supported WFWP activities as key members. One woman who could speak English had especially helped me with various tasks, such as preparing documents that had to be submitted to the government in Arabic.



While living in Japan, I only knew about war through TV but learned about it first-hand in Jordan in 2003 when the Iraq War began, which neighbored Jordan. As the war intensified in 2006, one million Iraqi refugees entered Jordan and WFP began trying to support them. After seeing the tragic situation of the refugees and feeling the true cruelty of war, I decided to move to the area where the refugees lived (while continuing to work at the WFP center) and became deeply involved in assisting refugees. Many young men were especially traumatized after losing family members or suffering serious injuries. Therefore, we created soccer teams and supported them financially, hoping that it would be an opportunity for them to feel positive again. We also took them to many soccer games, and they started to have hope for the future. Meanwhile, our soccer team received support several times from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Jordan.

Since 2012, the war in Syria has brought two million Syrian refugees into Jordan. A major problem was the schools. The refugee children began to attend public schools, and as the number of students increased rapidly, the schools became enormous. However, the school education system itself did not change, nor did the salary of the teachers. Therefore, most male teachers had second jobs and



were not fully committed to teaching. Many students, including Jordanian students, were failing classes. For example, in a class of 40 to 50 students, only 15 to 25 could understand the lessons, and only five or six were considered above average. More than half of the class could barely understand what they were being taught. Of course, their levels varied, but in every class, there were about five or six students who could not write. There were no methods of supporting students who were behind, and the number of crimes committed by minors increased under these circumstances.

Since 2015, WFP has been working with a local NGO to provide emotional and moral education in the area of Zarqa, where many children from low-income families live. In the midst of all this, I realized the importance of supporting youth education and established the Rusaifa Center in Rusaifa, Zarqa Governorate, in October 2016. At first, I hesitated to establish the center there because the area was not very safe. However, I knew that living far away would not produce any results, so I decided to live there and fully commit myself. It was important for me to communicate not only with the children but also with their families and neighbors to understand the people living there. University students and youth members took charge of the education project, created plays with the children, and offered performances at





the refugee camps.

This activity is still ongoing, and now university students volunteer to teach Arabic, math, and English to students who are behind in school.

Jordan's population is currently over 10 million, but 70% are under the age of 30. The upbringing of youth, who are the future of the country, is extremely important. However, many children are not blessed with opportunities. The future of such children is very limited, and many of them have no choice but to live a life they do not desire. Therefore, we have also started to take an approach for the sound development of children. We regularly organize school festivals, drama performances, field trips, and sports events like soccer to have the children experience various activities. There were no parks for children to play in this area, and the streets were not only dangerous with cars on the road but were a place with street fights, smoking, and drugs. Therefore, we installed swings, iron bars, and slides in the schoolyard so that the children could use it as a park.

We also experienced a dangerous incident where the center was set on fire by a former student, but fortunately, there was no serious damage. This 15-year-old boy had not been able to attend school when he was a child, and had to pick up trash to financially support his family.



Meanwhile, as he began to attend the center, he learned how to read and write and felt great joy from his experience. Later, for family reasons, he moved to another area for work. However, he soon quit the job and eventually went back to picking up trash again. He was 16 years old at the time and did not return to the center. Seeing the children playing at the center made him feel extremely miserable, and he wanted to get rid of it. He bought some gasoline, went to the backyard in the middle of the night, and poured it on one of the tires lying there. The fire flared up at once, but the neighbors soon noticed it, and the fire department arrived in time to put it out before it was too late. I still remember this as a very painful incident.

I am still living at the center to this day and am working on various projects. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the District Federations of WFPW Japan who have supported WFPW Jordan's projects both spiritually and materially for the past 27 years. If it were not for their support, I would not have been able to continue my activities no matter how determined I was. I cannot be more thankful for them. Also, I would like to thank Mrs. Kazuko Kato, who has continued to work with me as a fellow volunteer in both Jordan and Japan.

# GO IN THE DIRECTION OF PEACE

By Rita Seewald, WFWP Germany



In November 1992, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon came to Europe to expand the work of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an organization she had co-founded earlier that year in Korea.

This was the beginning of my experience with WFWP. Dr. Moon's speaking tour began in Frankfurt. The plan was for her to visit four European countries, and to speak in two cities in each country about the significance of women in the peace process, as well as the task of the WFWP.

Dr. Moon arrived in Frankfurt two days before the event, and so we had plenty of time to speak to her and her husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who connected via phone or through video conferencing from Korea. Dr. Moon had invited WFWP leaders from Korea, Japan, and

the USA to Germany, as well as the leaders from other European countries who would accompany her to each destination. It was Dr. Moon's desire for the international leaders of WFWP to establish deep, personal relationships with each other. Looking back thirty years later, this happened in a way that was at that time unimaginable. To this very day, all of us who then and later assumed responsibility for the leadership of WFWP in our countries are deeply connected with each other and share our joys as well as our sorrows.

The first event in Frankfurt was attended by more than one thousand people. It was a wonderful and moving occasion. Only two years previously, in 1989, the Berlin Wall had been dismantled and the Iron Curtain had fallen. Dr. Moon could speak in Frankfurt to the whole of Europe, East and West. Volunteers



# WFWPI and Me



and missionaries who had worked undercover for many years in East Europe were also in attendance. As one who had lived my whole life with the Iron Curtain and who saw the Berlin Wall built in 1961, it was a feeling of indescribable joy that East and West Europe were united and able to hear together Dr. Moon, Mother of Peace. I was so grateful to God. This event made it clear to me that there would be no peace in this world without us women. Through the words and personality of Dr. Moon, I felt the presence of the feminine aspect of God.

The following day, we all went to Berlin. Dr. Moon delivered her speech in East Berlin, a part of the city that had previously been behind the Iron Curtain in the former communist sector until only shortly before. After Berlin, we carried on to London, England, and then to Edinburgh, Scotland. And from Britain, we continued to Paris and Lyon in France, and finally to Rome and Milan in Italy.

This journey through Europe was an unforgettable experience. It was a precious gift to be able to be so close to our Mother of Peace for so long. Furthermore, the shared experience with the WFWP leaders from so many different countries was invaluable.

In December 1992, the same group of women plus an Australian representative traveled with Dr. Moon to China. She delivered her speech to a large audience in the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace) Square. What an experience it was to have representatives from western countries accompanying Dr. Moon of Korea to China! The beginning of the WFWP International was truly inspiring and brought us women very close together.

Since this start, many events have been held, and WFWP chapters have been established throughout Europe.



Shortly after WFWP was established in Germany, war broke out in Bosnia. On the European level, we decided to conduct prayer meetings for forty days for peace in Bosnia, personally, in groups, and in public. In Frankfurt, we met to pray at Opera Square. We collected signatures condemning rape as a weapon of war in Bosnia and presented the list to the United Nations in Geneva. That was the beginning of our cooperation with the UN here in Europe.

In 1995, fifty years after the end of World War II, Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Moon founded "Bridges of Peace." This was the dawn of a new era, a movement of repentance and forgiveness. A Bridge of Peace ceremony is when two women from former enemy nations meet in the middle of a symbolic bridge, bow their heads to each other, embrace, and pledge to overcome their old enmity. Many such encounters have resulted in ongoing communication, visits, and often lasting friendships.

In Germany, on May 8, 1995 (the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Germany's capitulation after World War II), we held a worship service for peace. The hall was filled with representatives of former enemy nations of Germany. In this service, as a representative of Germany, I asked for forgiveness for what these countries had suffered because of my country during the world wars. While voicing this repentance and plea for forgiveness, I experienced something quite incredible. I experienced pain such that I felt as if I would explode. There are no words to express this feeling of pain! But as soon as I had spoken, this feeling disappeared. It has always been so hard for me to be German. My country has been the cause of so much worldwide suffering, misery, and destruction.

We in Germany decided to carry out Bridge of Peace ceremonies with all our former enemy nations. We started with Poland, where World War II began, then with Czechoslovakia and Russia. Here World War II was waged intensely. My internal experiences were very similar to those I felt during the worship service in Frankfurt.

These experiences with the Bridges of Peace have heightened my awareness of the horrors of war and what it means for those caught up in it. There were many Bridge of Peace initiatives. Interestingly, my experiences at the ceremonies with women from western European countries were much lighter, as reconciliation with these countries began forty years earlier and was aided by the establishment of the European Union.

The Bridge of Peace with Jewish women was of great importance to us. To organize this was a long and difficult process. We listened as the Jewish women told their stories, and wept with them. We were deeply grateful that, despite all their suffering, they were prepared to cross the Bridge of Peace with us. I could write a whole book about all the many more wonderful events and experiences which have taken place in the succeeding years.

The WFWP is a marvelous organization, and I am so grateful to have been a part of it since its inauguration in Europe.



# STAYING CONNECTED WITH GLOBAL WOMEN'S PEACE NETWORK FROM CAMEROON

*By Rachel Batchakui Ypcheun, Vice President, WFWP Cameroon*



I met WFWP in 2001 in my hometown in Cameroon. At first, I thought it was just like an ordinary women's meeting like other organizations I had associated with. After some years, I discovered another aspect of WFWP, that it aims to restore our world through its many outreach activities, such as educational conferences, Pure Love Alliance (P.L.A.) taught in schools, and humanitarian services launched in many countries.

I participated in several programs organized by Mrs. Wiveka Lamson, wife of the national leader in Cameroon, and Mrs. Kathy Ghomsi. I also attended WFWP meetings led

by Mrs. Mihoko Koetsier when I visited the Netherlands. Upon my return to Cameroon, I was appointed as secretary by the WFWP President, Ms. Akele Konsola, and in 2020, I became the Vice President of WFWP Cameroon.

The mission of the WFWP became clearer to me in 2012 when Dr. Sun Myung Moon asserted that the role of the WFWP is like the "United Nations for women." He emphasized that this is "the era for women to take responsibility and initiative in realizing an ideal world of peace." This understanding has made me more interested in the work of



*Rachel Batchakui Ypcheun, center*



the WFWP and especially in supporting our precious Mother of Peace, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

WFWP has been regarded by many as the best women's NGO because it promotes lasting peace and good moral values in its educational programs that contribute greatly to transforming our world, while at the same time, placing women at the center of sustainable peace process. I also learned that WFWP has succeeded in gaining general consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council through its service on a global scale. As a "motherly" organization, through WFWP I was able to discover the feminine aspect of God. Women have a special touch about details in how they express love, are unique in nature, and can bring things to perfection. I am convinced that if the world begins to implement the

ideals set forth by our Co-Founders, we will surely reach a world of lasting peace centered on true love.

I sincerely support the efforts of the Women's Federation for World Peace to spread love to every corner of the world through its many programs and conferences. Over the past few months, WFWP has launched a number of Zoom meetings and programs, which I have participated in. These programs encourage women to brainstorm with each other, and give us the opportunity to get closer to each other. These programs have helped me to broaden my understanding and connect with other women around the world, and I think it's a great initiative to widen the foundation of WFWP. I believe that a huge and powerful network of women for peace will be built.



# MY TRIBUTE TO YU GWAN SUN AND THE ROAD TO FORGIVENESS

By Richiko Yokoyama, WFWP Korea



*Richiko Yokoyama, middle*

Even though I was born and raised in Japan, my life faced a turning point when I learned about WFWP Co-Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. I saw that they had been sacrificing their whole life for sake of world peace with the vision of “One Family Under God.” Under their guidance, I have received the marriage Blessing to my Korean husband.

I seek to live in respect to our Co-Founders who strive to achieve world peace regardless if it is day or night, and participated in the 100,000 Korea-Japan Women’s Sisterhood Ceremony held in Jeju Island in October 1993. At the event, I was very impressed by their efforts to bring us, as opposing countries, one through the sisterhood ceremony of true love.



It helps me to make a decision to live a life centered on love.

When working in a youth department in Japan, I watched the movie of Martyr Yu Gwan Sun and learned about a part of Korea’s history that I had never heard about before. My heart ached and I cried a lot. At that time, I had a strong desire to go to Korea and express my apology to Yu Gwan Sun and her family, to the souls who were sacrificed and martyred, and to the Korean people.

In July 1999, I came to Korea, participated in the Marriage Blessing, and moved to Byeongcheon-myeon, where same area Yu Gwan Sun was born. After Dr. Moon’s autobiography, “Peace-loving Global Citizen”



was published, I delivered it to the Yu Gwan Sun Shrine's cultural tourism guide, who was an ambassador for peace. During our deep conversation on peace I felt the need to do something tangible, "living for the sake of others," by volunteering to clean this Shrine. Through this coincidental opportunity, what I had decided back then in Japan was realized.

Together with Mrs. Kazue Oike, who also lives in Byeongcheon, we visited the director in charge of this Shrine to apply as volunteers. However, at that time, the director refused us saying, "Your motive for volunteering is good, but there are some people who do not like the service of Japanese, especially elderly who went through the Japanese colonial period."

However, we did not give up and we visited Yu Gwan Sun Memorial Hall every day for a year and offered our devotions for realizing "world peace." On January 15, 2014, we reapplied with the new director, who consented to our volunteer service starting on March 26, 2014. Since then, three members: Mrs. Reiko Terada, Mrs. Sanae Fujimaki, and Mrs. Toshie Teramoto have joined our group, and five of us are doing cleaning service at the memorial and pavilion to honor the martyrs.

We work in the Yu Gwan Sun Historic Site from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. once a week.

Twice a year, we clean: the home of Yu Gwan Sun; the birthplace of Dr. Jo Byeong-ok; and at the Lee Dong-nyeong Memorial Hall. At events such as the commemorative festival, we volunteer by attaching ribbons to guests at the entrance. During school vacation time, children of our volunteer members also participate in this service.

Currently, two people are volunteering with me: Mrs. Kazue Oike and Mrs. Reiko Terada. I am very grateful to the staff of Yu Gwan Sun Shrine, for they are encouraging our volunteer service and are helping us to continue to do so, even when the manager or other staff changes from time to time. We hold a prayer meeting before and after cleaning the Shrine.

We sincerely strive to become one with Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and continue to engage in sincere volunteer activities together with the local community and those we have made connections with. I will continuously work to open the way for the unification of Korea and Japan centering on God by inheriting the patriotic spirit of Yu Gwan Sun.

# 12 YEARS OF GREAT CHANGE, TRANSITIONS, PARADIGM SHIFTS, AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

*By Angelika Selle, International Vice President, WFWP North America*



I was appointed as the third national president of WFWP USA by Co-Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in February 2010 and was officially inaugurated a few weeks later, on March 21 at the Manhattan Center in New York City. It was truly an honor to take on this responsibility, as I knew I was standing on a monumental foundation, built with countless sacrifices and tears of the women leaders and members who came before me, like Mrs. Nora Spurgin and Mrs. Alexa Ward.

Dr. Lan Young Moon, then international president of WFWP, warmly welcomed me and gave me the support and freedom to use my gifts, talents, and years of leadership and ministry experience in this new job.

It was Dr. In Jin Moon, the daughter of our Co-Founders, leader of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification USA at that time, who encouraged me to build a stronger grassroots foundation and focus on the next generation, and to make WFWP even more relevant to the women in the United States. Inspired by





that, I decided to study Dr. Moon's founding speeches as a guideline for our planning.

Together with our intergenerational staff, we began to design exciting, vibrant programs for our annual national assemblies, which drew hundreds of women from around the country. Our new theme for almost all the assemblies was, "Living by the Logic of Love" and "Leading with Heart," always featuring a plenary session with a panel of women experts from various sectors of society, including young women speakers. The panelists shared their personal insights and wisdom on topics relating to family, peace, women's leadership, spirituality, reconciliation, and more.

The most popular part of the conferences for both the younger and the more seasoned ladies was the hands-on, interactive breakout sessions, focusing on tips for beautification, health, dressing one's best, nutrition, parenting, etc. In 2011, we created the HerStory Award, inspired by Dr. Lan Young Moon's HerStory Lectures. The award was given to selected ordinary women who had accomplished extraordinary things, having overcome great odds and adversity. Their moving stories and unique insights into life often brought tears to everyone's eyes and left deep imprints on our hearts. We all so much looked forward to

these annual, transformational experiences, where women would walk into the assembly as themselves and come out feeling like queens! These assemblies later became the blueprint for the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) conferences.

Exciting times of growth occurred everywhere in 2011! I began to travel around the United States, visiting our chapters and chairwomen, sharing about the new paradigm. Several new chapters were inaugurated, and new chairwomen were appointed, women representing all races and reflecting the melting pot of America. For the sake of racial healing between Blacks and Whites, I appointed Rev. Juanita Pierre-Louis as our first African-American vice president, with whom I had a personal foundation of interracial repentance and forgiveness.

Then, on September 3, 2012, the unexpected happened; our Father Moon passed away. It marked a major turning point for our global and U.S. movements. Without a moment's hesitation, Mother Moon took on the leadership of our worldwide movement. For that, we are forever grateful!

A few weeks before his passing, on the occasion of WFWP's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Father



Moon invited all WFWP leaders to the International Peace Stadium in Cheong Pyeong, Korea. Here, he and Mother Moon inaugurated what became the Global Women's Peace Network, Father Moon's last project in his life.

At that conference, each day for the following ten days, Father Moon spoke to us women for a few hours, pouring out his heart, often in tears, asking us sincerely to support and work together with our Mother to "finish the job" he and Mother had started. I felt to my bones that he truly counted on us and entrusted us with this important task, and we all committed to doing so.

We were deeply moved when, six weeks after Father Moon's passing, our beloved Mother, together with her daughter Dr. Sun Jin Moon, came to Las Vegas to launch the Global Women's Peace Network here in the U.S., where she delivered her founding speech, "Women as the Turning Point for Peace," to an audience of 1,000. It was her first public appearance after Father's passing, signifying to many of us the importance of women's role

and leadership for the sake of peace.

The following year, with the next generation in mind, Mother Moon appointed Prof. Yeon Ah Moon as the new international president of WFWP, and one year later she appointed Mrs. Katarina Connery as WFWP USA vice president. This marked another turning point. For the following six years, our small but gifted intergenerational home office team focused on upgrading our WFWP outreach materials, our [www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us) website, and our free biweekly Logic of Love newsletter. We created new goal-tracking systems, beautifully designed PowerPoint presentations and fliers with a uniquely feminine touch, and even a written Chairwomen's Manual (by Katarina). We also brought WFWP more into the public eye through social media (through Mrs. Kiyomi Schmidt) and upgraded our financial system (through Mrs. Irmgard Baynes).

We created three interactive and transformational educational curricula based on the Co-Founders' philosophy: "Leadership of the Heart," "Cornerstone for Happiness:



Marriage and Family,” and “Cornerstone for Peace,” introducing the Marriage Blessing through the universal channel of WFWP.

Meantime, the GWPN was kept alive on a smaller scale in our national assemblies, and took off more substantially beginning in 2018 on the occasion of Mother Moon’s “Peace Starts With Me” speaking tours throughout all five U.S. regions. We decided to launch the GWPN in each region, on the day before each of Mother’s speeches. An unexpected phenomenon occurred: These GWPN launches attracted a whole new group of women leaders, women of professionalism and spirituality, who deeply resonated with WFWP’s vision at the GWPN events and connected on a very deep level of the heart with Mother Moon when she spoke at the rallies. Wonderful delegations of women then attended the World Summit in 2020 at the Kintex Center in Seoul, Korea, and are now engaged in expanding the GWPN!

In Los Angeles during this national tour, in March 2019, we welcomed our newly

appointed WFWP International President Dr. Julia Moon. Then, in Chicago the following October, we welcomed our newly appointed International Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon. Both of them ignited our women (and men) audiences through their speeches, and brought the spirit of Mother Moon to all of us! These are but a few highlights of a decade-plus filled with turning points and transitions.

My most joyful and deepest experiences in working with WFWP over this period have been the relationships of heart and love I shared with our precious chairwomen and regional coordinators, and also the president of WFWP Canada, Mrs. Lily Tadin. It is these relationships of heart, prayer, camaraderie, mutual support, and supporting Mother Moon that helped us overcome many obstacles along the way.

We have nothing but gratitude and hope, looking into the next 30 years of WFWP’s development together with our Co-Founder, the Mother of Peace—and with the next generation in the lead!



# WFWP LED ME TO BECOME A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

By Hon. Erinah Rebecca Wangwa-Rutangye, WFWP Uganda



*Hon. Erinah Rutangye*

I have been a member and leader of WFWP since its inauguration in 1992. During that time, I have served in various capacities at the national, regional, and international levels, including as the first WFWP international vice president for Africa.

My experiences with WFWP have always been exciting, emotional, and educational. It is not easy to express all the memories in a few pages, but here are some of the highlights that have inspired me, the WFWP community in Uganda, and Africa as a whole.

Uganda is a country with a favorable climate, where most crops can be grown, and the rainy season is a blessing. However, sometimes the roads can be poor due to heavy storms.

Especially in the early 1990s, many villages were inaccessible by car.

Together with WFWP Japanese volunteers, we woke up as early as



*Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon visits Uganda in 1999*

4:00 a.m. for the mobilization activities in the villages. Our family had a small “pickup.” This was our mode of transportation, and we usually went to two or three villages in a day. The driver was usually my husband or a young brother named Livingstone Kyeyune. One of the Japanese volunteers and an elder member would sit in front of the car, and the rest of us would squeeze into the open backrest.

Some people stopped to look at the many Ugandans and Japanese in a pickup, wondering what we were doing. It was common for us to skip lunch and return home as late as 11:00 p.m.

My real inspiration was when there was rain or storms, and we were barefoot with shoes in hand, making our way through the muddy and soggy road. We would have to hire village youth to push the car, which gave me a sense of satisfaction when we could pull out the vehicle successfully together.

As for the outreach to VIPs, it was a learning experience. I was not a good talker, and I felt nervous meeting high-level people. However, I learned how to speak up and be articulate

when explaining WFPW activities, as I knew how important it is to spread the word about our Co-Founders and their teachings. All the volunteers from WFPW Japan were very supportive; although they couldn’t talk much, they were quietly praying for me. I was able to meet VIPs who supported us when Mother Moon visited Uganda in 1999.

Our Founder’s visit to Uganda can only be described as miraculous. I was serving as president of WFPW Uganda at the time.

We met many VIPs, including Dr. Specioza Kazibwe, Vice President of Uganda, who learned of the WFWPI Co-Founder’s visit through Hon. Betty Okwir, then Minister for Presidency. Later, Hon. Okwir became our closest contact in the government, and she participated in a marriage Blessing ceremony in 1998. Dr. Kazibwe welcomed our Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, as a guest of honor, despite the negative things being said about her on the radio and in the newspapers. To me, the whole thing was like a miracle. Welcoming the WFPW Founder in Uganda was the beyond my imagination. I still cannot forget the numerous prayers of the Japanese volunteers and our local members.



WFWP Uganda is now a well-known NGO, especially for its fight against female genital mutilation (FGM). We also work with the Godparents Association, Inc., a local NGO founded by Dr. and Mrs. Salonen, American missionaries. This activity led us to the United Nations, and I went to Washington with Minister Jane Frances Kuka to make a case about our fight against FGM in Uganda. Later, she received an award from the UN for her efforts.

In 2002, WFWP Uganda embarked on helping families to grow coffee, which currently is a source of funds for our activities. We began coffee seedling nurseries on land owned by one of our affiliates in Mbale, about 300 kilometers from the capital, Kampala. We planted over 40,000 seedlings and provided them to families throughout eastern Uganda. We are still receiving calls from members who are benefiting financially from the project.

Even after 30 years from its start, WFWP Uganda is still working with the same enthusiasm and zeal to achieve the vision and mission of our Co-Founders.

Recently, former Vice President Dr. Specioza Kazibwe and I traveled to South Africa to witness the Glorious National Blessing Ceremony co-hosted with Prophet Radebe. It was very exciting to see the large crowd

gathered in the stadium and to meet our Co-Founder, the Mother of Peace, in Africa.

We also adopted the Mother's Heart Peace Network (MHPN) initiative, which quickly caught fire in Uganda.

In 2011, I ran for the Parliament as a woman representative in my home province of Mbale. All this could happen thanks to WFWP Uganda and WFWP Japan volunteers. When I was a parliamentarian, I introduced WFWP to the Women's Association in Parliament (AWOPA). Together with my MP colleagues, we visited various districts and won the hearts of many people, taking the spirit of our Co-Founders to the grassroots level.

After completing my five-year term service in Parliament, now I am focusing on WFWP activities by supporting the current WFWP President, Mrs. Grace Namara.

I love the peace, love, and harmony that our Co-Founder has brought to the world. May God bless us all, for God and my country.



# COME AND JOIN ME IN REALIZING FOUNDER'S VISION

By Rhia Luz Nkulu, WFWP USA



*Rhia Luz Nkulu with her husband, Noel*

In 1992, I joined WFWP in the Philippines as a founding member. I continued and supported it in Chicago, Illinois, when I moved to the USA in 1993, and then when I moved to Arizona in 2006.

In September 2015, I was given the chance to lead the WFWP Arizona Chapter and started to network with many Latina in the community and created activities to support women.

In 2016, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo a bilateral mastectomy. Despite that, the Arizona WFWP chapter received an Exemplary Chapter award at its national convention. That challenged us to do more and celebrate the WFWP's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Arizona. We did this even without much funding but only a determination to make our Co-Founders happy and proud that we can stand up as a community and honor what our Co-Founders have done for the world.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event allowed us to go beyond our limitations and comfort zone and created unity in our community. I promoted this event several times on radio shows that paved the way for my forgotten childhood dream to be realized. I had the opportunity to start a Filipino Radio show in Arizona on a Spanish language station, Entremujeres Radio. The goal of the



*Rhia (right) with her mother and sister*

show is to promote the good Filipino traditions and instill unity among our community by sharing inspiring stories and local talents. Who would believe that the show would even get special recognition? We were, however, awarded by the Commission of Filipino Overseas (CFO) under the Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards for the best "Media Advocate Award" category! [Rhia Luz is the pioneering figure and hosts Buhay Buhay sa Amerika.—Ed.]

The radio show has been on for four years now and continues to be a voice for the community. My realization about what has happened to me in a span of three years is this: when you embrace a Heavenly task, when you work to realize God's dream, like working for the Women's Federation for World Peace, God will bless you and your dreams and plans in the process as well! That's why it's important to support Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's vision, because her vision and dream is God's Dream — to realize God's Will on Earth!

Come and join her efforts to realize God's Will, and your dreams can be realized too in the process without knowing it! It happened to me, and it can happen to you too! Let's work together to make this world a better place. Be a member of the Women's Federation for World Peace today!

## IWK: LESSONS LEARNED

*By Robin Debacker, International Women in Korea*



I came to Korea in 2000. It was the beginning of a 12-year love-affair with an entirely new culture and way of life. My husband and I found ourselves in a tiny agricultural village in GoChung, Cheolla Province, surrounded by rice fields, chickens clucking and scratching in the yard, and old women crouching on the sides of the dirt road with their red pepper harvest drying in the sun asking where we were going. The night skies were spectacularly dark. I had never seen so many stars. After finishing a year of language prep in Seoul, our daughter joined us and entered the local middle school as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, the first non-Korean student ever to have set foot there. We were a local sensation to say the least.

Upon graduation, Emilie decided she wanted to study French, the language of her father,

and we moved to Seoul so she could attend a foreign language high school there. We went from quiet evening strolls in the countryside to the most dynamic and bustling metropolis any of us had ever seen or lived in. It seemed that no one ever slept. I remember lying in bed at midnight, hearing children passing under my window, laughing and talking.

I found my dream job teaching at Kookmin University, which was attached to Emilie's high school, and which kept us afloat.

It became the foundation for much of my teaching life since. We bought a little apartment near the school, and it was there that Alexa Ward visited me when she came to Korea in 2005. She was intent on bringing women together, and there was a fire in her eyes that ignited me as well. Together we arranged two meetings of all the international women we knew, one in Seoul and one in Cheonan. She spoke to us about making intercultural friendships with each other and with our Korean counterparts and that was the beginning of what eventually became the International Women in Korea (IWK).

I remember sitting down at a cafe somewhere in Cheonan with Betsy Colford, Regina Shin, and Susan Schroeder and coming up with the idea for an event that would bring western women living in Korea together with Korean women, and calling ourselves IWK. The event took place in 2006 with 120 participants at a



hotel in Seoul, and was Seoul government. It was a smashing success, and not wanting to let the momentum die, we invited all the women who had participated to join us for coffee the following month. That was the first monthly IWK Coffee Morning, which to my knowledge, has continued without a break until now (barring COVID-19 lockdowns). Our first speaker was Lynne Kim, who was full of stories of what it was like to be a western woman living in Korea for many years. Everyone loved it. We started a website to document what our guest speakers shared at each monthly meeting.

As the first elected president of IWK, I learned many lessons, a few of which I will share here.

Make it beautiful: the room, the coffee mugs, the banners, the website. Everything can be beautiful, and when it is, everyone enjoys the results.

Share the power: Delegate! I started out doing a lot of the organizing and implementation myself, but quickly realized that wasn't sustainable. After reading a management manifesto by Peter Drucker, who said that in order to survive a company needs to have at least three leaders sharing the power, I realized it was time to do so. Betsy became the emcee; Vera took over the food; Lucilla became the accountant; and Regina the general manager, much to everyone's satisfaction and teamwork.

Focus on women's experience (don't let men take over!) I have to laugh when I remember a few men who wanted to speak at our meetings, and we found a way to divert them. It's not that men weren't welcome to come, but we made a decision at some point to keep the podium for the woman's voice. It was a much needed place for women to share their story.

You can't please everyone! There were always moments when we argued or couldn't agree, and as a leader, I realized the importance of stepping back to listen and allow space and a little time pass in order to see the picture clearly before acting. I've carried that lesson with me ever since, and it has made me a better communicator.

I left Korea in December 2012, after passing the mantle to Betsy Colford. It's inspiring to see that we built something that has remained a part of so many women's lives for so long.

Thank you for everyone that was and still is a part of it.





## MY PREPARATION FOR AND EXPERIENCES WITH IWK

By Elisabeth Colford, *International Women in Korea*



My cultural experiences in Korea have been, at times, both dramatic and traumatic. After having participated in one of our highly publicized mass weddings (of 6,000 couples) in Seoul in 1982, I returned after three days to the Unification Theological Seminary in upstate New York to finish my course in Divinity Studies. Needless to say, my Korean husband was shocked, upset, and disappointed, perhaps because I was already 37 years old. But return I did that next summer of 1983, and then my lessons in intercultural communication began, lessons that would help me when we formed the branch of the WFWPI known as IWK, the International Women in Korea.

When I boarded that Korean Air jet to come back here in 1983, I was alone but self-assured. After all, I told myself, although I did not know Korean, I had no fear of traveling to foreign countries by myself. I had lived in France for a year as part of my college major in French. Then, after completing a Ph.D. in French literature, I studied Brazilian Portuguese, traveled to Brazil, and lived there for about two years

while doing research on French and Brazilian poetry. Because I knew the languages of those countries, which have the same Western culture as mine, and because I am often mistaken for a European, I was quickly accepted in those countries. But upon arriving in Korea in 1983, I had overlooked the fact that it was I who was the foreigner! For the very first time, I was not part of the dominant culture whose verbal expressions and behaviors were the norm in a society. I had never ever been the foreigner before, and now it was my turn to be shocked. This fact became perfectly clear as I surveyed Gimpo Airport, looking for my husband and listening to the unfamiliar sounds of the Korean language. Oh no, I silently screamed to myself, they all look alike: black hair, short-sleeved white shirts, and black pants! I had to gulp down my near-panic. And my pride.

That experience at Gimpo was a mind-changing event: I became even more aware of the almost insurmountable difficulties in adapting to, much less living and working in, a different cultural environment. Actually,



language is just part of the problem because language is the expression of the values of a group of people who share the same history and culture. It is the customs and traditions and actions that bind a certain ethnic group together that make another culture so hard to grasp. I also saw the difficulties of living in a very different culture when my husband lived in the U.S. from 1984 until 1987. He was not interested in learning either the language or the culture of my country. So I and our two young sons moved to Korea in 1988, and I began teaching the beginning of the English program of the future Sun Moon University.

In 2006, we “foreign” ladies in Korea found each other at a meeting with Mrs. Alexa Ward, who advised us just to “make friends,” and to go slowly in our cultural exchanges here. After hearing this, we felt confident and energized and wanted to work more, albeit slowly, with the ladies of our host country. Many of the international ladies who attended that meeting were already working with Korean ladies in the communities where they lived, and we decided

to pool our efforts. We “foreigners” began meeting in Seoul from 2006 and then decided to form a group which had monthly speakers and discussions in English to which we could invite our Korean and other international lady friends. My role was, and continues to be, that of emcee, scribe and, at times, president of IWK.

It is worth noting that all the members of our present IWK staff are themselves partners in international and intercultural marriages.

We thus experience daily the difficulties of living as a foreign family in a land foreign to us in most ways. However, patience, shared experiences and even a sense of humor help us, the foreigners here, to go bravely forward and communicate with our Korean “friends of IWK.” Rather than seeing the differences, we focus on becoming one in heart with our Korean and other foreign guests at our monthly gettogethers. We are grateful for this opportunity to deepen our minds and hearts while making friends here.

## A PLACE THAT FEELS LIKE “MY HOME”

By *Lucilla Gray, International Women in Korea*



*Lucilla Gray, with her husband, Julian*

I was fortunate enough to be one of the hundreds of WFWP International representatives from the many countries who participated in a special visit to North Korea in 2007. This was made possible based on the relationship that WFWP representatives in South Korea have had for several years with their North Korean counterparts.

Together with a WFWP South Korean group, my group of eight foreigners who live in Korea was able to travel to the rather closed nation of North Korea as part of the larger group. I am Italian, but I have already lived in Korea for many years, and my four children born in Korea grew up with Korean as their mother tongue. It was the first time for me to see the breadth of our international WFWP foundation,

where people from Asia, Europe, Africa, and America gathered.

While visiting the Diamond Mountains (Keumgang Mountains), I was able to deepen my friendship with a young lady from Venezuela and a lady from the United States. As we walked along the path in the forest, we suddenly understood how wonderful it was for women from diverse and distant countries such as ours to simultaneously share our time in “the most closed country” in the world.

As part of the same tour, we visited the seaside not far from the mountain range. One elderly Korean grandmother, who had come with another group from the South with her daughter, explained that this was the very beach





she played on when she was little—before the division of the country had locked her in South Korea for 60 years. We could feel how much her heart had suffered to have not been able to visit her hometown area for so many decades.

One day, while at home, the telephone rang. A lady began speaking to me in English, saying that she had seen an announcement in one of the English-language newspapers in Korea about our WFWP's International Women in Korea (IWK) monthly meeting in Seoul. Almost immediately, she asked me where I was from. I replied that I was from Italy, so suddenly she was speaking Italian. How interesting it was to be able to chat in my native language just out of the blue! She was Professor Maria Adorno, who had been teaching the Italian

language and culture at a university in Korea for several years. Since then we have become as close as sisters, and she has become one of the most passionate speakers at our monthly “Coffee Mornings” meetings and is a member WFWP. It was always interesting to see how she could find common ground between the two countries, Italy and Korea. As it has been a long time since I left my hometown, it was also a chance for me to experience the culture of my country and revive my childhood memories.

These simple stories make me feel that WFWP brings people together across the distances that separate countries, cultures, and life experiences.

# A SIMPLE “SEE YOU LATER” THAT TURNED TO A NEW CHAPTER OF MY LIFE

*By Regina Shin, International Women in Korea*



In 1994, I left my home country of Austria and came to Korea to study the language and to practice martial arts. By 1996 I had met and married my Korean husband, Shin Soon Ki.

At first we lived with our baby daughter, very much alone in the countryside. Alone, because it was not my husband’s hometown, so my in-laws and relatives lived far away. It was at a time when foreigners were scarcely seen—that when walking on the street, people would point their fingers at me, and children would follow me around, whispering and at times shouting, “A foreigner, a foreigner.”

Over the next ten years, we had three more children, and we moved closer to the city of Seoul. Korean society had changed and it was possible to be out in public without attracting attention. We were very busy making a living.

My husband had several different jobs but settled on the import/export of agricultural products. I was teaching English.

One Sunday afternoon in the year 2006 my social life became enriched, quite unexpectedly. As we were leaving church service, a simple, “See you later,” spoken lightly, surprised me. British Professor Hamish Robertson, whose family attended the same Sunday church service, said those words to me, and I asked him what he meant. He explained that his wife was having a gathering at their home that he thought I had known about. I told him I would be happy to go and find out.

When Professor Robertson opened the door to their house that afternoon, he also opened the door to a new chapter of my life. I was in awe



to see a room full of non-Korean ladies and learned that they all lived in Seoul. That day the International Women in Korea (IWK) was born, although we hadn't actually figured out a name for our group yet.

What started that day with a surprised "Where did you all come from?" grew into friendship and true sisterhood, enriching my life immensely. Over time, our group would become an established branch of WFWP Korea. Through IWK, I was able to take part in WFWP International Leader's Workshops in Bangkok and North Korea and other activities like Peace Festivals, Information Fairs, and our own IWK monthly Coffee Morning gatherings.

Now, many more things have happened and our lives have changed considerably. A pandemic hit the world and affected the lives of everyone. Unfortunately, my husband passed away in November of 2020. Three of our four children have left home to pursue their own careers. A constant comfort for me, however, has been my involvement with WFWP and IWK, which are going as strong as ever!

WFWPI Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, International President Dr. Julia Moon, and the wonderful ladies and sisters I have met through IWK constantly amaze and inspire me. I hope that IWK can continue to be a source of friendship, love, and support for more women in Korea, as it has been for me.



## MOMENTS IN MY EXPERIENCES WITH WFWP SINCE 1992

By Dr. Nadya Neal Hinson



When WFWP was inaugurated in 1992, I was asked to lead the chapter in Seattle, WA, where I lived. I was also working with International Leadership Seminars (ILS), a project of the Collegiate Association for Research of Principles (CARP), traveling on several occasions to Russia. I was in Moscow in December 1991 and witnessed the coup that ended the Soviet Union, an exciting but challenging time for the people of Russia. Going from a centrally controlled to a market-based economy was very difficult, and poverty and hunger were common. The economic and social structures of the past 70 years had basically collapsed.

Mother Moon came to Moscow in November 1992 to inaugurate WFWP, and I was on the team that organized her visit. At that time, ILS was offering programs for reconciliation and healing for students, professors, and teachers. The vision and mission of WFWP that encouraged women to take leadership in society were welcomed enthusiastically by many young people.



Mother Moon's speech venue had to be changed at the last minute, from a location in the Kremlin to a different location, and this was very challenging for our team. After she spoke, Mother Moon gathered a group of Russian students and teachers as well as the staff who helped organize the event, and we happily shared cake and sang songs for her. With Col. Bo Hi Pak translating, she told us about a dream that she had while on her worldwide tour. I was moved to take notes (shown beside the printed version in the photo). It was about stepping into her new role, finding the path and assuming new responsibilities.

Following the WFWP event in Moscow, I met Natalaya Reshetova, the only female deputy serving in the Duma of the post-Soviet, newly independent states. She was inspired to help WFWP. She had served on the Committee for Human Rights in the USSR and was involved in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Through my relationship with her and others, we started a project in Seattle to bring Chernobyl children to our area for a health

### Dream of Mother Moon

Moscow Russia Inaugural WFWP Speech 11/15/92

*Mother Moon gathered with*

She explained that in her dream she was walking through the darkness with a child strapped to her back and holding out.

She couldn't see anything. Finally, she reached the top of the mountain and father was waiting.

She realized that she had to pay indemnity to achieve the same status as father. They could have from the mountain top that there were followers behind them by many miles.

They went back down the path to help those on the way. Till last year, mother was following father. Now she is side by side. Women will now be restored to the same position. All women have been persecuted/illness. This is the meaning of restoration of True Women. Now women will educate their children and guide their families. We will now become the Family Federation for World Peace.

*Translated by Dr. Seuk at the Moscow preparation*




Роль женщины в создании мира во всем мире.  
**Women's Role in World Peace**

История привела нас к приверженности, сотрудничеству, любви, самодарению женщине и служению другим людям. Проблемы современного мира нельзя разрешить одной силой. Наши проблемы можно разрешить лишь любовью и добротой.

Гисюна Хан Даа Хан Мун

Воскресенье, 22 ноября 1992 г., 16:00  
Москва, Кремль, Дворец Съездов

**WFP EYEWITNESS HISTORY CONTINUED**  
1995, the Japanese and American WFWP held a year long Bridge Peace event to bring reconciliation between the former enemy nations with a special tribute to those who died in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear attack and honoring the Chernobyl victims in August 1996.

WFP continued International Bridge of Peace projects throughout world, bringing together a diverse group of former enemies and we with racial and religious divides. A Bridge of Peace was held in Helsinki in 2003 and Beijing in 2006. The International WFWP a given NGO status at the United Nations recognizing a broad

**WFWP STARTS IN RUSSIA**  
NOVEMBER 1992

WFWP was inaugurated in 1992 in Korea with the declaration that the age of women in leadership roles for peace had arrived.

I was in Moscow Russia when the announcement came that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon was coming to give a speech at the Kremlin. This would never have been possible, even one year before last because of the collapse of the Soviet Union, there were options available for this to happen.

I was asked to help create a beautiful stage with lots of flowers. This was no small feat in the cold and snowy November weather of Moscow at a time when there were no operational businesses to be found.

The women that I had gotten to know, had been members of the Communist Women's International and knew exactly where to go and who to ask.

I was born and grew up in Moscow, Idaho USA and so was stunned that I was at the very beginning of this amazing event in such an unexpected place.

respite and to spread awareness about their situation. We publicized this effort and it was after the Goodwill Games that had been held the previous year in Seattle, so many people came forward to be host families for the children of Chernobyl and to offer financial support.

Doctors at the University of Washington Medical Research Department helped with treatment of some of the children with serious effects from exposure to nuclear materials. As a graduate of the Jackson School of International Studies at the UW, I had a relationship with faculty there and several of my colleagues and professors assisted in this effort. The national WFWP office in New York, under the leadership of Nora Spurgin, lent their support as well.

One of the most significant and wellpublicized accomplishments of the Seattle WFWP chapter was organizing humanitarian aid shipments to the Chernobyl region. We utilized fish protein powder from a project in Kodiak, Alaska, which was started by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. We facilitated the shipment of two tons of fish

protein powder to the Ukraine and Belarus for distribution to orphanages and poverty-stricken villages. The people there were very grateful for the powder, which they used to make soup and other dishes. I wrote a memoir called "On Silent Clouds of Butterfly Wings" which included reflections on my experiences helping the people of Russia.

WFWP Seattle also organized public events to raise awareness about children being exposed to an increased amount of violence on television and in video games. The chapter did many exciting things over the years. Later, in 2017 while in New York for the Women's Work Week at the United Nations, I had the pleasure of meeting some Russian delegates. We went to the Ground Zero Memorial at the World Trade Center and held hands while reading the inscriptions and names of those who perished. This time the disaster had been in the USA and Russian women were praying for us, completing the circle of heart as one global family under God.

## THE ANSWER WAS “TRUE SISTERS”

*By Ann Kosco Schaffner, Secretary General, WFWP Europe*



Thirty years of Women’s Federation for World Peace! How time flies! I remember so well that evening in November 1992 when Mother Moon was in Frankfurt to lay the foundation for WFWP, and that she spoke to a packed audience. It was at that time that I felt called to work for WFWP at the national and European levels.

I became a member of WFWP Germany in 1993. In 1996, Rita Sevald, the first president of WFWP Germany, called a meeting in Kamberg. As I was elected to the Board of Directors and was sitting next to Rita, I asked her how I could keep the WFWP leaders informed of our activities in Europe and beyond. She took out her wallet, giving me money, enabling me to keep them informed.

This informal exchange of information continued until February 2001, when the international WFWP leaders met in Korea. As a result of this meeting, I was asked to coordinate the European WFWP Chapters

as the Intra-European secretary under Tina Coombs, who had been assigned as WFWP international vice-president in Europe.

In 2009 Carolyn Handschin replaced Tina, as did my scope of responsibility. From then until this date, I have been the secretary for WFWP Europe.

Under Tina Coombs, and then together with Carolyn Handschin, I have collected the reports from the European WFWP Chapters, passed them on within Europe, and reported them to the international presidents. Personally, it is very important for me to make sure that the great work that our members are doing in the field is reported vertically to Korea and horizontally within the WFWP in Europe.

Besides working in front of a computer screen, I have participated in countless “Bridge of Peace” ceremonies since 1995 and have “sisters” across the European continent. Each





one was special, and each time tears ran down my cheeks. The first Bridge of Peace ceremony I attended was the German-Polish Sisterhood event in Berlin in 1995, and the most recent one was held in October 2018 in Padova, Italy. This Bridge of Peace ceremony was very special to me because my “sister” was Giannina Figus (1st president of WFWP Italy and current president of the Bergamo Chapter).

Since 1996, I have traveled all over Europe to attend WFWP conferences, learning a lot and broadening my horizons. This has been vital to me both externally and internally, and each time I have been able to put on new “spiritual” eyeglasses.

In many ways, it is impossible to fathom how far the European WFWP has come in 30 years, from its humble beginnings to a quite large and influential NGO. When the pandemic struck here in Europe, we proceeded to communicate via Zoom calls

and led or partook in webinars. Most recently, there have been hybrid meetings, which have changed the way we gather with each other.

In closing, recently I have asked myself a few questions regarding women working in WFWP. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, affectionately known as Father Moon mobilized women in Korea many times and sent them out to the field to be advocates worldwide. In 1979 and 1983, Father Moon again sent “sisters” to the United States. I chose to take part in this calling and participated in this latter mobilization.

It is my belief that these mobilizations led to the founding of the WFWP. But why? So that women may become true sisters, and that young women can follow in our footsteps; we can be “true sisters” under the guidance of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, our Mother Moon, striving for empowering of women and for eternal peace.

# MY ITALIAN TRANSLATION HELPED THE WFWP INAUGURATION

By Daniela Wetherall



My husband and I had lived in South Korea for three and a half years after our blessing of marriage on January 12th, 1989. It was at the beginning of April in 1992 that we were told Co-Founder Hak Ja Han Moon, our Mother Moon, would be inaugurating the Women's Federation for World Peace at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul. Since I received an invitation as a VIP, I decided to participate in representing Italy, my country of origin.

The inauguration was a rainy day, yet the sun still shone through the clouds. I vividly recall the profound emotions I experienced while watching our Mother Moon deliver her keynote address. As a woman, I vividly felt that the path

to true womanhood had been finally opened by her. At that time, I never imagined that I would be interpreting for Mother Moon at the WFWP inauguration ceremony in Milan and Rome just seven months later.

I still remember preparing to move to the United States when I received a phone call from Italy. I was asked to postpone my November departure to New York to December, to be an official interpreter for Mother Moon's speech in Italy on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. I rescheduled my itinerary with great joy and internally prepared for the great task ahead.

Even my own parents participated in the inaugural event in Milan, proud of their





daughter's professional skills. My parents then participated in a blessing along with my two siblings, on August 25, 1995, in Seoul, Korea.

After the event in Milan, we gathered around Mother Moon, who spoke with Father Moon from East Garden in New York. The following morning, Mother Moon wanted to talk with me while we were at the airport in Milan waiting for our flight to Rome. In particular, she asked me many questions about the events of the night before. I was then asked to escort her and her daughter, In Jin Moon, to the lady's restroom, which I did so by asking the person already using the facilities to hurry up because two VIPs needed to use it. I guarded the door, not allowing anyone else to go in until they came out. Mother Moon gratefully smiled at me. We

then boarded the airplane and flew to Rome. I was sitting not far from Mother Moon, and I felt totally in heaven being so close to her. We bid farewell to her the following day as she left for Germany.

When I came to New York, I was actively involved for several years as the chair of the Manhattan WFWP. Along with two other women, I helped organize dozens of UN events, especially to commemorate the end of World War II and for the healing reconciliation between the United States and Japan.

I was honored to have been bestowed such a gracious chance to directly attend our beloved Co-Founder.



## A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN

*By Jynene Helland, International Vice President, Oceania (2000-2013)*

I have felt a connection and quiet excitement for WFWP since it was first announced, and was delighted to have had the opportunity to participate in its inauguration in Seoul in 1992. It is only natural that God has a feminine, motherly aspect. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately known as Mother Moon, has revealed that aspect of “Heavenly Mother” in her WFWP speeches—that “She” has a voice and hand in healing the world.

I went to Korea with a small group of women from Australia and New Zealand with a close guest, Mrs. Lia Looever. It was a wet day for the inauguration, and raincoats were provided for all the guests on the stage. I watched from the stands, and at one point, along with many other women around me, we began to sing “You Are My Sunshine” over and over again to encourage the abundance of spiritual sunshine as Mother Moon spoke and boldly proclaimed the age of women.

Two years later, Japanese volunteers were dispatched to various parts of the world. We will always remember their motherly, sacrificial hearts. After coming to Australia, they began working in an area of Sydney where there were many indigenous families. I was moved when they said that in Japan there is the culture that you first greet the elders when you go to someone’s house. Since Australia’s indigenous people are the original caretakers of this land, they should be the first to be greeted and acknowledged. So the first sisterhood ceremony in Australia was held in Sydney, bringing together WFWP members from Australia with Japanese and Aboriginal women.

Later we all worked together on an exchange art project titled “See through Children’s Eyes,” with the theme: “What Peace Means to Me.” The works of Aboriginal and Japanese children were exhibited at the Japanese Cultural Center in Sydney.

In 2000, I took on the role of international vice president for the Oceania region. I held the position until 2013 and would say it was a special experience and privilege. WFWP International conferences were held every year in different regions, which provided the opportunity to visit many parts of the world and make a deep connection with international sisters. In 2008, Oceania hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> WFWP Annual International Conference in Sydney, Australia.

One of my most memorable experiences was attending a garden party at Hangnamdong, the residence of Father and Mother Moon, during the WFWPI Conference in Korea in 2001. I remember the tables had pink tablecloths and silver accessories, and there was an impressive selection of delicious food. I was together with my sisters from around the world invited to the Co-Founders’ home! It was one of those moments when you don’t want to go anywhere else in life, and it felt like “a little taste of heaven.”

Father and Mother Moon came out into the garden and walked arm-in-arm from one table to another. They stopped at one of the cooking areas when one of the Korean sisters motioned for me and others to move inconspicuously and stand behind the Co-Founders to take a photo. We stood in position, one by one so that she



could take the picture and then move on to let the next person take the picture. I don't know if Father and Mother Moon were aware of what was happening, but they lingered there for a while, giving many the opportunity for a memorable photo. That photo is a treasure, reminding me of a very special evening spent together with the Co-Founders and WFWP sisters.

In August 2005, WFWP, with the support of First Lady H.E. Debbie Remengesau, held the Women's Friendship Conference for Reconciliation and Peace in the Pacific in Koror, Palau, attended by women from Korea, Japan, and Pacific Island countries. Palau has had a great relationship with Japan, and many of the older Palauans understand Japanese. Fierce fighting occurred in the Pacific Ocean during World War II, and it became the final resting place of many from both sides of the conflict. A sisterhood ceremony was held during the conference, which was a very significant and inspiring event. Before the departure, Mme. Remengesau arranged a sightseeing day for us, and we visited beautiful places. The one special place was the taro fields that belonged to the First Lady's family. Taro plays an important role in Palauan culture and Mme. Remengesau wanted to give us a glimpse into a typical Palauan life. She said that she had harvested taros to show us. It was a very natural down-home experience and a memory to cherish. Another cherished memory was going to North



Korea for the WFWP conference together with over 700 women from 32 countries in 2007. We climbed Mt. Kumgang, which I was told is an experience Koreans would like to have once in their lifetime. And it was something I never imagined that I would do once in my lifetime. One special memory was candle lighting at the end of the program. The room was glowing; we were one, North and South, foreshadowing what is destined to be substantially realized in the not too-distant future. I was very happy to share the experience and show the photos to my Korean friends when I came back home.

In October 2012, I attended WFWP's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Turning Point" conference in Las Vegas. My understanding is that this was the first conference Mother Moon addressed after Father Moon's ascension, and it was very special for all who attended. The next morning, I went with others to the Co-Founder's home and shared in morning devotion before she embarked on a tour around the USA, going to places Father and Mother Moon had once visited together. As Mother Moon's bus departed, I re-determined to stand with Mother Moon and work even harder to realize a peaceful world.

These are just a few of the many cherished experiences working with WFWP. This work has nourished my faith and spirit, opened my mind, and stretched my heart. I am grateful.

## BY MYSELF I FELT LIMITED, BUT WITH IWK I COULD DO MORE

*By Myra Meijer, Advisor, International Women in Korea*



Since we are an international family, coming to South Korea from Russia, I didn't know what to expect. It was in 2000 that our daughter had been accepted to a student program to learn the Korean language and culture. A close friend and her husband from America were the dorm parents, so she was so happy to tell us that our daughter had been accepted into their program. My husband, who is from Holland, had completed his doctorate at Moscow State University when we got the good news. We were deciding what the next step was for us when my friend suggested our family come with our daughter to Korea. I had always been curious about Korea. We had several Korean student families living together at the dormitory where I had taught English to their children, and I had several Korean friends that I worked with at a jewelry company in New York City, where I'm from.

Our daughter became good friends with a girl she lived with at the dormitory at the program. Her new friend's mother invited me to the International Women in Korea (IWK) meeting. That was the first time that I could meet with lovely women from all over the world right here in Korea! I was so happy and excited to make new friends. Even though the women were from around the world, we had many things in common. Of course being foreign in an Asian country, which involved raising our children here, working, adapting to our new country of Korea, became easier as we shared our discoveries and challenges. It really made a world of difference knowing that I wasn't alone, that I had new friends in a similar situation as us.

I have been living in Korea for 21 years, and my youngest son was born here. I have enjoyed our many IWK meetings, outings, conferences,





and celebrations. I looked forward to inviting my Korean friends to dance lessons or a flower arrangement class, a Thanksgiving celebration with a delicious meal from the American army base, to end-of-the-year reflections, or Christmas parties with ethnic food the women prepared and generously offered. Our daughter even offered a presentation about a world tour she took before starting college.

A memorable meeting out of many was when I was invited to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WFWP in Moscow, Russia, in 2012. A good Russian friend that was a member of WFWP in Moscow invited me. I was overjoyed because I had lived in Moscow for years, and that's where our second son was born. So to be able to return after these years on such a special occasion set up by a women's organization that I met and grew to love in Korea, was like a dream come true. I could not have been happier or felt more connected to all my friends, sisters, wives, mothers, and daughters in Russia, coming from Korea, and as an American woman.

Another meeting I can't forget was when our former WFWP President Yeon Ah Moon gave a talk at our Coffee Morning meeting in Seoul in 2011. She was so warm and down-to-earth. She inspired us not to just connect deeper to each other as women but to also reach out to families in our communities and beyond, as one global family, and to find ways to serve and support each other through creating projects that can make a difference. I realized that by myself, I felt limited, but with a group of like-minded women, I could contribute to something I could feel proud of and could inspire others to do.

Currently, we are going through much as a global family. Practically as well, it's been hard to have our monthly Coffee Morning meetings as a result. But thank goodness for Zoom! We can continue to meet, especially now with women from all around the world. The last WFWP meeting I attended had over 200 women representing their countries on the call! I hope and pray for the day when we can be free and safe to meet again in person.



# MY PRECIOUS WFWP MEMORY

By Raenette Pang, WFWP Hong Kong



*Raenette Pang*

In 1995, I was asked to help with a project where hundreds of Japanese women would visit the U.S. and become “sisters” with American women, and they needed many interpreters for Japanese and English. Since I was living in Seattle, Washington, I was happy to help.

I was born in Japan, but my family immigrated to the United States when I was 11 years old. By 1995, I was fluent in both Japanese and English. My language skills were very useful to help women from Japan and the USA to communicate with each other. It was a project to heal and bring peace to these two nations that had fought a bloody war 50 years prior.

The first few events were held in Washington D.C., with many wives of politicians, including Mrs. Barbara Bush, taking part in it. It was later held in Seattle, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and a few other cities as well. Series of “Sisterhood Peace” events were held in the span of two years, from January 1995 to December 1996. I was honored to work as staff in a dozen events across four different cities in the United States.

The events had a big impact on me personally. Although I had already become a naturalized American citizen years before that, I still looked Asian of course, and I couldn’t completely fit into the



mainstream American society. On the other hand, I couldn't comfortably fit into the group of Japanese who were visiting the US either. I was kind of in-between, and in my teenage years and twenties, I didn't know who I was. I was always feeling awkward about my own identity.

After attending about a dozen Sisterhood Peace events, I took time to reflect deeply on what I had experienced. Women from both sides of the Pacific Ocean came together to forgive and heal the past with the love of sisterhood by symbolically crossing the "Bridge of Peace" and warmly embracing each other in the middle.

I realized that this WFWP project helped me to "bridge" the Japanese part and the American part inside of me, and harmonized them to be the "Japanese-American me" as my identity. I wept alone in a room as I reflected, discovering this new identity. I no longer had to choose one or the other, but I

realized that I could embrace both nations and cultures as my heritage and identity. They are both precious and meaningful parts of me. Thank you WFWP, for giving me that precious experience through your events, and building a bridge over the Pacific to bring healing and peace, not only to these women but also to me.

I am currently living in Hong Kong with my family and teaching English at a local primary school. Recently, a boy in my school won a prize for the "Color My Heart with Peace" art contest. He and his parents were so happy to receive the award and an iPad.

I am actively participating in various opportunities to introduce different cultures at the school where I'm teaching. I've included a couple of photos of me wearing a kimono at a school event. As I reflect, the theme song at the Bridge of Peace events comes back to me: "Let there be peace on earth. Let it begin with me."



# WFWP WAS AN ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS

*By Katarina Connery, Vice President, WFWP USA*



It has been nearly seven years since I first became involved in WFWP as the USA vice president. Prior to being appointed to this role, I had very little knowledge about the organization. My mom was involved briefly when I was younger, and I had participated in a handful of Bridge of Peace ceremonies in my community. When I started working with WFWP I gradually learned how much this organization was an answer to my prayers at the time.

I had recently graduated from graduate school, and I wasn't really sure what to do next. In my academic career, I had learned about various peace initiatives and efforts to make lives around the globe more equitable and fulfilling for many of the most underprivileged. However, I felt that pursuing a career in many

of the nonprofits or international organizations out there wasn't quite the right fit for me. I felt there is so much pain and suffering in the world, and people are trying their best to alleviate it, but as long as humanity is generally self-motivated, these laudable efforts are not enough. It will always feel like two steps forward, one step back, or maybe even three steps back.

But how can we inspire and re-educate enough people to genuinely think beyond oneself and sincerely care for others to the point that we are willing to sacrifice our own comfort? How can we reach a tipping point in humanity so that this kind of mindset becomes more and more common and our self-gratification culture becomes less and less common? Imagine my surprise when in Women's Federation I found



a group of women who exactly thought of these questions and sought to answer them.

It's been a wonderful experience these past few years. What I appreciate most about Women's Federation is that it is an organization of genuinely caring women who are working to live for others in reality and in their daily lives. And indeed, as our Co-Founders teach, it is women's natural inclination to think about how others are thinking and feeling; that compassionate heart is what can bring that tipping point.

During my time at WFWP, I had the opportunity to help develop many different programs, both large and small, all with the aim of bringing internal transformation, a revolution of heart among the lives we touch. I have also

developed my professional skills, especially in public speaking! What has made this learning experience especially phenomenal has been all the many women I've interacted with throughout the past years.

From Mother Moon, I have learned poise, grace, and strength while remaining true to a woman's divine feminine character and qualities. From the women of WFWP USA, Canada, and beyond, I have been connected to true sisterhood, women who will cheer you on and support you through thick and thin.

As I reflect on my past seven years with WFWP and the 30 years' history of this organization, I am filled with gratitude. I know there are many more amazing years ahead.

# WOMEN ARE THE TURNING POINT FOR PEACE

By Laura Hornbeck, WFWP USA



As a member of WFWP since its inception in 1992, I've served in various capacities: state leader, regional coordinator, newsletter editor, and now I represent the local Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN). Over the years, WFWP brought me into contact with a vast array of people from many places and backgrounds with whom lasting friendships have been formed. I've had the good fortune of working closely with all three of our WFWP USA presidents: Nora Spurgin, Alexa Ward, and Angelika Selle.

I believe that WFWP's Co-Founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Dr. Sun Myung Moon, deserve great credit. Thirty years ago, they spoke about empowering women to work together—creatively and unselfishly—for the sake of peace. They encouraged us to utilize our unique qualities of femininity as friends, sisters, wives, mothers, and in all our roles. Their inspiration has created incredible opportunities for people like me.

Growing up in Texas in the 1950s, I never traveled much. During the days of racial segregation, the other kids in school were pretty

much like me: White, middle-class, Christian. It was quite bland, but it was all we knew. Today thanks to WFWP, I have traveled extensively and come to know people of various ethnicities, religions and age groups, whether at local, national or international events.

One of my first official duties was as Texas coordinator for the Japanese-American Bridge of Peace Ceremony in Houston in August 1996, held on the 51st anniversary of the official end of World War II. What a moving and touching time that was!

In 2001, after the attacks of 9/11, our Dallas chapter began hosting "Women of Faith" gatherings. We also held our own Bridge of Peace Ceremony.

I'm filled with awe at the experiences afforded me as a WFWP leader, including the international leadership conferences. In Tokyo in 2002, I often thought of my father and his generation who fought in World War II. What a different world I was inhabiting, thanks largely to the people who came before and laid the foundation for peace for us.





I represented WFWP in Israel at two Middle East Peace Initiatives (MEPI) where we participated in a march for peace through the Old City of Jerusalem with people from various faiths. We visited the homes of Jews, Christians and Muslims and learned directly about their experiences and dreams. My sincere hope is that our diverse group gave the struggling people in that region some vision for overcoming conflict in the future.

I spent a week in Russia in 2005, which was truly wonderful. The WFWP International Leadership Conference was held in Moscow, and then some of us took a train to St. Petersburg and spent a glorious four days touring.

Other leadership conferences were convened in Costa Rica, London, New York, and other US cities. I attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women in NYC in 2013, and attended WFWP activities at the presidential library of George H.W. Bush here in Texas. I went to Korea as a WFWP representative three times: in 2003, 2019 and 2020. Each activity was full of intriguing and novel experiences, always centered around meeting new people and experiencing different cultures.

I remember well when Mother Moon came for the first GWPN in Las Vegas in November 2012, forty days after the passing of her husband. Such a bittersweet time. Since then, I attended several gatherings for GWPN with the theme, “Women Are the Turning Point for Peace.”

The power of women cannot be denied, and it’s up to each of us to take responsibility to use our power for goodness, by “living for the sake of others,” (a motto of WFWP).

I have often marveled at my unlikely experiences of the past 30 years. No doubt my parents could never have imagined in 1946 that their daughter would welcome dozens of Japanese citizens to Texas just 50 years later. By the same token, I’m sure that we can’t imagine today what God has in store for our descendants in the next few decades.

I am grateful to my husband and family, who have supported me on all these excursions, and I’m extremely grateful for WFWP, its Co-Founders, and the amazing people who have been part of the adventure so far.

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS FOR WFWP 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BOOK

By Laura Hornbeck, WFWP USA



It was a privilege to work with the talented team members who produced this historical record of thirty years of Women's Federation for World Peace. Cindy Pfeiffer and I were recruited by Alexa Ward for final edits and proofreading, and we collaborated closely for about two months, sharing comments back and forth through Zoom meetings and phone calls. Through this process, I have gained a good education about the depth and scope of WFWP's activities. Although a member for many years here in the USA, I didn't realize the extent of the dedication and achievement of women in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Oceania, South America, North America, and in every part of the world. These pages contain only a few of their stories, but each story represents many others that are still to be told.

One thing that becomes obvious from reading these accounts is that the public activities of WFWP, including large international rallies, educational conferences on every continent, impressive Bridge of Peace ceremonies, and all the other notable events were the result of an incredible foundation of heart and hard work by dedicated, often unsung staff and volunteers.

I believe that when people look objectively at the stories in this record of WFWP, they will see what I saw: Something very powerful is at work here. The sacrifices made by 1,600 Japanese women who left their homes in 1994 to serve people in unfamiliar places are unparalleled, I believe, in any other organization. Likewise, we read how women from Europe and the USA packed up their



families and moved to Korea in order to launch peacebuilding efforts on that peninsula, where the dividing line between two worldviews is so evident.

Contained within the pages of this book are reports from all sorts of people, including humble housewives with nothing more than a determined heart to serve. They were able, over time, to create schools, medical outreach programs and entrepreneurial opportunities in needy communities. Women all over the world were inspired to launch discussions on healthy lifestyles and fidelity in marriage, to start service activities and organize Bridge of Peace ceremonies. All these gave women unique opportunities to meet one another and form lasting friendships.

People of all ages, ethnicities, and levels of society have been working together, creating a

“sisterhood of the heart.” It seems that women do have the ability to go beyond traditional barriers of politics, religion, and ethnicity which have prevented sustainable peace in most male-dominated cultures throughout history, and they have become empowered through WFWP.

All of this came on the foundation of the life work of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, affectionately referred to as Mother and Father Moon. To understand WFWP, I think it’s important to understand something about what the Co-Founders taught and exemplified.

In 2009, Rev. Dr. Moon published his autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* (English version, 2010: The Washington Times Foundation). In this book, and in many other venues, he acknowledged





the historical situation of women and emphasized their value as reflections of the feminine aspect of our Creator. He stated, “Throughout history, women have been persecuted, but I predict this will change. The coming world will be one of reconciliation and peace based on women’s maternal character, love, and sociability. The time is coming when the power of women will save the world.” (Moon, SM, 2010, pp. 198-199)

Mother Moon has continually encouraged women to rise above challenges and realize their great potential. In her memoir titled *Mother of Peace: And God Shall wipe Away All Tears From Their Eyes*, (Moon, Hak Ja Han, 2020: The Washington Times Global Media Group), she describes many experiences growing up in Korea, including the horror of war and a resulting loss of home and stability. Through it all she explains that she was strengthened by her deep, personal relationship with God, which is at the center of her life. She offers many words

of encouragement to women today in their personal lives.

After co-founding WFWP, she states in her memoir, “I gave more speeches at more rallies, events, gatherings and seminars than I can count. My footprints are found in almost every corner of the globe, ranging from unfamiliar metropolises to small primitive villages, from deserts scorched by the burning sun, to thick jungles and breathtaking highlands. At each place, marginalized people, helpless women, children and minority groups were waiting for me. And I anxiously looked forward to seeing them.” (Moon, HJH, p. 127)

She further explains, “Our philosophy of living for the sake of others is the driving force behind all of this. It is fundamental truth that we should take care of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. A wealthy person who is grateful to others and helps others will create a wealthy community, nation and world.” (Moon, HJH, p. 183)



At a time when the world is going through tremendous upheaval, and confusion is widespread about relationships and morality, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon offers clear guidance in many speeches and publications. In her memoir, she states “Until now, neither men nor women have known the true value of womanhood. As a result, men have not approached women with authentic appreciation. To break that mold, women in modern times have campaigned to advance their rights and achieve liberation from past restrictions. They have, for the most part, taken a position of complaint against men and channeled their energy into political movements to change laws. With a different perspective, I launched the Women’s Federation for World Peace as a movement to awaken women to their true value and help them embrace men and develop themselves in partnership with men.” (Moon, HJH, p. 242)

the fundamental ideas behind WFWP, I believe time has judged them true: Women really do have the power to change this world for the better through unselfish and enlightened service. Of course, this requires taking responsibility for oneself, first, and setting a good example for others. I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to offer my own talents in the production of this historical record, and I look forward to the next years of WFWP’s development.

Time is the greatest judge. If an idea has lasting power, time will tell. In the case of

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS FOR WFWP 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BOOK

By Cindy Pfeiffer, WFWP USA



WFWP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book editing project opened my eyes to its worldwide activities; without this publication these exemplary stories might otherwise go unnoticed. Each testimony brought to light an area in the world formerly never highlighted on such a scale. The reader can experience firsthand the magnitude of the sacrifices made, as often singlehandedly a lone pioneer served in a country far from her native land, and in ways that rivaled a saint.

From my home in Fargo, North Dakota, these pioneering activities came alive to me, as I hope they will for you. I had the privilege to read through the many testimonies of women who have gone beyond themselves and sought to improve circumstances in the life of others. Often armed only with their burning desires, volunteers traveled to and served in countries far from their own, putting the world's needs above their own. What they received in return was far richer than could initially be imagined. It was humbling to learn of those who crossed countless barriers and eventually adjusted their mindset in a country with a different culture, way of life, attitude, religion and unique histories.

Since I, too, have been away by distance but not by heart, I could see that every area of the world showcases God's beautiful variety of humankind! Readers are taken through a journey from war-torn countries, to places where education is a luxury not afforded to many children, to volunteers who have tried to open the minds of its country's leaders, and where women have been given a platform to be peacebuilders. Volunteers not only adapted, but multiplied their efforts in such a way that their deeds no longer remained on the backburners of history.

My thought was, "What caused them to push themselves?" Most people seek their own comfort first. No one forced the way of sacrifice onto them, but nevertheless, their heartbeat to give could not be repressed. They must have asked, "What attributes do I have that could contribute to the greatest good? How will God tailor my attributes to truly help this nation?" Many tears must have been shed.

Mother Moon spoke of this type of needed reflection in her memoir, *Mother of Peace*: "In all of this, your heart is your closest teacher. In the face of difficulties or confusion, ask your heart. Your Heavenly Parent who loves you resides deep in your heart. You are designed to hear God's true voice. We all need to hone our ability to hear God's whisper in our hearts. Your heart is your eternal guardian." (Moon, HJH, p. 280)





All the women who laid the foundation for WFWP throughout the world most likely patterned themselves after history's exceptional examples: after Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon; after Jesus, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Joan of Arc, or Yu Gwan-sun (Korea's "Joan of Arc"); or after Confucius, Mohammed or Buddha.

Each year WFWP Founders' investments greatly multiplied as they gave of themselves. They did not think of what they could "get" from America, or get from others, but instead sought to give when in difficulty, when in extreme poverty, when in prison, at the death of a child, or when all foundations were lost and they had to start over from scratch. Our character, too, is refined by passing through tests such as these. There is a cross of love that Mother Moon spoke of in *Mother of Peace* that she describes they went through before they headed to North Korea to meet Kim Il Sung:

"Before setting foot in North Korea, we had to resolve any painful feelings knotted up in our hearts. We had to forgive Kim Il Sung, whose regime had hurt the nation and world, not to mention our extended family and ourselves. If we had thought of him only as our enemy, we could not have forgiven him. Only in the position of his parents, only with the heart of his mother, could I forgive. To save her son sentenced to death, a mother will even seek to change the laws of her country. That is what the maternal heart is like. With that heart, I pledged to forgive my enemy. I did not pray for our safe return from North Korea. Those were serious hours in which we offered endless prayers. Just as Joshua circled Jericho seven times, we went around the Big Island of Hawaii

again and again, offering our sincerest commitment to Heaven. Only after we had dissolved all the buried pain did my husband and I inform those who needed to know that were on our way to North Korea." (Moon, HJH, p. 203)

What if they had not resolved this bitter pain? Would they have had a successful visit, as they expressed their thought of "Godism" in a country where such ethics could not be openly spoken? Conditions would not have been laid where they could freely speak. However, not only did they move Kim Il Sun's regime, but his heart was changed to the extent that he viewed Dr. Sun Myung Moon as a sibling instead of the "enemy of the state" he formerly sent to a prison labor camp where few inmates could not live beyond six months. Each of us has a cross that we carry. The volunteers we read about pioneered this way—not because they had a lot—but because they gave all of the little they had. They let themselves reach point zero and could only rise upward from here!

Father Moon expressed in his autobiography, *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*, that people of the world are also our family, and the very families that we grow up in are our training ground to love the world: "The family is the only institution created by God. It is the school of love where people can learn how to love each other and live together in peace, and it is the training center where we practice how to build a palace of peace in the world." (Moon, SM, p. 207) Contributors to this book lived with this philosophy that the world is truly our family, and it has been my honor to offer my editing know-how to those with such a high philosophy.



# THANK YOU, WFWP!

By Lorna Galvan



I first became the WFWP chairwoman for the Bronx, NY, in 1992, the evening Mother Moon introduced the Women's Federation for World Peace to America at the Manhattan Center in New York City. I continued as chairwoman for two more years, until our two sons were born. At that time I stepped down to take care of them, as well as to help my husband as we co-pastored in the Bronx.

In April 2021, I finally returned to my work with WFWP as chairwoman, referred by Executive Vice President Juanita Pierre- Louis, who advised me to contact President Angelika Selle and Vice-President Katarina Connery. For two months I studied the information on becoming a chairwoman.

In 2017 at WFWP's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I had some personal moments with the WFWP chairwomen and members when we met with then International President Prof. Yeon Ah

Moon. We had our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with joyful dancing there in NYC. It was so awesome.

I really want to thank our WFWP International President Dr. Julia Moon; Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon; previous WFWP International Presidents Prof. Yeon Ah Moon and Dr. Lan Young Moon; our former WFWP USA Presidents: Nora Spurgin and Alexa Ward; WFWP Canada President Lilly Tadin; and WFWP USA Angelika Selle, for all of their amazing love and work over the years. We are so grateful to all of them.

I'm very proud of the work of all of the chairwomen and WFWP and GWPB members all these many years. I really hope I can help you out much more now. I love you all.

# PRIORITY IS TO SERVE AND LOVE

By Marie (Thérèse) Bond



*Marie Bond, originally from Lebanon, with husband, Larry, and their five children*

The following is my experience with WFWP in Egypt in 1993:

In 1989 Lebanese members fled to Cyprus to escape the civil war in Lebanon; from Cyprus they had to go to Greece when the situation there did not improve. Eventually Adel Jamati, the Lebanese national leader, returned to Lebanon with his wife, Pauline, and another sister, Vera.

I was the first member to join in Lebanon in 1984. Eventually I transferred to Egypt to begin working in the office of the Middle East Times. I arrived there in September 1989 to find myself all alone in this Muslim country.

When I started working in the office, several members then came to Egypt, and in 1991 my husband, Larry Bond, joined me to work at the newspaper as a copy editor.

Meanwhile, in Korea and Asia, WFWP was established in 1992, and by 1993, about 30 Japanese sisters had been dispatched to the Middle East to do volunteer service in Muslim

communities. They first flew to Egypt and then were dispatched to three different Arab countries.

The ten Japanese sisters who were staying in Cairo spoke little English and needed a lot of help. I had two children at the time but stepped up to help them. A mother's heart and true love radiated from these lovely sisters, whose priority was to help and serve. Even though they did not speak Arabic and could barely speak English, they were able to go to schools in Egypt and teach Japanese art and origami to children. They also visited hospitals to serve the elderly by cutting their hair and playing music. Those sisters represented the ideal of true love.

Love knows no boundaries. Love overcomes all obstacles. Love goes beyond religion, ethnicity, and race to embrace humanity through selfless service. Their love continued to flourish even after they left. This exemplified the mission of WFWP, to bring love and peace to Egypt and the Middle East. I am proud to be a member of WFWP.



# REALIZING MY BUCKET LIST IN WFWP

By Luvenia Cone, WFWP Los Angeles, CA



Thank you so very much for this great opportunity to share my story with you. I am a member of WFWP and I am sharing my most exciting and joy-filled day standing strong alongside WFWP in the fight against domestic violence.

I am a survivor of intimate partner abuse. I was nearly killed by my abuser but by the loving grace of God I survived. At that moment I promised that if God would let me live, I would help to ensure that other survivors would have help finding necessary resources to get them back on their feet. I went in person to meet with other organizations that work with survivors of domestic violence to see how we could work together. I collected brochures from each one of them to have on hand when I started doing events for health fairs and churches.

I was invited by a very close friend to a WFWP

presentation that was being held in the beautiful city of Pasadena by the Los Angeles chapter. Once there, I fell in love with all of the people I met that day from many different countries. I participated in the crossing of the Bridge of Peace ceremony on several occasions.

By feeling the love of others there at the ceremony, it made me want to do more and to be a part of such a caring organization. That is when I came up with the idea to do my presentation with WFWP during the month of October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

I was able to give two in-depth presentations in one year on what determines domestic violence—the hows and the whys. As a survivor of partner abuse, I have been working with an organization called Safe Passage for the past eleven years as an outreach coordinator.

My proudest moment was when Emma Reed



from the Los Angeles Chapter of WFWP asked me to share my knowledge of the “hows and whys” of domestic violence. Following my presentation was a Q & A session with lots of questions, which I was very happy to answer. This let me know that people were interested in what I was speaking about. In the future, I plan to be on a panel about domestic violence at the UN Summit conferences. Yes, it’s on my bucket list of things I must accomplish during my time here on Earth.

WFWP is a fabulous source of knowledge in the way they are connected to one another through God’s love like one big beautiful family. I love how they are helping to build schools, bring clean water to some locations, and show people how to build safer ways to cook in their homes in different countries around the world. I am so happy that I was invited into the family to be a part of something that truly stands out in the world, showing everyone that love and peace can be shared throughout the masses

without pain and violence. My friends and I have brought books to be shipped to the schools in Africa. Whatever we can do we will do to help WFWP succeed in its endeavors to help people around the world. Keeping peace in the forefront is what really needs to be done; that’s why WFWP is so important during these times of pandemic and violent crime sprees. We must stand together to bring world peace through the Word of God who strengthens us.

Thank you WFWP for the opportunity to share my knowledge with the members and friends of this great organization.

Peace be with you all. After all, knowledge is power; always stay ready for the preparation of peace and aim high to reach the stars. Never let anyone take your joy because God is on your side, and if He is for you then who can stand against you.

I am wishing you peace, joy, and happiness.

## CREATING A LIFE OF MY DREAM

By Ezzat Feraboli, Advisor, WFWP Latin America



When I was a teenager, I had a big dream, which seemed almost impossible to fulfill. I was born and raised in Iran, a country centered on men. The problem was that men were treated differently than women, which even manifested itself in my family. This problem was not only in my country, but at that time I did not know about other cultures and countries. I thought I was destined to live and die like my grandmother and mother. I wanted to be a turning point, but with what opportunity?

One day, at the age of 17, I discovered a philosophy that would change my life and fate and could bring me closer to my dreams. It was the teachings of WFWP Co-Founders, Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, which touched me deeply. I saw the windows, doors, and gates open to my future. A few years later, I was in Korea, the country of my mentors, speaking their language and living the culture they teach to humanity.

In 1989, in Korea, I received the Marriage Blessing with a Brazilian, and soon I was living in another country, getting to know their history, culture, and language.

In 1992, WFWP was launched in Korea, and in the same year, it was launched in Brazil. Since then, in Brazil, as in other countries, the focus has been on activities involving women, and their ability to build unity, harmony, and cooperation to strengthen the family, and to educate children.

When I learned of the goals and objectives of WFWP, I knew it would empower women and strengthen families. To further the work of WFWP, the Co-Founders sent 1,600 Japanese women, mothers of their families, to various parts of the world. At that time, when I was the official head of WFWP Brazil, we also welcomed our dear sisters from Japan.





Our activities focused on the sisterhood between Japan and Brazil. Outstanding women from Brazil joined us to walk together, and WFWP Brazil educated them about the Co-Founders' philosophy. The advances of WFWP in the world have brought hope to countries in the most difficult situations. And as a result of international efforts, WFWP has become an NGO with ECOSOC status.

Along with this, WFWP Brazil has also made great strides in its activities. In 2010, I had the great pleasure of meeting then WFWP International President Dr. Lan Young Moon at the WFWP meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica. It gave me hope to see Latin American women participating in international conferences and ushering in a new era.

After I returned to Brazil, at dawn, I got a call from Lan Young Moon's secretary saying that she wanted a photo of me to show to the Co-Founders. I was very surprised and sent her a picture of me and my husband. The next day, I was told that my mission in WFWP would become even bigger—to reach the level of Latin America. A few days later, I received a laminated copy of the photo I had sent, signed by the Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

I didn't know whether to cry or laugh. Crying for another achievement for the people who wanted to trust me and smiling with joy for receiving international attention. In my



opinion, I didn't deserve all of that. I was receiving a blessing greater than my ability.

Given the title of International Vice President of Latin America, I was expected to travel to many countries and meet powerful women who voluntarily work to improve the lives of others. That is what left a mark on me. Was this the realization of the childhood dream I had when I was in my country?

Decades ago, I met a group of women who were working hard in the Middle East to increase their understanding and knowledge of the community of women to which I belonged. My heart was relieved to know that there were people worried about my homeland. So I decided to focus on my mission in Latin America. By doing so, I would be doing my part.

It is gratifying to know that times have changed, the era has changed, thanks to Father and Mother Moon.

Today, I don't have an international title, but my heart is beating just as it did in the past. And now I am the advisor for WFWP Latin America.

With love, to all women in the world.

## EARLY HISTORY OF WFWP AND CREATING TRADITIONS

*By Nora Spurgin, President, WFWP USA (1992-1999)*



I became president of WFWP in America in May 1992 and established an office in New York City at our church headquarters. Many women enthusiastically stepped up to take roles as chairwomen on the regional and state level. We established WFWP legally as a non-profit organization (NGO). In October 1992, Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Mother Moon, began an eight-city speaking tour in America. Three American WFWP leaders traveled with her, and I introduced her to the audience. The tour stirred things up among women in America, and WFWP became a more viable organization. In November, Mother Moon took her speaking tour to Europe, Russia, and China. I traveled with her. It was a great opportunity for international bonding. After each speech, members gathered around Mother Moon while she called Father Moon in New York to share how things had gone.

From their respective locations, they chatted over the phone and in unison cut a celebration cake. For me, those were sweet moments. We could enjoy their conversations, celebrate with them, and see another side of their lives.

Our work in China presented challenges. Mother Moon's speech in December 1992 was held in the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square. Initially, the Chinese Communist Party refused to grant us a permit for Mother Moon's talk. They reviewed the script of the speech and rejected it. With assistance from the son of Deng Xiaoping, we were allowed to speak at a meeting of the All-China Women's Federation. Mother Moon bravely gave her original talk, which contained many references to God. This created a stir in the audience, but she was able to complete the speech. Her charm helped.



*L-R: Rhia Luz Nkulu; Merly Barlaan, Nora Spurgin; Angelika Selle*

Dr. Lan Young Moon, WFWP International President, asked me to obtain general consultative status as a non-government organization (NGO) from the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Linda Perry (a staff member) spent one year preparing the application, which required collecting organizational and membership information from national chapters worldwide. The fact that in each nation, WFWP had members who paid dues was a significant factor in being granted that highest level status. The fact that Japanese sisters had established grassroots services in many mission countries made a powerful impact on the reviewers of the application. At the UN, a group of 30 ambassadors was selected to decide our fate. On the day the decision was to be made, I was anxious since I was called on the dais to stand before those 30 ambassadors. The ambassadors

from China, Cuba, and Great Britain asked questions. Of all the questions that they could have asked, I had clear, impressive answers for each of them. I relied on God to help me respond. I felt Heaven had chosen questions that I easily was able to answer, addressing their concerns. The decision to grant general consultative status (the highest level possible) was achieved on May 8, 1997, which was a great victory for our Co-Founders and WFWP.

In 1994, Father and Mother Moon asked me and three other WFWP leaders to arrange for sisterhood ceremonies for women from America and Japan to heal historical resentments between the two nations. The Japanese women brought with them the spirit from sisterhood ceremonies with Korean sisters. “Can you prepare 500 American women to attend a sisterhood ceremony with





Japanese women?" they asked me. It was a daunting but happy task. What a wonderful opportunity to create a vehicle to bring healing and peace to women from those two nations.

On the stage in the hotel rooms where we held sisterhood ceremonies, we created a bridge with a set of stairs in the center leading down to the stage. Pairs of Japanese and American women walked from each side of the bridge toward the center and bowed, offering repentance and forgiveness. Then they embraced and descended the stairs surrounded by applause. There were many tears as each pair crossed the bridge and pledged friendship. The Bridge of Peace became a signature project of WFWP and a beautiful symbol of sisterhood. But it was more than that. We experienced these bridge crossings as acts of authentic healing. Thinking of those ceremonies makes my heart sing. The Washington Times had a working

relationship with many political leaders. Through these relationships, women of influence were invited to speak and participate in ceremonies. Former President George H.W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush were speakers at several events. Barbara crossed the bridge with Motoko Sugiyama, president of WFWP Japan. The ceremonies generated many remarkable stories. Sometimes, participants discovered their grandfathers, fathers, or uncles had fought on opposing sides during World War II. As they embraced, they felt the soothing energy of healing and forgiveness, forever changing their perspectives. Over the next few years, we held ceremonies throughout America. The bridge gained spiritual power as it became a source for reconciliation and healing among women representing racial, national, generational, and religious differences. Through the leadership of our Co-Founders, I had the opportunity to serve the cause of world



peace. The Bridge of Peace ceremony holds a special place in my heart.

For seven years, I was the president of Women's Federation for World Peace in America, and international vice president. I am proud of the wonderful women who helped to bring the logic of love to our world.

China was the location in August 1995 for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Women worldwide attended. In the Beijing suburb of Huairou, non-government organizations (NGOs) from many nations were able to organize events. WFWP USA arranged for Maureen Reagan, the daughter of President Ronald Reagan, to give a keynote address on family values. When the day came for Maureen's speech, we went to set up our meeting, but another group had claimed the space that we had been given. We were told rooms were available on a first-come basis

and we should find another room. Fortunately, we found a large unoccupied room in another building that seated more than 400 people and claimed it. We made a line of WFWP women to direct people from our advertised site to the new location. To our delight, the room filled up quickly, with 500 women from around the world attending.

Maureen won everyone's heart as she spoke on the renaissance of the family. She said, "No one can value the family if they hold no value for the women in it." The audience loved her message. Her speech was a success. As an NGO with membership worldwide, our participation in that World Conference on Women was an important opportunity to connect with women's NGO groups from around the world. We arranged partnerships with other groups, which lead to our participation in activities of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN.





*Memories of Love*





## WOMAN WHO INSPIRE

*By Sophie Lin, Secretary-General, WFWP Taiwan*



*President Lily Lin believed that everyone is born of love and has the responsibility to practice love throughout their life. She was raised in a loving environment by her parents and naturally cultivated a heart that was willing to give joyfully. With her enthusiasm for the realization of world peace and her fluency in English, she served as WFWP representative to the Philippines between 1994-1995, devoted herself to international affairs, and was able to participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.*



Lily Lin served as secretary-general of WFWP Taiwan in 1995. Later she was elected as the vice-president, and in 2014, she was elected president of WFWP Taiwan. While fulfilling the missions and programs of Women's Federation for World Peace, she always showed love and kept faith in God, our Heavenly Parent. As a result, even through challenges and difficulties, she determined to walk an altruistic path, sacrificing herself and living for a higher purpose to benefit all. Amazingly and miraculously, she repeatedly broke through obstacles and achieved unexpected and abundant achievements.





While serving as secretary-general of WFWP, she promoted Sino-Japanese cultural exchange in 1996 by visiting counties and cities with Japanese volunteers and by conducting cultural activities with women's associations to promote the development of WFWP. That same year she hosted WFWP Taiwan's first world-level international conference, the "Asian Women Federation for World Peace" at the Grand Hotel in Taipei. More than 200 distinguished guests, domestic and abroad, participated, including the sister of former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir; former Foreign Minister and his wife, of Thailand; the Women Administration Minister of Cambodia; and representatives from different Asian countries.

To protect the health and future of young people through advocating sexual purity,

a national Love Purity Movement was initiated in partnership with the International Cultural Foundation, in which more than a quartermillion people have participated. In 1997, the "Ideal Family Creation Campaign, National Assembly of Loving Couples" was held. Nearly a thousand couples attended the meeting, including former Vice President Lien Chan and his wife; the Deputy Secretary-General of the Presidential Palace; couples of national policy advisers; and the couples of diplomatic envoys to Taiwan, to name a few. All agreed and determined to follow up with continuing education through Ideal Family Seminars. In 1998, President Lin held a "National Assembly to Recognize Top Ten" outstanding mothers, wives, filial daughters-in-law, and daughters. More than a hundred VIPs participated in the Assembly, including the wives of the Prime Minister, Deputy



## Our Legacy



Minister of Education, Members of National Assembly, and presidents of colleges. A total of sixty outstanding females and ninety-two model families have been publicly recognized. This wonderful event was broadcast live throughout China's television corporation.

In 1999, President Lin successfully hosted WFWPI Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han at the Taipei International Convention Center during her world speaking tour. More than 4,000 people participated, including Mr. Wang Jinping, speaker of Legislative Yuan, ambassador to the Republic of China.

In 2000, after India suffered a severe earthquake, President Lin participated in a campaign, "Sending Love to India" initiated by Vice President Lu Xiulian to help those victims with supplies. That same year before

Father's Day, a millennium conference honoring men for their exemplary positions of father, husband, brother and son, was held in the Taipei City Hall, emphasizing that men play an indispensable and important role in the family and are key to healthy and happy families. Many men have been awarded.

President Lin strongly believed in guiding all people to form strong and healthy families. As such, she was appointed as a member of the AIDS Prevention Committee of the Department of Ministry of Health and Welfare, Administrative Yuan, in 2003. She also served on the Birth Mishap Compensation Committee, Ministry of Health and Welfare. In 2006, President Lin served as the deputy head of Taiwan delegation to attend the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations, New York.



During her tenure, she aggressively promoted and established good relations with various women's groups. From 2007 to 2008, she served as the president of the Taipei International Women's Club, and from 2009 to 2013, she served two terms as the director of the National Federation of Taiwan Women's Groups. In 2011, President Lin served as the international vice president of Women's Federation for World Peace in Asia.

She brought together female entrepreneurs in Taiwan and other Asian countries and traveled to under-developed areas in Asia to offer charity to those in poor and remote areas. On her journey, she met many outstanding female entrepreneurs from Asia. While busy with her international itinerary and work, President Lin pursued her professional expertise, and in 2013 she was accepted at

the Southeast Asian Studies Group of the International Institute of Asian Studies, Tamkang University. She earned her master's degree with the thesis titled "The Everlasting Road of International Women Organization and Peace of Asia—Case Study of Women's Federation for World Peace."

Inspired by the spirit and vision of the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN), which was the last established organization by WFWPI Co-Founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, President Lin initiated the inauguration of GWPN Taiwan in 2013 and aimed to uplift the women's movement to a new stage and vision. In 2015, President Lin invited female entrepreneurs in Asia to share their successful experiences and set up the "Inauguration of Asian Women Entrepreneurs Peace Alliance" (AWEPA).



Our Legacy



This platform allowed the exchange of charity resources from Taiwan to other Asian countries and relocated resources to those in need in under-developed areas. The outstanding women entrepreneurs representing various countries in Asia have peacefully worked together and promoted women’s economic power, expanded women’s participation in economic activities, encouraged other women to start up and run businesses, and have actively spread the spirit of female entrepreneurship.

Taiwan, allowing the success of Taiwanese women to become a global model.

With her ambitious vision, absolute faith, and an ability to initiate successful projects, President Lin developed three main working committees of WFWP Taiwan to establish its three main missions: 1) Youth Cultivation and Education; 2) Women and Family Cultivation and Education; and 3) Network for Women Entrepreneurs for World Peace.

In 2016, AWEPA was able to connect women entrepreneurs in Asia to Mainland China, thus expanding the work of caring for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. In 2019, the AWEPA name changed to Caring and Charity Platform of Global Women Entrepreneurs Peace Alliance (GWEPA), launching a peace network service plan for young women, spreading continuous goodwill, and uniting women’s power. President Lin hoped that one day an actual center for global women would be established in

*During the tenure of Lily Lin, WFWP Taiwan received celebrity endorsements for their anti-AIDS and anti-drug initiatives, the Asia Women’s Entrepreneurs Peace Alliance for businesswomen was established as part of the Global Women’s Peace Network, and much more. Lily Lin’s humility, drive, determination, humor, and love for others have been deeply missed since her passing in 2019.*



Our Legacy



Paintings by Lily Lin

# A GIRL WITH A DREAM TO CONQUER THE WORLD!

by WFP UN Office in Vienna



*Elisabeth Riedl was born 1952 in Church Fenton, Yorkshire. Although she was born in England, Elisabeth spent her childhood in Egypt where her father served as a sergeant and engineer in the Royal Air Force. In the early 1960s, her mother Isabell bought a lovely house in the small village of Glenfarg, near the city of Perth in southern Scotland where Elisabeth spent some time. When she grew up, she wanted to conquer the world!*

Glenfarg was too narrow, and Perth was not a big city. Elisabeth then applied to the planning department of the Community Ground in a middle-sized Scottish town.

In 1972, she joined the Unification Movement, founded by a Korean religious leader, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. This changed her life dramatically. Since that time on, Elisabeth followed her vision to change the world by serving people on an international level. She was confident to realize God's dream with the Unification movement.

In 1973, she volunteered to help with the “One World Crusade” rally in the United States. Then in 1975, she began her mission in the beautiful African country of Tanzania and was later imprisoned along with a German friend; NGOs and the British and German embassies exerted political pressure on the government to get them released. After their release they were forced to leave the country, delivering a blow to Elisabeth's dreams. Because of harsh imprisonment, she had to be treated at a clinic in Scotland, and gradually recovered.

Elisabeth did not think about giving up and prepared for her next mission to Somalia. With very little money, she started a small private school, teaching English to the children of government officials and the children of then-President Mohamed Siad Barré.

It was quite an ambitious undertaking for a young Western woman to live alone in an Islamic country. She did it, and she did it well.



The Somali people have a beautiful tradition of helping and protecting foreign women.

When war broke out in nearby Ethiopia, she went to the war zone as a journalist and with the help of the German Red Cross. Later she went to Djibouti since the situation in Somalia was dangerous and President Barré had to leave the country.

It was at this time that she became engaged to her future husband, Klaus Riedl. In 1982, she received the Marriage Blessing in New York. Sometime later, the Riedl family moved to Germany, where Elisabeth became president of WFWP Germany in 1999, a position she held for two years.

In 2001, Elisabeth and Klaus moved to the beautiful city of Salzburg, Austria, home of the Von Trapp family and well known from the movie “The Sound of Music.” A few years later, she was appointed director of the WFWP United Nations Office in Vienna and vice president of the ÖFFW (Österreichische Frauen-förderung). She was also very active as secretary-general of WFWP Europe for about 15 years.

With Elisabeth, the WFWP UN office in Vienna became more active. It started out as a working group of 25-40 people and then grew into a conference with up to 150 participants. The last event organized by Elisabeth was “Zero Tolerance of FGM” (Female Genital Mutilation), held on March 27, 2017. Elisabeth passed away on April 7, 2017, in Salzburg, Austria. Slawomir Redo, a close NGO colleague and friend of the United Nations program, offered these words in her honor:



“With Elisabeth, I was able to pursue many non-governmental initiatives sensitizing the world about women’s international affairs. Her very warm, pragmatic, and forthcoming personality allowed me to compliment that world, with contributions about which I would not have thought without her.

“On several occasions in Vienna, during many meetings there in town or the Vienna International City, I benefited from listening to her ideas and advice during our telephone conversations. Thanks to them, my colleagues and I from the Academic Council on the United Nations System could advance our joint goals.

“The experiences with Elisabeth Riedl, who, with the WFWPI, shared with me and other non-governmental activists, will serve as evidence empowering all like-minded people to act in concert with her ideals. May these ideals motivate us and keep our memory of Elisabeth’s accomplishments for the succeeding generation of civil society members!”





## A LOVING APPROACH AND HEARTFELT CONNECTIONS

by WFWP Netherlands



*Elfriede Johanna Verstraeten-Schultermandl, or Elfi, as we used to call her, was president of WFWP Netherlands from 1995 to 1997.*

During her leadership time, Elfi organized various conferences, seminars, and lectures, including two “Bridge of Peace” ceremonies. One was between Japanese and Dutch women who were in Japanese concentration camps in Indonesia and the other between Surinamese and Dutch women. Suriname was a Dutch colony until they gained independence in 1975, and there was a lot of resentment that needed to be resolved.



Elfi had a very consistent way of working. She organized wide-ranging conferences and seminars, with themes such as: hope for human beings in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; solving problems in the family; Women in Algeria; Godism lectures; and education from Islamic, Jewish, and Christian perspectives. She also developed programs on The Family as the Foundation for World Peace, and Women and World Peace, addressing problems in the family. She invited others for Christmas gatherings, for coffee mornings, and Elfi introduced Japanese culture through origami and tea ceremonies.



She had a single-minded devotion, and this motivated others to support her. She excelled at contacting VIPs and influential people who respected her, responding to her invitations. Elfi valued her connections, and brought politicians, embassies, academics, religious leaders, and women leaders of various religions to the conferences. Her house was always open for meetings. When WFWP was inaugurated in April 1992 in Korea, one of her acquaintances, the wife of a Remonstrant minister, Madzy van de Kooij, attended the event.

Elfi passed away in 2017; she had one daughter and two granddaughters. Her husband, Jean-Pierre Verstraeten, passed away earlier. He was from Belgium and Elfi was from Austria.





# A LIFE OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

By WFWP Kenya



*Patricia Kumbirayi Aketch Rangala was born in 1962 to Billy and Janet Kanyani in Zimbabwe. She was born into a family of two brothers and four sisters.*

In 1989, Patricia received the Marriage Blessing with Master Edwin Aketch, a native of Kenya, and they were blessed with four daughters. A teacher by profession, she taught and mentored many young people over the years.

After the inauguration of Women's Federation for World Peace in 1992, she became a founding member of the Kenya chapter and was appointed its first secretarygeneral. In 1994, the family moved to Ethiopia for missionary work, and Patricia pioneered WFWP activities in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, and Somalia. During their stay in Ethiopia, the Aketchs introduced a number of initiatives, including a women's empowerment and skills-training network in collaboration with the Ethiopian government's

Ministry of Education. Some of the initiatives introduced were character education, youth empowerment, United Martial Arts, and interfaith partnerships.

After returning to Kenya, she was active with WFWP Kenya in various capacities and served as vice-president from 2000 to 2010. Also, she worked as a teacher at Kenvic Primary School from 1999 to 2008, where she was promoted to school administrator.

From 2020 to 2021, she would once again be vice president of WFWP Kenya and serve as a board member in charge of the education department.

One of her favorite themes was "the power of positive energy," which she taught many people, including families in the community who were severely impacted mentally and financially during the COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions.





*Patricia and Edwin Aketch and their four daughters*

Beginning in 2020, she was appointed as the coordinator of “Green Solar Energy for African Villages,” an environmental and social pilot project organized by Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) and Giving for Good International (GFGI), implemented by WFWP Kenya.

At the regional level, as director of education, Patricia developed a curriculum for teaching about mental health. She inaugurated an expanded virtual conference on “Mental Health and the Family: A Focus on Prevention” to commemorate World Mental Health Day.

At the international level, as a member of WFWP Education Global Committee, she played a very important role in organizing virtual healing sessions for African women leaders, bringing to attention mental health care. Patricia Aketch began feeling unwell with a mild cough and weakness on November 1, 2021, and was examined at the hospital. She

developed respiratory complications and was admitted to the High Dependency Unit of a local hospital, where she was treated. But her condition worsened, and she passed to the spirit world on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, the eighth day of her illness. A farewell ceremony was held in Nairobi on December 5, 2021, followed by the final burial in her husband’s hometown.

She gave generously of her services, knowledge, and time and was an efficient, focused woman leader who delivered results in all her assignments.

She will be remembered as a visionary woman leader, a capable teacher, a trustworthy mentor, a faithful friend, loving mother, dependable colleague, caring wife, and a symbol of peace that the world should never forget. She warmed the hearts of the many people whose lives she touched. May she rest in peace.

## AN ESCAPE TO FIJIAN PARADISE

*By Sharila Lazarus, President, WFWP Fiji*



People enjoy traveling for various reasons, often because they love the novelty of different cultures and experiencing more of the world. Some people travel to find peace of mind and prefer a secluded, restful vacation to pamper themselves and escape from their daily grind.

In this era of the pandemic, many of us long to visit our loved ones, step out of our homes, and travel places for retreats for our own peace, love, and excitement. This has been the first time in human history that world-level lockdowns have been imposed by governments, which has caused an increase in rates of depression around the globe. Amidst many things, a good life lesson is to value oneself and live life to the fullest in times of uncertain future. So why not take a trip to the jewel of the South Pacific, Fiji?

Fiji is an archipelago of more than 300 islands. Visiting the shores of Fiji offers a very peaceful yet exciting experience. It is not only renowned for its rugged landscapes, tropical climate, and palm-lined beaches, but for bustling activities, such as snorkeling, trekking, or scuba diving.

Alluring, fresh fragrances and a feeling of joy greet each visitor to this tropical paradise. Fiji had a thriving tourism industry prior to the pandemic, and now tourists are starting to come here once again since its borders reopened. All are welcomed as they enter the Fijian paradise with the never-changing, warm “Bula” smile, meaning hello in the native language.





While in the capital of Suva, those interested in history and culture will enjoy the Fiji Museum located in the botanical gardens with its remarkable collection of historical artifacts and cultural exhibits.

Dancing is most definitely required when it comes to experiencing the richness of Fijian culture. All who come will encounter the traditional style of music and dance that tells stories, known as “meke.”

There are also many beautiful island resorts to visit. Many people enjoy going out on the ocean to see the graceful and playful dolphins doing their spins in the cool, calm waters, or exploring coral reefs in glassbottom boats. These experiences only add to the precious memories of each person’s trip to Fiji.

Another place for an exciting adventure would be the ancient Sawa-i-Lau caves in the remote Yasawa Group of Islands. These consist of 20 volcanic islands with limestone caverns that have been burrowed out by waves over the centuries. Originally formed underwater, the caves have also been pushed up by geodynamic movement. And excursion trip can be experienced either by a short boat trip or via seaplane.

Tourists can also take the Captain Cook Cruises, which offer an all-inclusive visit to the islands.

Meanwhile the fresh produce of Fiji surely must be mentioned! The juicy fruits, varied veggies, seafoods and root crops of the tropical climate are delicious. In the hottest months of summer, seasonal fruits such as watermelon and pineapple are irresistible.

It is said that the best way to experience a culture is through its food, so when on holiday in Fiji, do not miss the opportunity to enjoy mouth-watering Fijian cuisine. A popular food called “lovo” is a delicacy that has a different method of preparing: in an underground earthen oven.

Once the food is covered with banana leaves, sacks, and soil it is left to slow cook for a few hours. The pit is then unearthed to reveal a delicious tender-cooked meal.

Experiencing a holiday in Fiji should most certainly be on everyone’s bucket list! Fiji is a country that will never cease to amaze its visitors. A remarkable journey to this multiracial country with a population of less than a million will be remembered forever. The stunning and relaxing beaches await all visitors.





# UKRAINE: WHERE THE SUNFLOWERS GROW

By WFWP Ukraine



*Located in Central-Eastern Europe, Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe and is famously known as the cradle and mother of the Orthodox Church.*

During the Middle Ages, Ukraine was a key center of East Slavic culture, with the powerful state of Kievan Rus, whose territory spread from the Western Buh River to the Volga River, from the Black Sea to the Baltic. The area was many times contested, ruled, and divided by a variety of powers, including the Mongols, Polish– Lithuanian, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Tsardom of Russia. After the Russian Revolution in 1917, Ukraine became a part of the Soviet Union and witnessed its talented and freedom-loving people suffer from tragedy and famine. Ukraine also witnessed the devastating incident known as the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station accident in 1986. All that is left now is an eerie landscape from the aftermath of the explosion, as if frozen in time. The Chernobyl disaster was the worst nuclear power plant accident in human history and yet became a mysterious place that attracts adventurous tourists from all over the world to its ghost town.

In 1991 Ukraine gained its independence after the collapse of the



Soviet Union, and in 1994 signed away its nuclear arsenal. In 2014, the Ukrainian revolution broke out after waves of demonstrations and protests for good governance. These events later led to the establishment of a new government and the annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014.

Kyiv, the capital and soul of Ukraine, plays a key role in its past, present and future. Kyiv is covered in a sea of greenery, with beautiful, historic sites at every corner of every street. Kyiv Pechersk Lavra is a popular tourist site, which was founded as the cave monastery in 1051. Since then, the Lavra has been a preeminent center of Eastern Orthodox Christianity in Eastern Europe, equivalent to Rome or Jerusalem.

Odessa is another remarkable city and seaport for the region, known as the “Pearl of the Black Sea” and is often featured on Black Sea cruises. Odessa is well known for its architectural variety in the old town, plenty of theaters and museums, and a lively nightlife zone in Arcadia Beach, with one of the largest world catacombs and etches.

Lviv is a Ukrainian city with a European soul with its preserved Gothic and Renaissance architecture. Known as the center of Ukrainian art and culture, the city has many of the country’s best museums, art galleries, and theaters. It is also Ukraine’s Bible belt buckle



with magnificent churches and cathedrals on just about every corner.

The main tourist site is the Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet, which is the first building in Europe built on a solid concrete base. The beautiful and grand theatre was designed by a set criteria, which allowed the theater to be included in the prestigious international organization “Opera Europa.”

Regions of Ukraine are abundant with charming romantic places that attract attention with their natural beauty and originality.

But one of the most popular and amazing places is the Tunnel of Love near the town of Klevan in the Rivne region. The five kilometer green corridor, created by trees lined up in an arch of perfect round shape, and the railway between them became one of the main tourist attractions in Ukraine. The tunnel is very popular among lovers who like to make a wish and kiss there, as there is a belief that walking through the tunnel of love makes your love eternal and your wishes true.

Ukraine is a highly traditional country that keeps certain customs from ancient times.

One of the most popular Ukrainian customs is Maslenitsa week or Pancake week. The pancake was a symbol of the sun being yellow, round, and hot; therefore, people serve freshly baked pancakes every day, visiting and treating

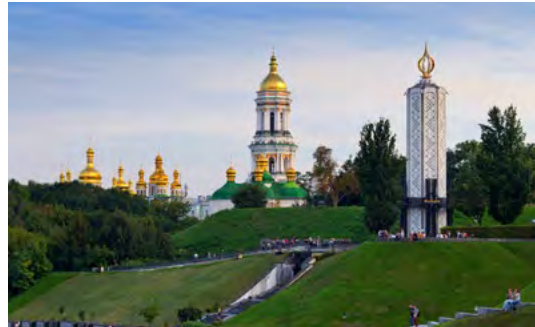




each other to see off winter and greet the new spring. Maslenitsa is celebrated in the last week before the Great Lent.

Christmas in Ukraine is a family holiday when all the relatives gather together, setting a festive table with 12 traditional dishes, singing Christmas songs, and wishing each other health and happiness. During the Christmas holidays, children do caroling, going from house to house, singing Christmas songs, and wishing the hosts all the best. They also “seed” the floor with grains of wheat or barley, which brings prosperity and happiness to the house. Hosts, in turn, give money, sweets, or other treats to the carolers.

The Easter holiday is famous for its krashenki (multi-colored boiled eggs) and pysanka (painted eggs). The latter has a very deep symbolic meaning because every detail of the patterns means something. For example,



the red color symbolizes joy, yellow signifies warmth and crops, and green means hope.

The sunflower, cherished by Ukrainians and revered by pre-Christian Slavs, is the national flower representing the warmth and power of the sun and is found embroidered on fabrics, painted on walls, wooden furniture, and household items. Traditional Ukrainian attire vyshyvanka (an embroidered shirt) is a trendy piece for holidays as well as for every day. There are plenty of types of this beautiful shirt, differing in each region of the country in their color shape, color, and length.

Ukrainians are very friendly and welcoming people and love gatherings. They are proud of their ageless traditions and the Ukrainian language, which is considered the most beautiful language in the world, after French and Italian.

*This article was submitted at the end of 2021, before the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022 and the ongoing conflict.*





# THE STORY OF LEBANON: AN ANCIENT LAND FILLED WITH NEW HOPE

*By Hermine Schellen, Acting President, WFWP Lebanon*



Lebanon is a small yet diverse country bordered by Syria, Israel, and the Mediterranean Sea. The earliest evidence of civilization in Lebanon dates back more than seven thousand years, predating recorded history. Along with the aforementioned nations, Lebanon is known as the region of the mercantile and maritime Phoenician civilization that thrived for over a thousand years (c. 1550–539 BC) and is the home of the biblical tribe known as the Canaanites. In 64 BC, the region came under the rule of the Roman Empire and eventually became one of the Empire’s leading centers of Christianity.

Ancestors who inhabited this area were raised by God to lay the foundation and prepare the environment for Jesus Christ to be born.

An ancient land that has seen many such events, Lebanon features prominently in the writings from the Old Testament to the History of Herodotus (440 BC). Its cities were major Mediterranean outposts and seaports in Phoenician, Greek, Roman, and Umayyad times. Consequently, the Lebanese countryside is awash with majestic and historically fascinating ruins. Five of the most outstanding locations are Aanjar, Baalbeck, Byblos, Tyre, and the Qadisha Valley/Cedars Forest, which are listed as UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites. To explore Lebanon is to discover archaeological wonders that



are windows into the cradle of civilization.

The trees in the Forest of the Cedars of God (UNESCO World Heritage Site) are referenced by Christian monks of the monasteries in the Qadisha Valley and have been venerated for centuries through scripture. The earliest documented references of the Cedars of God are written in Psalms 104:16 by King David. These references support claims of the creation story's proximity to the Cedars forest, first planting of cedars with God's hands and second, the name of an adjacent village in the Qadisha Valley known as Ehden (Eden).

The predominant culture in present-day Lebanon is fundamentally conservative and exhibits a great deal of respect for traditions, drawing on many Arab customs. Longstanding Islamic and Christian traditions remain deeply ingrained in social norms and expectations. However, many practices and lifestyles also reflect European influences.

This is partly due to its coastline's proximity to Europe being a key point of contact for trade between the East and West, as well as a period of French occupation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ultimately, contemporary Lebanese

society is highly diverse. It is common to see both traditional Lebanese attire and modern European fashions in city streets. As such, the Lebanese people are familiar with a plurality of lifestyles and are often capable of easily adapting to other societies.

A study by the American University in Beirut concluded that Lebanese people generally feel their collective loyalty is strongest for their family. Their subsidiary group loyalties are then towards their religion, Lebanon as a nation, their ethnic group, and lastly their political party. The cultural concept of "filial piety" generally demands that elders receive the utmost respect from those younger than them, regardless of their social status.

Modern Lebanese society is characterized by this same cultural and architectural diversity. As you walk the streets of downtown Beirut, you will pass domed mosques and steeple churches, French cafes, and Arab "souqs," or traditional markets. Cultural diversity is reflected in language, cuisine, the arts, and the country's religious heritages—Sunni, Shia Muslims, and Druze, Maronite, Eastern Orthodox and other Christians, and many



others. A visit to any of Lebanon's ancient ruins, traditional villages, or religious sites will give you a taste of the cultural mosaic of this captivating country. Lebanon's official language is Arabic, but French, Armenian, and English are also widely spoken. Some Lebanese in fact speak a combination of these four languages, most commonly an Arabic-French mixture. Virtually all Lebanese are bilingual.

In 1943, Lebanon gained independence and established a unique political system known as a "Consociationalism," a type of democratic power sharing based on religious communities. Bechara El Khoury, first Lebanese president; Riad El-Solh, first Lebanese prime minister; and Emir Majid Arslan II, the first Lebanese minister of defense, are considered the founders of the modern Republic of Lebanon and are national heroes for having led the country's independence.

The country experienced a period of relative

calm and renowned prosperity, driven by tourism, agriculture, commerce, and banking. Due to its financial power and diversity in its heyday in the 1960s, Lebanon was referred to as the "Switzerland of the East," and its capital, Beirut, attracted so many tourists that it was known as "the Paris of the Middle East."

The WFWP activities in Lebanon began in the 1990s when missionaries from Japan volunteered and stayed until 1999. Over the years, the WFWP network of women leaders in Lebanon expanded, thanks to the WFWP Middle East Conferences and initiatives. Many women leaders who participated in these events were greatly impacted and later influenced more women to create a harmonious and peaceful community. One of the ladies who attended these conferences organized a great meeting of the Druze community, where she shared the vision of WFWP International as well as words of Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.





## THE WESTERN WALL – “KOTEL”

*By Irit Mirzaiev, President, WFWP Israel*



*The Western Wall, or Kotel (In Hebrew), is located on the western side of Temple Mountain in the Old City of Jerusalem. For centuries it has played a most prominent role in Jewish traditions, aspirations, and consciousness. Generation after generation of Jews dreamed of standing before the old stone wall, even for one time in their entire lives. Now, the Wall is open for visits 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and the cracks between the rectangular stones are crammed with wish papers.*

### **SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KOTEL**



When King Solomon built the First Holy Temple in 826 BCE, he wanted it to be the heart of the Jewish nation—a place where people would feel inspired to talk to God, a place where no one would feel alone. “Please, O God,” he besieged during the Temple’s inauguration, “Hear the prayers that are uttered in this place.”

Solomon’s prayers were answered, and God’s presence enlivened the Temple. The Second Temple, built 480 years later, was also home to God’s presence.



The midrash (Jewish biblical interpretation) says that “the Shechinah (the holy spirit) has never left the Western Wall” because the Holy of Holies was on the west side of the Temple. This is also the reason the Western Wall of the Temple was never destroyed.

When the Romans destroyed the Temple in 69 CE, this wall was not destroyed. And nearly two thousand years later, the wall still stands. Jews throughout the ages have visited the Western Wall to offer prayers at this holy location, because, as our sages taught, the Shechinah that was manifest in the Temple never departed. Furthermore, access to the holiest site in the world, the Temple Mount itself, is forbidden (to Jews) by Jewish law, because one can't enter the Temple site while in a state of ritual impurity. Thus the Western Wall constitutes the closest possible point to the “Gateway to Heaven.”

In the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Suleiman the Magnificent (Sultan of the Ottoman Empire) gave the Jews exclusive rights to worship at the Western Wall. The prayer area was small, closed off by a wall running parallel to the Western Wall and edged in by a slum area. It stayed that way until 1947.

In 1930, a British appointed commission

sanctioned by the League of Nations reaffirmed the Jews' right to pray at the Wall but severely limited the sort of religious objects that could be brought to the Wall and prohibited the blowing of the shofar (ritual horn blowing) at the site.

Between 1948 and 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule, and Jews were altogether banned from visiting the Wall. Israeli paratroopers liberated the Temple Mount on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1967, the third day of the Six-Day War, marking a rare, euphoric moment in our nation's history. A few weeks later, on the holiday of Shavuot, a quarter of a million Jews streamed to the Wall.

There is an age-old custom to write your wishes on a note, and insert it into one of the cracks in the wall. These notes that are crammed between the stones of the wall are small pieces of paper that people from various religions, nations, cultures, and ethnicities have written. They all come to the “Kotel” with a heart full of expectation for their prayers to be heard by God.

Let's pray for all the prayers to be united under our God.

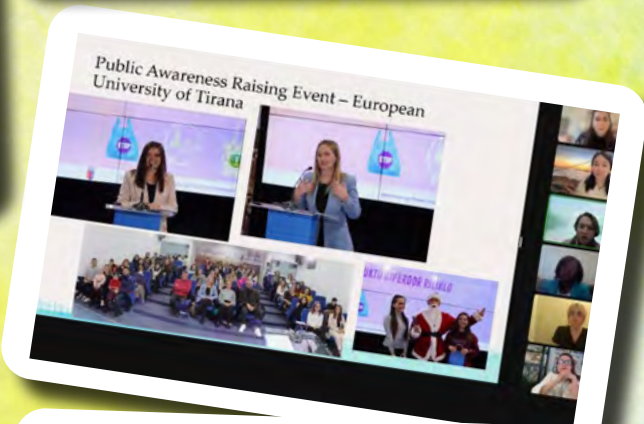
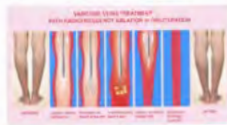


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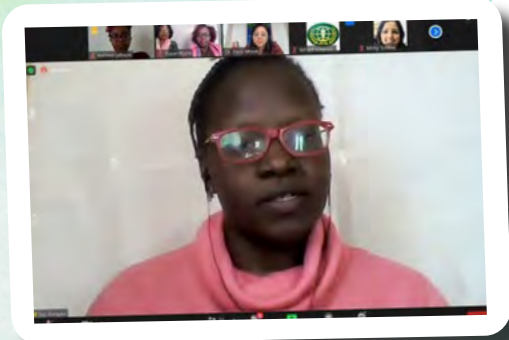
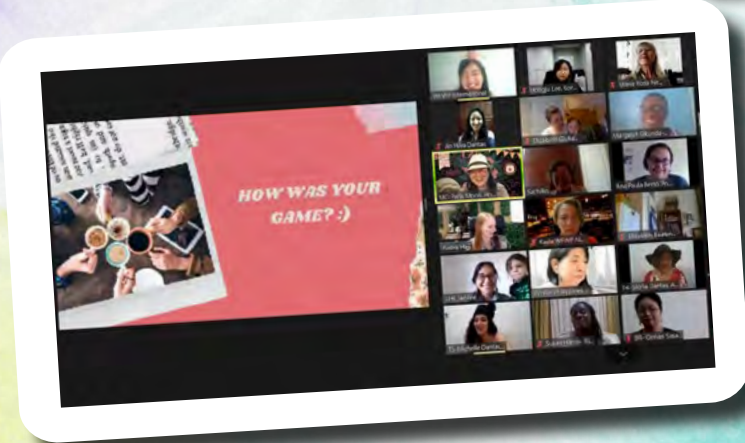


## Conservative therapy VS Surgical approach

- Endovenous laser ablation therapy
- Sclerotherapy (chemical ablation)



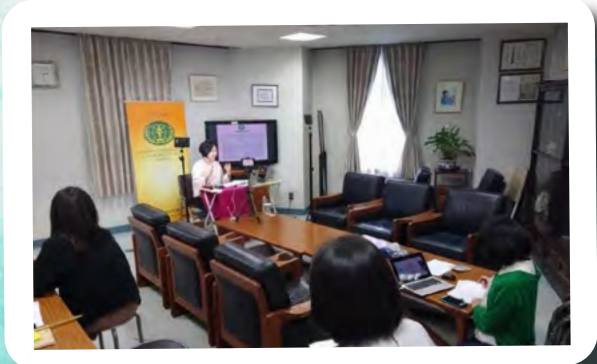
























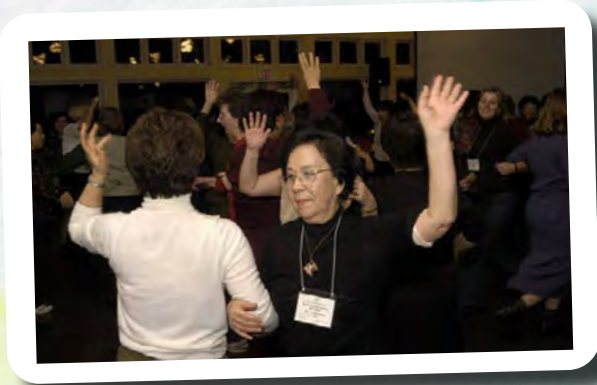
































# *Acknowledgement and Glossary*





# GLOSSARY

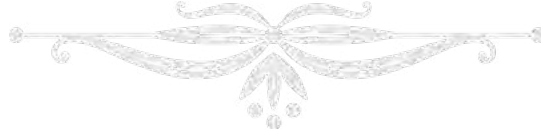
<b>AMR</b>	Annual Ministerial Review. Innovation Fair: A part of ECOSOC's High-Level Segment to advance and assess progress made in the implementation of the UN development agenda. The 1st innovation fair was held in Palais des Nations Geneva UN HQ in 2007.
<b>Bridge of Peace Ceremony</b>	WFPW's signature project developed as a means of reconciliation, an avenue for individuals of conflicting backgrounds to come together in forgiveness for the past with hope and determination for the future.
<b>ECOSOC</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council's one of the six principal organs of the UN, that serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the UN System.
<b>Father Moon</b>	Dr. Sun Myung Moon, Co-Founder of Women's Federation for World Peace International affectionately known as Father Moon.
<b>Giving for Good International</b>	The Women's Federation for World Peace International project that especially addresses SDG 13 which is "Climate Action."
<b>GWPN</b>	Global Women's Peace Network. An international network for women leaders and governments to solve pressing social issues and to secure an environment for equitable human development through peace leadership based on the feminine aspect of human nature.
<b>IAFLP</b>	International Association of First Ladies for Peace. A project of Universal Peace Federation's International Summit Council for Peace that affirms and uplifts the unique and essential role of First Ladies in contributing to peace and development.
<b>IWK</b>	International Women in Korea is WFPW Korea Chapter for foreign women leaders and members resident in Korea.
<b>Jamsil Olympic Stadium</b>	Also known as The Seoul Olympic Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium in Seoul, South Korea; the main stadium built for the 1988 Summer Olympics and the 10th Asian Games in 1986.
<b>Kumgang Mountains</b>	Also known as Mount Kumgang is a mountain range, with a 1,638-meter-high Birobong peak, in Kangwon-do, North Korea.
<b>MEW</b>	Middle East Women's Peace Conference. The Women's Federation for World Peace International annual conference that brings together women leaders from the Middle East region to discuss and promote future strategies to contribute to peace and a sustainable environment in the Middle East.
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals Eight international development goals for the year 2015 that had been established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000.

<b>Mother Moon</b>	Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-Founder of Women’s Federation for World Peace International affectionately known as Mother Moon or Mother of Peace.
<b>New Hope Technical Institute</b>	Technical vocational education and training school launched by WFPW Japan and located in Kigali, Rwanda.
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.
<b>The Korean War</b>	A war fought between North Korea and South Korea from 1950 to 1953.
<b>UN CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council described as the UN organ promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment.
<b>UN CCPCJ</b>	The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is an UN-sponsored congress on the topics of crime, crime prevention, and criminal justice, held every five years organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
<b>UN DPI</b>	Known as the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) is a department of the Secretariat of the UN to raise public awareness and support of the work of the UN through strategic communications campaigns, media, and relationships with civil society groups.
<b>WFWPI</b>	Women’s Federation for World Peace International, a women’s NGO with UN ECOSOC General Consultative status, founded in 1992 in South Korea.
<b>WFWP Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit</b>	A summit co-hosted by the First Lady and the Office of the President of the Republic of Palau, the Universal Peace Federation, and the Women’s Federation for World Peace International that took place in 2019 in Koror, Palau.
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit on Sustainable Development. A summit convened to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development and review the implementation of Agenda 21, the program of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Earth Summit).
<b>WFPA</b>	Women’s Federation for Peace in Asia. A women’s organization founded by Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1987 in Japan.
<b>WFWP Global Development and Aid-1% Love Share</b>	A project is a unique campaign to eradicate poverty by donating 1% of your income per month to those less fortunate around the globe, especially women and children.
<b>Yu Gwan Sun</b>	Died in 1920 at the age of 17 as a martyr for the Korean independence movement. Her bravery forged a sense of unity among Koreans, strengthening their resistance against Japanese occupation.



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# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## *Blueprint for the Future*

**W**elcome to the Women's Federation for World Peace 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book. As Editor-in-Chief of the WFWP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book, it is with profound pleasure and an honor to accept the role of overseeing this book, which encapsulates WFWP's precious history, our members' stories and our impact on society.

On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to extend a very warm welcome and invite you to read the "WFWP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book."

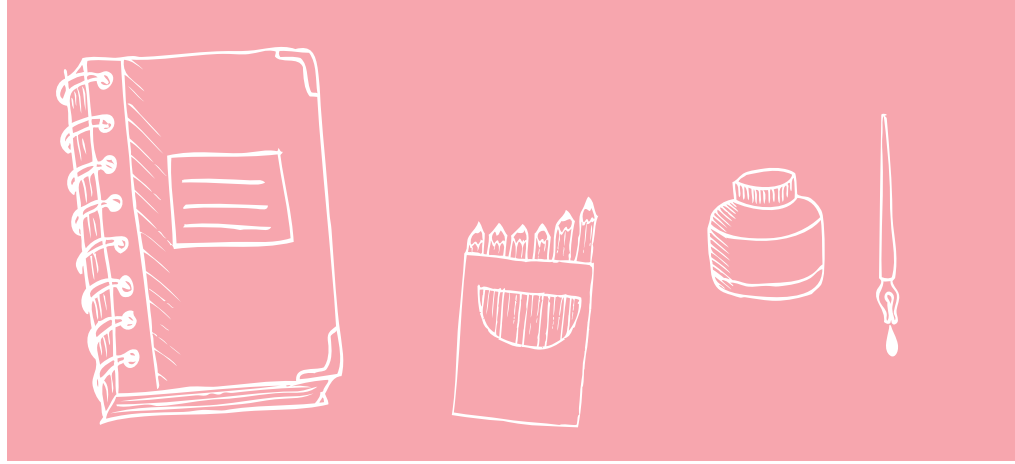
First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank WFWP Co-Founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon for giving all women guidance and support to become peace-builders.

I am grateful to Dr. Julia H. Moon for her unwavering dedication and service to WFWP. Her leadership moves the hearts of many women across the globe and she is our source of inspiration for publishing the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book.

I was appointed as the International Secretary General of WFWP by Dr. Julia H. Moon in July 2019. Since accepting this position, I took an in-depth dive into WFWP's remarkable work worldwide. In September 2021, I recruited the editorial team, collected articles and arranged virtual interviews and translations from various languages to English. During this time, we also created a fundraising campaign to raise funds for the expenses of the publication and to support our volunteers in many different countries. In this book, you can find the inspiring stories of WFWP activities and members' stories that strive to meet the UN Sustainable Development goals.

Many WFWP members, volunteers and leaders are doing amazing work and it is very exciting to be able to feature them as a part of WFWP's precious history. I'd like to also extend my gratitude to the individual article contributors, sponsors and anonymous reviewers, all of whom have volunteered to contribute to the success of this book. Although compiling WFWP's enormous global activities and members' stories over the last 30 years in one book was a tremendous and intimidating challenge, I am grateful and inspired by each of you for your honest and heartfelt stories.





At the founding of WFWP in Korea in 1992, WFWP Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon said, “Starting now, in this year of the woman, we must be the model movement of true love for the whole world. We must begin with ourselves and unify our minds and bodies and become vertically connected with God’s true love. We must then live for the sake of others to bring about love and understanding with those around us.”

30 years have passed since that day, but the voice of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon still resonates in our hearts. WFWP has since gone global and carried on this wisdom to every corner of the world. We believe that we can make our dreams a reality and strive every day, toward building a more sustainable and peaceful world.

Recent global circumstances have shown us that we cannot simply take world peace for granted. For the past 30 years, WFWP has been devoted to realizing this dream of improving the lives of the underprivileged and people in need. I hope you will join WFWP as we continue to serve the community with love, improve lives and consequently, build a more peaceful world.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank all the readers, contributors, editorial team, sponsors, members and volunteers for your invaluable support and contribution to WFWP.

With over 500 pages of love and investment, this book is our heartfelt tribute to you. I am certain that once you put this book down, you will feel inspired to achieve your dream.



**Dr. Paris Moon**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paris Moon'.

Editor-in-Chief, WFWP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book  
International Secretary General, WFWP International

# EDITORIAL TEAM

**Flavia Antonella Alves**



Born in Brazil and raised in Italy, is currently studying biology. She is passionate about real-life experiences; She considers herself a world discoverer and a student of life. She is working with words and foreign languages to convey valuable content out in the world that fascinates her. She believes that words can inspire, impact, and create a lasting memory. Hence, her interest in writing, translating, and editing.

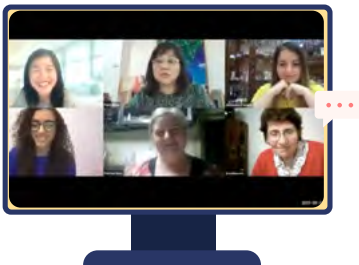
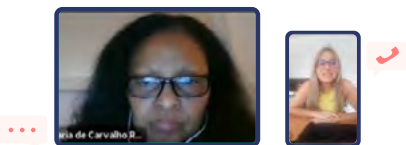
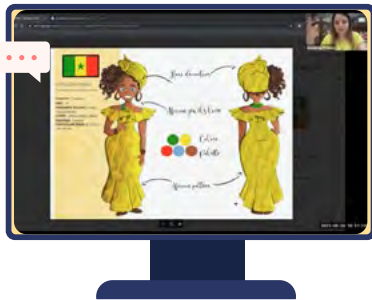
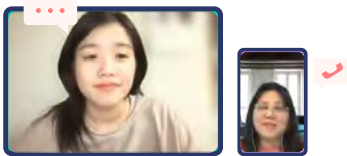
*I am pleased to have contributed to the realization of this project, and I sincerely hope it will touch the hearts of many. May this publication inspire new remarkable actions and lives.*

**Zoe Anne Nicolopoulos Bennett**



WFWP International Vice President for the Middle East. She has been involved in organizing the “Women’s Conference for Peace in the Middle East” for over 20 years. After studying psychology and Korean literature in France, she received her Ph.D. Koreanologist from Yonsei University in South Korea.

*After all, 30 years of activities involve many people! There was a synergy of ideas: modernity and traditionalism! What did we want? An attractive publication to make new friends, or an account of the rich achievements of a 30 years old Organization created to highlight the True Woman, advocate for women’s value, educate for happy families and heal the society. Having been with WFWP from the very beginning of its creation, it was nostalgic recalling its inauguration, its development in my country, Greece, and the character it took when our numerous Japanese members spread around the world to inspire and assist the different societies. It was pleasant helping the preparation of the book to listen and express many ideas and opinions. Many thanks to everyone!*





## Avelina Ferraz



Academic translator working as an editor and executive producer of multidisciplinary cultural events, promoting literature, interculturality, and multiculturalism in Portugal and the other Countries of Lusophony. She is the curator of the Maria Barroso Prize, Journalism at the Service of Peace and Development, Curator of the Germano's Silva Literary Prize, Rotary Clube of Penafiel, and the Guerra Junqueiro's Literary Prize. In 2020 she won the Women Poets International Prize, organized by the Circle of Mozambican Writers in the Diaspora.

## Patricia Hess



WFWP member living in Korea, where she worked as an English teacher for ten years. She majored in psychology and interdisciplinary studies at Sul Ross University in the USA and received a certificate in TESOL from Seattle Pacific University. Originally interested in the environment and agriculture, as well as future food security, she was encouraged by the WFWP Founders' words to "feed people physically and spiritually," and now owns a farm to raise rabbits for food.

## Laura Hornbeck



Laura Andrews Hornbeck has a B.A. in English with a teaching certificate from the University of North Texas. She has worked as a writer and editor for many years. She served as director of the local public library for two years, and later taught adult basic education. She and her husband, Larry, have two adult sons and two precious grandsons. They live in the countryside of northeast Texas.



## Laura Laycock



Graduated from the University of Edinburgh and wanting to pursue a career in policy with a particular interest in female empowerment and gender equality, reached out to WFWP to apply for an internship position. She subsequently completed a two-month internship role with the WFWP UN team in Vienna, getting involved with global NGO committee meetings as well as completing her own research essay on gender-based violence in South Africa.

*Contributing to WFWP International's 30<sup>th</sup>-anniversary book was a great opportunity to further enhance my internship both with the Vienna office and with the international team as a whole. It was great to learn more about the work of the WFWP and the positive impact they are having; helping to convey this more broadly through my pieces on the United Nations sustainable development goals as well as the Colour My Heart with Peace project. It was empowering to work as part of a team from around the world working together for female empowerment and a peaceful world more broadly.*

## Donna Martijn



British Guyanese living in the Netherlands who runs a company, "Donna's Workshops Baking and Cooking," where she tutors elementary school students. In South Korea, she worked as a saleswoman at the Segye Ilbo Newspaper and woman leader of the International Witness Team. She is also the founder of the "Concerned People Initiative." She is married and has one daughter.

## Paris Moon



Paris has worked for various international companies and her primary responsibilities included mergers and acquisitions, HR common benefits, and strategic workforce planning. In cultural and public affairs, she has worked closely with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in South Korea to promote Korean culture in Hong Kong since 2007, and has served as an external examiner for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council since 2011. From 2019 to 2021, Paris served as President of the Korean Women's International Network in Hong Kong. Paris obtained her doctorate degree in Arts and Cultural Management from Middlesex University, UK. She has served as President of WFWP in Hong Kong and is currently the International Secretary General of WFWP International.



## Mie Noguchi



Freelance technical translator contributing to major foreign-affiliated recruiting companies. She studied at the University's Faculty of International Sociology and also completed a Global Career Training Course. She studied abroad in Canada and Ireland and successfully completed her courses at the University of Limerick. She served as the head of a cram school for students in Nagoya, Japan. In addition to her work, she volunteers as a photographer and studio designer for bridal and family photography.

*I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to WFWP on its 30th anniversary. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be a part of this amazing history as its editor. This anniversary book contains the great efforts and unconditional love that many women have poured into their activities around the world. We hope it will reach the hearts of our readers, directing them to look for peace in the world. I wish for WFWP's continued success in the future.*

## Cindy Pfeiffer



Cindy Pfeiffer is the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) Regional Coordinator for North America.

She was a substitute teacher teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN public schools.

She has edited publications and educational materials for related organizations. She also ran for state representative in 2010 and 2014, winning 44-46% of the vote.

Currently, she is an office manager handling a temporary placement agency placed in approximately twenty-six businesses, helping with peak workloads.

## Marta Maria de Carvalho Rodrigues



President of WFWP Portugal, who has developed and organized various events and projects on women's empowerment and networking at the national and regional levels. She is also currently working as a lawyer in Lisbon. She was the first recipient of the "African Woman Entrepreneur in the Diaspora Award" in the category of "Peace Lawyer."

*As WFWP Portugal was officially launched in 1993, I thought our chapter would have a lot to contribute to the book. Motivated by the Organization's worldwide activities that deserve unprecedented historical registration and a special treat to honor our beloved Founder, this project was an excellent way to commemorate her prayers, tears, journeys, words, sacrifices, fatigue, and love. Dr. Moon is a Valuable Woman of Human History, chosen by God to bring the key to liberate, praise, and restore the women into their original value. Fully aware of the value this book would give to Dr. Moon, I took advantage of the opportunity God gave me to put a little breath and gratitude for the Founder's Heart. Thank you, Mother Moon, for being our Master!*



## Tamara Starr



Multimedia journalist and UX/UI Designer who has been a volunteer for WFWP for over ten years. She is currently the Chairwoman for WFWP in Albany, NY, Senior Business Analyst and UX/UI Designer for UnitedHealth Group, and Publisher/Editor for Emperial Samaritan in New York. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children at home or even going to music festivals as a family.

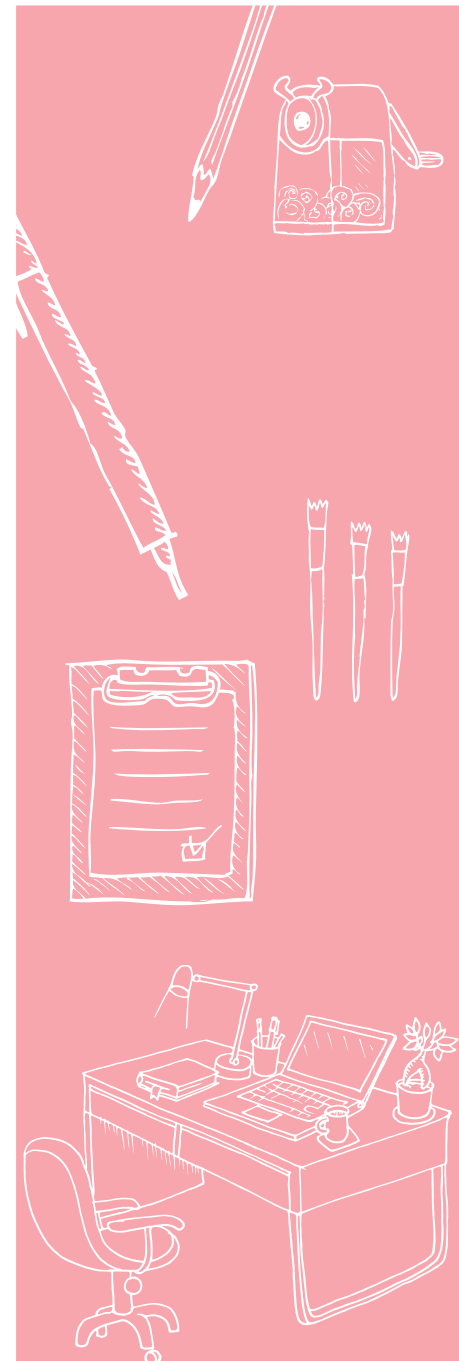
*WFWP has always been an organization that I have admired, ever since I was a little girl at its formation. So, I will forever be grateful to receive this chance to not only speak with former and current leaders but to also help document their journeys. These amazing women were able to break down so many barriers and accomplish what was considered by others as “impossible.” I know that the pioneering spirit of these women will continue to live through every person and every young girl who reads their stories.*

## Yu Sato



Member of the Youth Department of WFWP Japan Headquarters and is responsible for public relations. She has been involved with WFWP after participating in volunteer activities in Cambodia in 2011. She graduated from MGU in 2018 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Global and Transcultural Studies. While in school, she studied and interned in the U.S. for a year, majoring in hospitality. She enjoys contributing to WFWP with her positive attitude and tireless energy.

*Working on this commemorative booklet has given me a better understanding of why WFWP has sustained itself for 30 years. We can clearly see how the founders set our philosophy, how predecessors kept and passed on their will and the efforts of the members who put their heart and soul into solving various problems all over the world. It was a very valuable opportunity for young staff like myself to reflect on the roots of WFWP, and to be inspired to contribute to world peace. I am so thankful to have been a member of the editorial team.*



## Mion Tsuchiaka



International Administrator of the Women's Federation for World Peace, International. After graduating from the Universal Peace Academy in Korea as a First Badge cadet, she was dispatched to WFWP in Korea, where she used her extensive language skills to support international affairs. She has been involved in many activities throughout her life, including youth movement development in Brazil, Russia, and Japan, interpreting at various global conferences, and teaching Russian and other languages to future leaders. Her dream is to one day complete her bucket list, which includes round-the-world-trip and contribute to the realization of world peace.

*A woman of peace knows how and what "battles to fight" to create a sustainable and peaceful world together for present and future generations. This book is a "treasure box" with life stories of mothers and sisters who, with absolute faith, loving hearts and wise leadership, have changed the lives of millions of people in every corner of the world. I believe that this book will remain one of the major chronicles of the amazing journeys of all those involved with WFWP.*

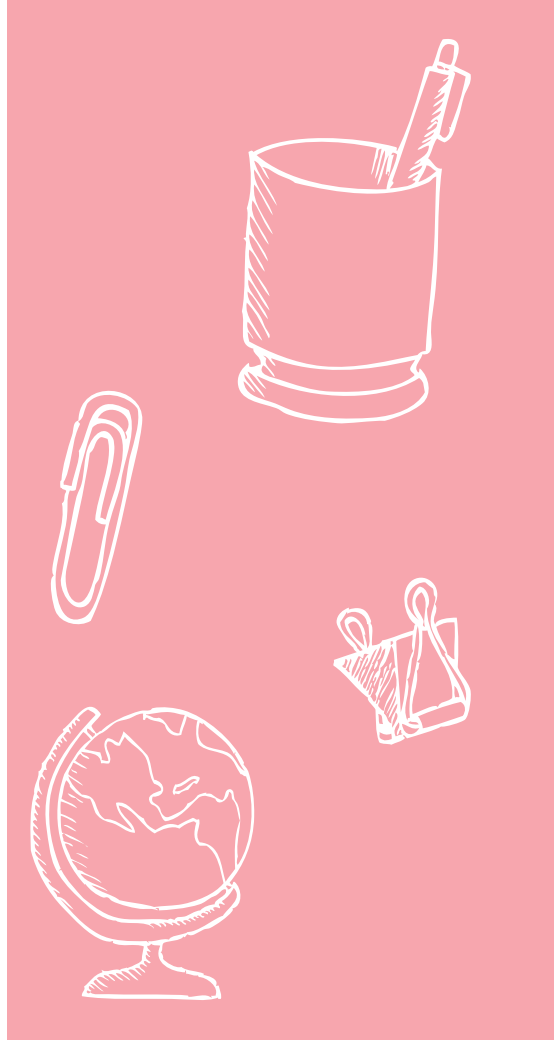
## Youngsoon Quinn



Administrator in American Clergy Leadership Conference. She began her journey into the WFWPI when she started becoming a paying membership to WFWPI as a student member back in 2012 in her college days. When she entered the Unification Theological Seminary in New York in 2013.

She was presented a life-changing opportunity to become a WFWP UN Office DPI NGO Intern from 2014-2015 in New York. Later when she graduated she interned with the WFWPI in Korea from 2015 to 2017. She said that she felt so nostalgic and grateful to the WFWPI as she worked through the 30<sup>th</sup> WFWP Anniversary magazine, and can only be in awe as it continues growing and making an impact on the world. She also appreciates WFWPI and all a part of it for raising her in so many ways and for always exemplifying a mother's heart, wherever they go with all that they do.

She currently works for the ACLC but keeps a weathered eye on WFWPI from time to time.



# CONTRIBUTORS

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

*We take the pleasure of congratulating WFWP International on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to wish the WFWP International continuous prosperity in the year to come!*



*Dr. Tsai Hsueh-Ni, Chairman,  
Tsai Hsueh-Ni Charity Foundation, Taipei*

*Ms. Winnie Chao, Vice Chairman,  
Tsai Hsueh-Ni Charity Foundation, Taiwan*





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*30th Anniversary*

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# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on  
the monumental  
occasion.

Wishing many  
more successes in  
the future.

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day fabulous.

In Memory of  
Hyun Sook Choi  
&  
Eum Sun Jang





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May this journey of WFWP success continue in the coming years. Wishing you and your excellent members and volunteers a happy 30th anniversary!

Dr. Yejeong Kim  
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

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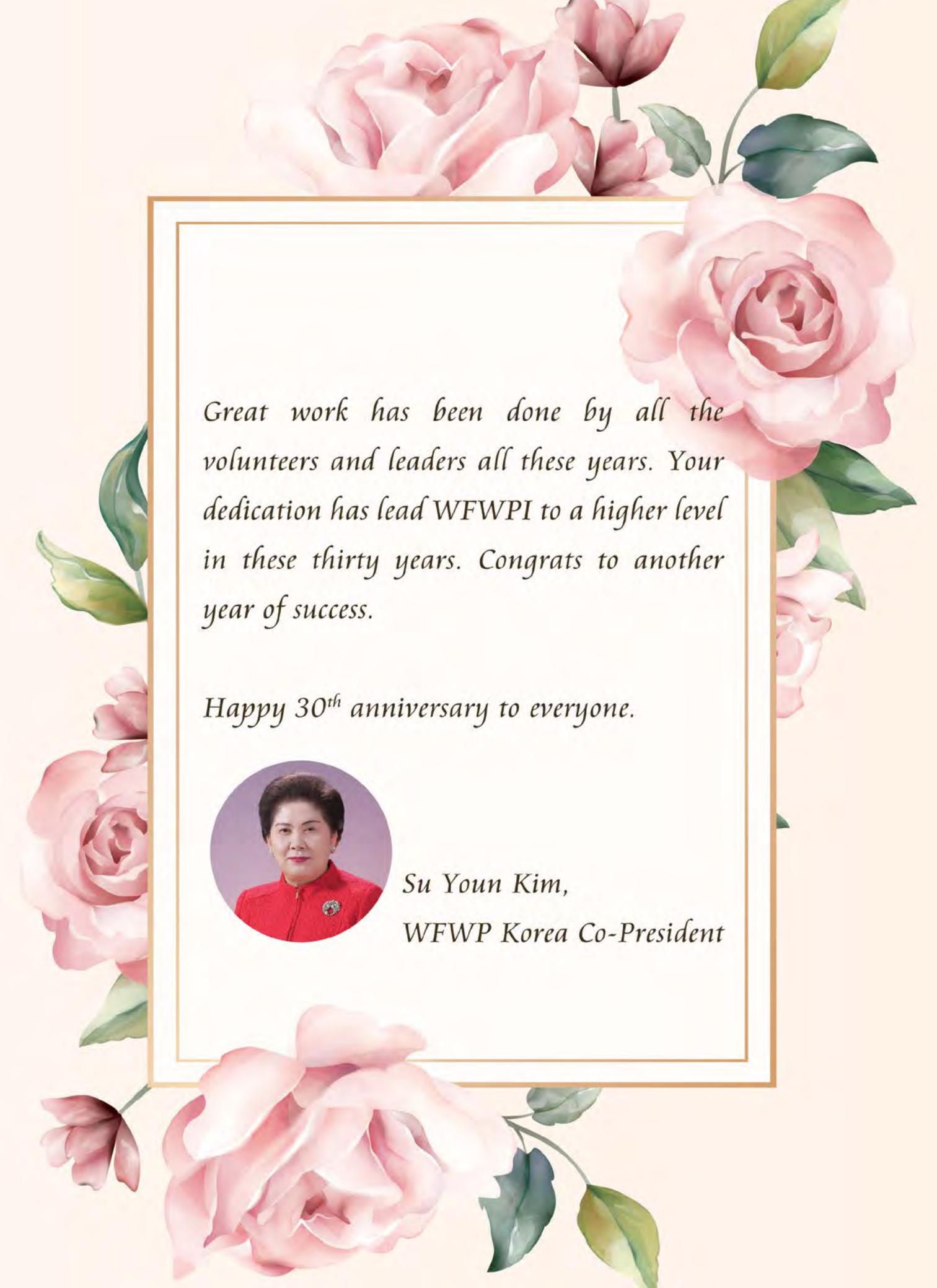
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The image features a decorative border of pink roses and green leaves. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The leaves are dark green with visible veins. The background is a light, warm tone. A central white rectangular area with a thin gold border contains the text.

*Great work has been done by all the volunteers and leaders all these years. Your dedication has lead WFWPI to a higher level in these thirty years. Congrats to another year of success.*

*Happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to everyone.*



*Su Youn Kim,  
WFWP Korea Co-President*

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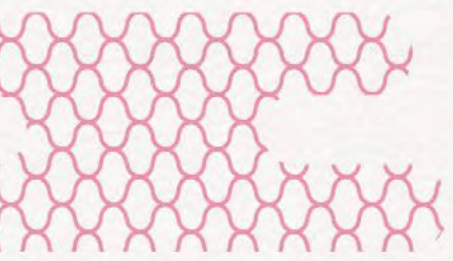




**Congratulations!**

Women's Federation for World Peace  
**30th Anniversary**

Sun Hak Educational Foundation





# 비슷한 것이라면 세상에 선보이지 않았을 것입니다

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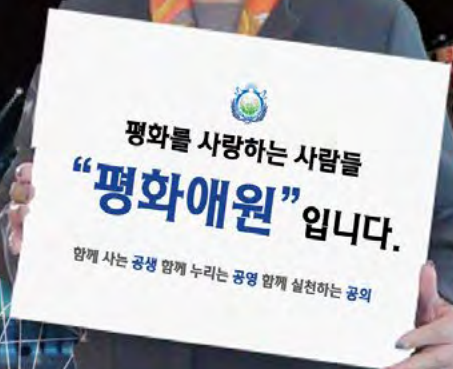




# 공생·공영·공의의 신통일한국 평화의 여정은 계속됩니다.

## 세계평화여성연합 30주년을 진심으로 축하합니다

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# WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE CANADA



## *Congratulations*

**We offer our sincere congratulations to Mother Moon upon the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace.**

**WFWP Canada is committed to inspiring and empowering women with a heart of compassion, love, service and sacrifice, to realize one global family of Peace under God, our Creator.**

**WWW.WFWP.CA**





**Congratulations to WFWP on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. WFWP-Taiwan expresses our sincere gratitude and respect to our founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and every leader and member.**

**Best wishes for WFWP to create another 30 excellent years.**







**WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE USA**

# **LIVING BY** *The Logic of Love*

We honor and congratulate Mother Moon on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Women's Federation for World Peace!

We will continue to invest our motherly hearts of compassion, love, service, and sacrifice, to realize a culture of peace under God here in the United States and beyond.



(212) 302-8837



[www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us)



[info@wfwp.us](mailto:info@wfwp.us)





# WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE USA Northeast Region

## *Congratulations!*

TO DR. HAK JA HAN MOON, THE  
MOTHER OF PEACE, FOR THE  
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WFWP.

From all the WFWP Chairwomen and  
chapter leaders, WFWP members, friends,  
volunteers, and supporters in the  
Northeast of the USA.



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# WFWPI Offices for UN Relations

New York - Geneva - Vienna

On this special occasion of WFWPI's 30th Anniversary, the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations would like to congratulate and express profound gratitude to our Co-founders, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon & Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon as well as President Julia Moon.

We recognize the invaluable contribution of the WFWP pioneers, leaders, and volunteers worldwide. It is thanks to the foundation laid by those who came before us that we can have this sacred peace mission to support the UN in encouraging global peace and cooperation.

May our Heavenly Parent continue to bless our endeavors moving forward, with success.

*- Carolyn Handschin, Merly Barlaan, Maria Riehl*



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**WE HOPE WFWPI CONTINUES  
TO THRIVE IN ITS ENDEAVORS  
FOR PEACE.**

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Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of

Women's Federation for World Peace

Let's achieve world peace

TOGETHER !

Fukuoka 1st and 2nd District Federation of WFWP Japan



Volunteer harvesting persimmons to support areas affected by heavy rain disasters.





Congratulations  
on the 30th  
Anniversary!



Osaka 10th District Federation  
of WFWP Japan  
大阪第10連合会



*Refuse,*  
*Must in Japan*



# Congratulations 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WFP



*Mother's country, Japan      Mother's heart, Tokyo*  
*Mother's wind from all of Tokyo's District Federations*



*We will continue to make sincere effort  
 and move forward to build a world of peace.*

## < 18 Countries supported by the 18 District Federations of Tokyo >

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Tokyo 12		Nepal		
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- Support for Secondary Education
- Support for Literacy Classes
- Construction and Management of Vocational Training School
- Producing Art Teachers
- Character Education and Moral Education
- AIDS Prevention Education
- Hygiene Instruction
- Medical support

# 立山連峰

WFWP

富山第1連合会







世界平和女性連合  
WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE JAPAN  
国連NGO

## TOYAMA 2nd District Federation of WFWP Japan



Clean up activities



Send household goods to TOHOKU and EQUATORIAL GUINEA



Folk dance



Japanese Speech contest for foreign students



Magazine friend Meeting

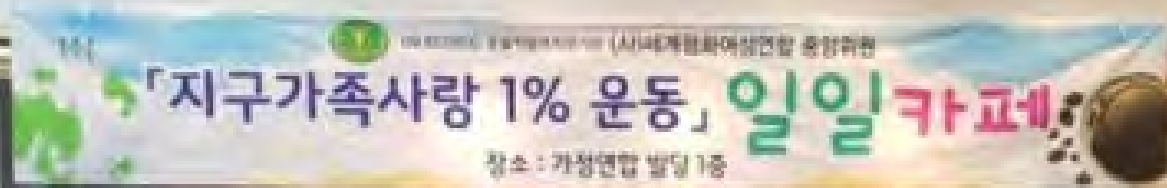


Women's conference for peace in the Middle East Visit and support for EQUATORIAL GUINEA and TOHOKU



We are supporting all activities with mother's love.





# Women's Federation for World Peace, Korea Central Committee

The Central Committee was inaugurated by the members who graduated from the 21st Century Women Leaders' Training Courses held by WFWP Korea. The members have been educating local women leaders through special lectures, academies, and overseas volunteer activities. In addition, they are participating in the activities such as the 1% Love Share Project, one-day teahouses, bazaars, volunteer services, etc to support overseas relief activities.





# School Building Projects of WFP-Nepal

## “School of Hope”



**Shree Balrampur  
Secondary School**



**Shree Jageshwor Higher  
Secondary School**



**Shree Rastriya  
Secondary School**



**Mrs. Lisa Lin,  
Charity Advisor  
WFP-Asia**



**WFP-International**



**WFP-Korea**



**Rupandehi district,  
Lumbini Nepal**



**Borlang, Gorkha Nepal**



**Municipality-4,  
Birendra Bazar,  
Dhanusha Nepal**





**WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE USA**  
Southeast Region

# CONGRATULATIONS!

To Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, for  
the 30th Anniversary of WFWP!



Global Women's Peace Network Conference

Leadership of the Heart Seminar



GWPN Forum - Resilience in the Pandemic



National Day of Service - DC



FROM ALL THE WFWP CHAIRWOMEN AND  
CHAPTER LEADERS, WFWP MEMBERS,  
FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS  
IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE USA!

[www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us)





**WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE USA**  
**Midwest Region**



Global Women's Peace Network Conference



*Congratulations!*

**To Dr. Hak Ja Han  
Moon, the Mother of  
Peace, for the 30th  
Anniversary of  
WFWP!**



International Bridge of Peace

**From all the WFWP Chairwomen and chapter  
leaders, WFWP members, friends, volunteers, and  
supporters in the Midwest Region of the USA!**



Backbacks for Kids in Need



Leadership of the Heart Hybrid Seminar







WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE USA  
Southwest Region

*Congratulations!*

To Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, for the 30th Anniversary of WFWP!

From all the WFWP Chairwomen and chapter leaders, WFWP members, friends, volunteers, and supporters in the Southwest Region of the USA!



Global Women's Peace Network Conference



Radio Show - Mother-Daughter Relationships



International Women's Celebration



Anniversary Celebration & Bridge of Peace



[WWW.WFWP.US](http://WWW.WFWP.US)





Global Women's Peace Network Conference



Global Women's Peace Network Conference



Leadership of the Heart Seminar



WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE USA  
Western Region

# CONGRATULATIONS!

To Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, for the  
30th Anniversary of WFWP.

From all the WFWP Chairwomen and chapter leaders, WFWP  
members, friends, volunteers, and supporters in the Western Region  
of the USA!

[WWW.WFWP.US](http://WWW.WFWP.US)



Global Women's Peace Network Conference



Schools of Africa Fundraiser



Women's Leadership Retreat





# Global Women's Peace Network USA

Global Women of North America thank and congratulate Mother Moon on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of WFWP International and the 10th Anniversary of the GWPN!  
We will expand this Global Network of professionalism and heart in the years to come!

Kamsahamnida! Saranghamnida!

[www.gwpn.us](http://www.gwpn.us)



Northeast Regional Launch - November 2018



West Regional Launch - April 2019



Southwest Regional Launch - June 2019



Midwest Regional Launch - October 2019



Southeast Regional Launch - November 2019



# WFWP 祝30周年

Gunma 1st District Federation  
群馬第一連合会



International Students Exchange Gathering in Autumn  
Pear picking



Spring Gatherings



Making masks to send  
to elementary schools in Laos



Bazaar to Support Laos at a nursing home



International Students Exchange Gathering  
Christmas party



Pastel Art Volunteer at a nursing home



At the branch manager's house  
Bazaar to Support Local Children's Cafeteria & Laos

## WFWP Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Naoko Muto  
武藤直子

Chieko Yokoyama  
横山千恵子

Toshihide Ueda  
植田俊秀

Yuko Yanagida  
柳田優子

Toshiaki Ishihara  
石原敏明

Yukari Kakugawa  
角河ゆかり

Yoko Ishihara  
石原洋子

Mariko Oguchi  
小口まり子



# Happy 30th Anniversary

創立30周年おめでとうございます

창립 30주년 축하합니다



OSAKA 3rd District  
Federation of WFWP Japan  
WFJPJAPAN大阪第三連合会  
06-6767-9992  
大阪市中央区安堂寺町1-3-13-4F





## Your generous support enables us to provide women and families the opportunities they need to thrive.

WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and well-being for future generations.

Together we can continue to empower women with the knowledge, skills, and supportive community to discover their unique value and bring lasting peace.



Choose amount ⌵ ● ○ ○ →

One-time  Monthly

\$ 15	\$ 25	\$ 50
\$ 100	\$ 250	\$ 500

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WFWPI International is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax-deductible.





WFWP 創立30周年

おめでとうございます！

Congratulations on Your 30th anniversary

一般社団法人 ロイヤルヘルス協会  
エクシアの森

General incorporated association  
Royal Health Association Exia Forest

美と健康に寄り添う



**My Family**



エステ・居宅介護支援・訪問介護事業所

有限会社 マイファミリー

〒558-0032

大阪市住吉区遠里小野6-17-23

Tel.06-6606-7118 Fax 06-6696-5171



# Costa Rica Character Education Project



HP:WFWP Costa Rica  
<http://eradelamujer.org/>

NOBUMI SHIRATORI  
MIKA KITA  
MUTSUMI OTA  
SETSUE HAMANO  
YUMI MASAKI  
ERIKO INADA



**プロジェクト支援のお願い**  
口座名：コスタリカを支援する会  
郵便振込：記号 14360 番号 89973111



## Aichi 3rd District Federation of WFWP Japan

Inuyama Castle, a national treasure, was built in the Muromachi period (1537) on top of a small mountain by the Kiso River. The castle tower is the oldest existing architect in Japan.

**Our Mission Countries are Myanmar, Peru, and Belize.**

- Charity Concerts
- International Exchange "Tea Party" with foreign students
- Spring Gathering
- Japanese Speech Contest for Female Foreign Students in Western Aichi
- Youth Department Zoom Lectures
- Ikkanbari Traditional Basket Making Workshop
- Volunteer Cleanup Activities "Smiles"



International Exchange "Tea Party" with 6 foreign students to introduce Japanese culture.

\* Japanese Speech Contest



All participants stood up and got excited at the Charity Concert.

\* All proceeds from the sale of the bags are donated to charity.





**WFWP創立30周年**  
**おめでとうございます！**  
Congratulations on Your 30th anniversary  
**青森第3連合会**  
Aomori 3rd District Federation of WFP Japan

十和田現代美術館  
Towada Art Center



Ehime District Federation of WFP Japan 世界平和女性連合 愛媛県連合会



Happy  
30th  
Anniversary



Fukuokakita, WFWP Japan

福岡北連合会



*You all deserve a giant  
round of applause for all of  
your laborious works and  
unconditional dedication.*

*Congratulations to you for  
being part of the journey!  
Happy anniversary!*

*WFWP Hong Kong*





2022.04.10

すべての人が  
幸せに生活できる  
文化創り。

*Creating a culture in which  
all people can live happily*

WFWP JAPAN HIROSHIMA



Kobe City

Hyogo 2nd District  
Federation of WFWP  
Japan





# Hyogo 8th District Federation of WFWP Japan

Famous places of our town



Kosien stadium

Highschool baseball teams play championship tournaments here.



Amagasaki castle

New castle built in 2019 is a symbol of Amagasaki city now.



Revue of Takarazuka are very beautiful.



Our Members



International peace day's symposium



兵庫第10連合会  
Hyogo 10





世界遺産

# 姫路城

World heritage Himeji Castle



WFWP兵庫第11連合会

Hyogo 11th District Federation of WFWP Japan



*Kenroku-en Garden*

CONGRATULATIONS  
WFWP'30TH ANNIVERSARY  
FROM WFWP ISHIKAWA JAPAN



世界平和女性連合香川第1連合会

# Kagawa 1st District Federation of WFWP JAPAN

世界の子どもたちに夢を

赤道ギニアとケニアの子どもたちの学校を支援しています

**Dreams for children all over the world**  
**We support the schools of children in**  
**Equatorial Guinea and Kenya**

1728-1 Takamatsu-cho,  
Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture,  
761-4010 Japan  
TEL/FAX:087-813-8660

瀬戸内海に浮かぶ源平合戦の地・屋島  
The place of the Genpei War floating  
in the Seto Inland Sea · Yashima



Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
長野第三連合会  
Nagano 3rd District  
Federation of WFWP Japan





# Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the WFWP

## Niigata 3rd Federation of Japan



女性の協調と融和の心が、  
新たな世界に輝きますように…

WFWP JAPAN OKAYAMA

*May the spirit of cooperation and harmony  
of women shine in the new world*



# WFWP沖縄第1連合会

Okinawa 1th District Federation of WFWP Japan

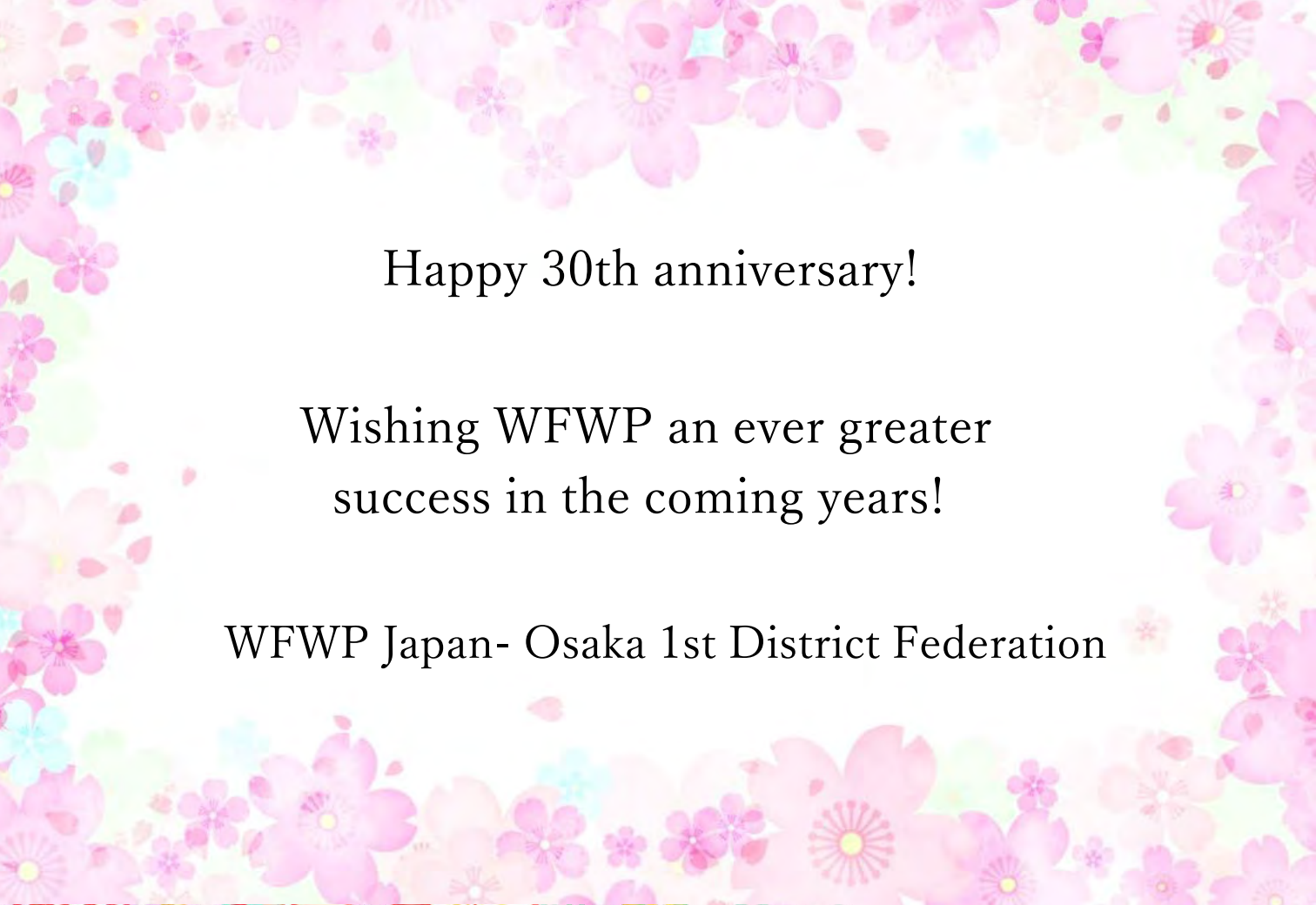


沖縄第3連合会

*Congratulations on  
the 30th Anniversary!*

Okinawa 3rd  
District Federation of WFWP Japan





Happy 30th anniversary!

Wishing WFWP an ever greater  
success in the coming years!

WFWP Japan- Osaka 1st District Federation



Congratulations and Best wishes  
for the 30th Anniversary

世界平和女性連合 大阪第2連合会

Osaka 2<sup>nd</sup> District Federation of

WFWP Japan



*Congratulations and Best wishes for  
the 30th Anniversary*  
창립 30주년 축하합니다

Osaka 4th District Federation of  
WFWP Japan



Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary.  
Wishing more success in the upcoming future.

Osaka 12th District Federation of WFWP Japan



大阪第13連合会

*Congratulations on  
the 30th Anniversary!*

*Osaka 13th  
District Federation of WFWP Japan*

Happy  
30th  
Anniversary!

Osaka 15th  
District Federation of  
WFWP Japan

大阪第15連合会





Happy 30th Anniversary



Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary  
Wishing more success in the upcoming future

Osaka 17th District Federation of WFWP Japan


For World Peace  
from the beautiful Lake Biwa



滋賀第1連合会

Shiga 1st District Federation of WFWP Japan






Congratulations on your 30th anniversary.

We wish you more success in the future.

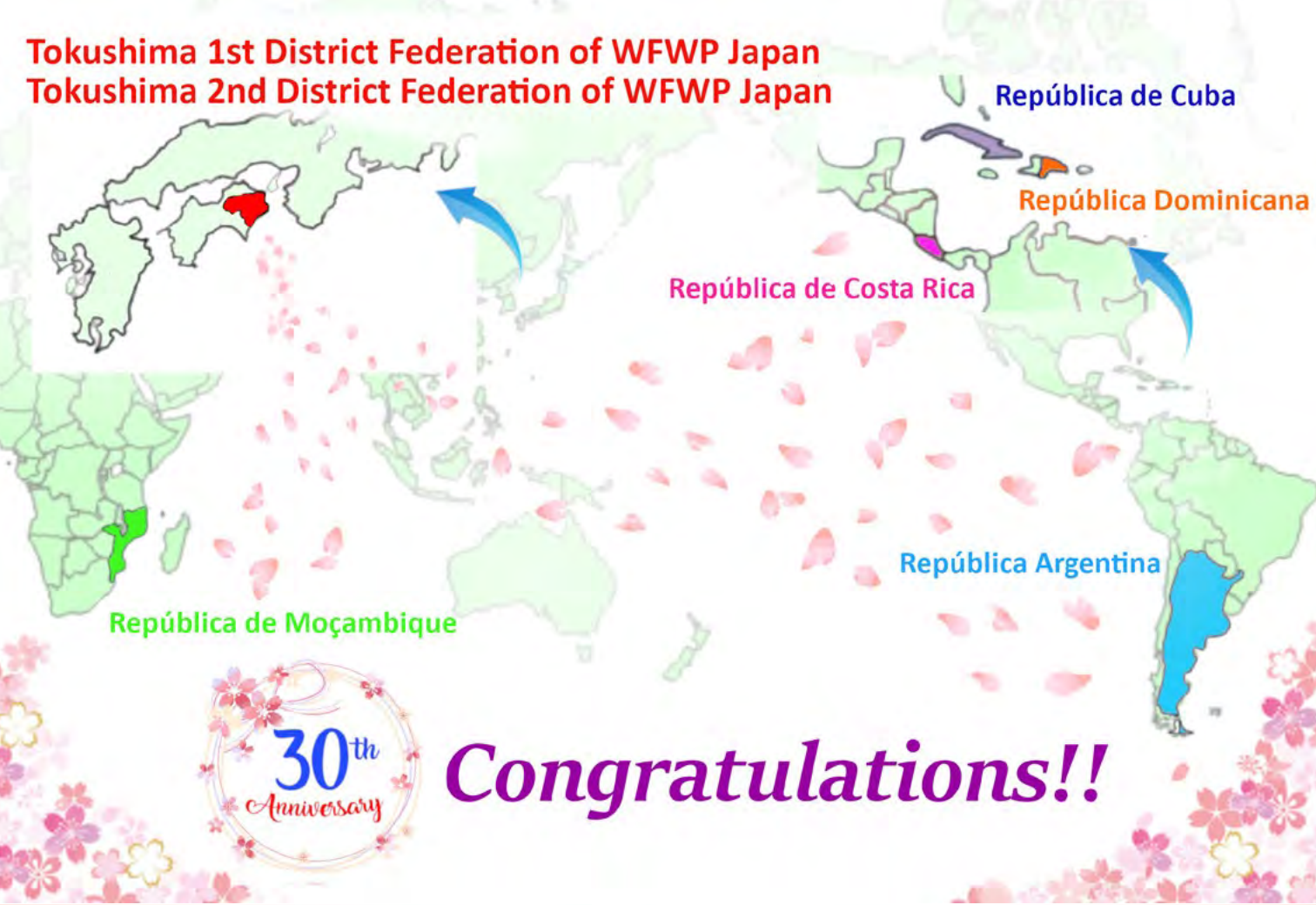
Shiga 2nd District Federation of WFWP Japan



***Congratulations on  
30th anniversary  
of  
the founding of WFWP.J  
from  
WFWPtochigi1***

祝  
WFWP創立30周年記念  
栃木第一連合会一同

Tokushima 1st District Federation of WFWP Japan  
Tokushima 2nd District Federation of WFWP Japan



***Congratulations!!***

The world is one family.  
Let's expand the circle of love



WFWP JAPAN YAMAGUCHI





The articles from the Women's Federation for World Peace International 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary book were prepared or accomplished by individual contributors in her personal capacity. The opinions expressed in each articles are the publisher's own and do not reflect the view of the Women's Federation for World Peace International.

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