



Women's Federation for World Peace

Australian Newsletter 1/2014



From the National Office

Recently I was speaking with a local councilor who shared a story about the importance of family and how ones upbringing influences how we raise our children. In essence, the skills we do not learn as children need to be learnt as adults when we have our own children, otherwise the same pattern is repeated in our own families. Often people seek counseling; attend marriage guidance seminars or self-awareness and healing sessions to re-learn relationship skills the correct way. The councilor totally agreed with me that peace begins in oneself and one's family; that women have an essential role in peace building within society due to their role as mothers; guiding and instilling values in the hearts of the next generation. One key value is the way that men respect and value the role of women in society. Mother's do not 'seem' to be valued; there is little support to stay home and raise young children, however, the government will subsidise you to return to work when you let someone else raise your children in a day care facility. Victoria hosted a WFWP in the Country mini-conference in December. A mind-map session amongst the participants asked the question: "what is important to women in Australia today?" Every group had family violence in their list of concerns. This year's International Women's Day has as its theme: A promise is a promise - Time for action to end violence against women. WFWP chapter activities focus on empowering women with skills and knowledge within a supportive community to experience their value and transfer this on. Come and discover how we can support you.

Anne Bellavance
President WFWP, Australia

Her Story - reflections from the field

As a young girl I often said "there is no equality for women until all women on this planet are free". Being invited to join WFWP late last year felt like I had been waiting all my life. This opportunity is surely why I am here on this planet, besides being a mother and a community worker, to be invited to join others to work towards world peace is surely the greatest honour of all.

Last year, at a forum for community workers in Victoria, I met a beautiful woman after I approached her to say I recognised her face. I then looked at her badge and saw she was from WFWP, I said "No, I recognise your spirit; I don't think we've ever met in person". It was to be a moment that changed my life.

I am a Community Development worker and Manager of Mornington Community Information & Support Centre. I am dedicated to helping to break the cycle of poverty with people experiencing generational poverty here in Australia. I mainly work with white Australians. No colour or diversity may sound bland but poverty is here too. Empowering people in poverty is the only way to help change their cycle. I work against government policies that make people feel they are to blame for their situation.

Now, only 6 months after meeting Anne, I am heading to Jerusalem and Amman to an International Peace Conference.

Lisa Elliott,
Manager,
Mornington Community Information & Support Centre, Victoria

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The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



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

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon
Founder, WFWP International

Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania

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

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

*S*hine & stand up

*A*ction; starting in the family

*T*ransformation through teaching

*I*mpact with love

*N*urture self & others

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

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

Aims & Activities



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

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

Victoria

WFWP in the Country – Yea mini conference

(Dec. 1st 2013)

After a beautiful drive through the King Lake Ranges we arrived at the country town of Yea. Our final destination was the Community Centre; where we were welcomed to a smorgasbord lunch, giving us ample opportunity for introductions and discussion.

WFWP Australia president, Anne Bellavance introduced the program for the afternoon and spoke with the women leaders about the activities of WFWP in Australia and Internationally. Anne explained the philosophy behind WFWP; that leadership is a partnership between men and women, together having equal value, position and opportunity.

WFWP Victoria launched the Island Lights & Water project during the afternoon mini-conference and called for donations during our 1st fundraiser for this new project. We raised \$330; not bad for a small group.



paper sheets were collected & placed on the wall to create a whole group feedback report. The issues were collated to find the order of importance of each the issue; with family violence being the greatest concern, appearing in each group.



Penny Paxman introduced the concept of mind mapping to the participants as a tool to organise, summarise and visualise ideas. Penny then divided us into seven teams and armed each group with butcher paper and coloured pens.

Participant's feedback session after the group mind mapping.

The mind mapping session allowed participants to address the issues in the community and voice their concerns. The mind mapping focus was: what issues are important for Australian women today? Penny then asked each group to build their own mind map on this topic on the butcher paper.

After the team mind mapping session, the butcher



Penny Paxton (right) receiving flowers after her 'mind mapping' presentation.

The overall results from the feedback session were as follows: 'family violence' received 7 vote; 'finding a voice' received 4 votes; 'process of healing & health' received 3 votes; 'body image' received 2 votes; 'racism and family safety' received 2 votes; and, 'health & wellbeing received' 2 votes. The issues brought up during the mind mapping session will be used to plan future WFWP Victoria seminars & forums to help address these issues.

Following a well-deserved afternoon tea break, the final presentation was on the topic of 'Developing a Professional Image'. Anne Bellavance addressed the need to develop a professional image not only for a

person individually but also from the standpoint of developing an organisation's image.

The afternoon concluded with group discussion and participants expressing a desire to continue the exploration of the issues that are important to Australian women today.

Gay Sorjee (WFWP Victoria Community Development Officer) was instrumental in organising the Year Mini-conference. A big thank you to Gai's husband (Peter Scriven), who helped out with logistics during the afternoon.



Gay Sorjee (right) receiving flowers for all her efforts in the organisation of the day.

WFWP in the City & WFWP in the Hills

This summer, 'WFWP in the City' Her Story, featured Ms. Matha Haile, a pharmacist from Ethiopia telling her inspiring story; followed by Dianne Simboro giving a presentation on the 'Family'.



'WFWP in the Hills' invited Dr. Les Spencer again after many requests from participants of a previous WFWP seminar. Les is an expert on the healing ways of indigenous women who have experienced trauma. He shared the 'healing ways' with us and put us through activities to demonstrate the wisdom of indigenous women of the Pacific Rim.



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

Bridge of Peace Event

The 'Bridge of Peace' sisterhood event held by the Women's Federation of World Peace Victoria (WFWP) at the Clayton Theatre on Saturday February 22nd brought women and men of the community together for the afternoon. Councillor Bill Pontikis welcomed everyone and gave a moving testimony about the role of women in his life, especially his wife Barbara.



Features of the afternoon were: participants had the opportunity to write their peace messages on the wheel of a mandala in the foyer; the inspirational music ensemble "Heart and Soul" featuring Rev. Gloria Wallace and Geoff Nelson opened the celebration with their sacred music composed from the poetry of Rumi and Hafiz; the Gumar Sithard choir featuring Ajak Kwai, Ruth Kennedy, Susan Doel and Karen Berger sang with such beauty, moving our spirits and helped to create a beautiful atmosphere (Gumar Sithard means

women of the moon in Arabic); and, the finale of the afternoon were the 'Dances of Universal Peace', led by Rev. Gloria Grace Wallace.

Our guest speakers were Manelle Chawk representing the Islamic Society of Victoria and Stefanie Perri representing Anna Burke MP (Member for Chisholm). Both spoke on the role of women as peace-builders; giving their own personal stories. Manelle is an Australia born lawyer, and Stephanie is retired Mayor of the City of Monash.

Women were matched up as sisters after walking through the beautiful Jewish arch. A sisterhood pledge was read by our guest speakers, first in Arabic and then in English. After the event, new 'sisters' had time to share their stories over afternoon tea and exchange their contact information so that they could keep in contact.

One highlight was unveiling the WFWP 'Peace Pole'; presented by Jenny Funston to WFWP Vic. committee



members. The peace pole features 4 peace messages from prominent women who are peace builders on the global arena; including Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, founder of WFWP International. Jenny is the official Oceania Representative for the World Peace Prayer Society that centre their activities around the prayer, 'May Peace Prevail On Earth' & the planting of 'peace poles' around the world with peace message. Jenny also brought along the national flags that lined the stage for the "Bridge of Peace"; hand-made by members of the Goi Peace Foundation in Japan.

The 'Bridge of Peace' has a character and life all its own, and it never ceases to amaze and move

us with the "magic" that happens in the healing and reconciliation it facilitates. The motto for the Bridge of Peace events was given by WFWP founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. "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". This motto carries the spirit to every event.

Male participants in the audience were inspired to come on stage to show their unity and friendship; to be included in the ceremony.

For more information visit www.wfwpaustralia.org



There were many WFWP members who were instrumental in networking for the success of the event. One especially is Amara Hamid (right) shown here with her new 'sister'.

The 'Gumar Sithard Choir' performed 3 Acapella songs.

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

For more information visit www.wfwpaustralia.org



NSW

The Women's Circle has been meeting for the past two years and has connected women from many nationalities and all works of life to share their life experiences and talents.

The women have thus far met bimonthly, and our most recent meeting was organized by the youngest member of our team, Keileigh Daly, a talented young artist. It has been a delight to have younger members join our circle.

In February, 16 women attended the Women's circle. Two women were first timers and fell in love with the open sharing of all ladies. The women shared about their passion and hobbies. In conclusion, it was decided to build a women's circle Cook Book and include each person's hobby and passion in the book.

During the women's circle, a collection was made to raise money to buy pots for a remote village on Tanna Island in Vanuatu. The pots are on the way and we thank everybody donating generously.

Lauren, a member of the WFWP Choir "Silver Bells" was very inspired to help other women in need.



Burwood Festival WFWP Stall



Women's Circles
Dignity of Women
Reconciliation
Personal Development
Beauty Inside Out
Wellness Education
Supporting our Pacific Neighbours

THE SILVERBELLES CHOIR FOR 2014

By Debra Bruce

The Silverbelles choir is a multicultural choir of six members and is affiliated with the WFWP. Basically we have sung in nursing homes last year and continue to do so in 2014. The ages range from 27 to 80 years of age and two of the choir members have been employed in aged care positions for many years.

The choir has been well received in many nursing homes and asked to come back. Lauren Lewis and myself have sung for UPF events this year along with two church members, Chihiro Midorikawa and Robert from the Solomon Islands as well.

The choir meets every Thursday night and practices for two hours. We normally meet at my home, however, if we expand the choir, one of the members, Lata, will book the Community Centre for us in Liberty Grove.

I have had a wonderful opportunity to welcome a new member to our choir this year, Lorraine Briggs. She has quite a musical history of performing with her sister and mother, who was a piano teacher, all throughout her teen years for church functions and other functions as well. She has a real ear for harmony and plays the guitar and ukulele. She is a wonderful asset for us and even last night suggested that the choir, as a whole, pay a membership fee to the WFWP. She is also a bank teller at my bank and a woman of many ideas.

All of the choir are aware of the good work the WFWP does and are happy to be affiliated with our activities. In fact Lauren Lewis donated \$50 towards the purchase of the cooking pots for Vanuatu last week. Two of the choir members, Lata Suresh and Lauren Lewis attend the Women's Circles. Lata, who is from India, always surprises us with some Indian treats at our choir practices. All of the choir members love sharing with each other after our choir practice.

The Silverbelles choir has really loved sharing their love for music. We hope to improve this year and heal the world with our wonderful melodies. And of course, we welcome new members.



Personal reflections by Sharon Orapeleng on the International Leadership Conference in Seoul, South Korea

Sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation and the Women's Federation for World Peace

It was a great honour and privilege to be selected to represent Women's Federation for World Peace at the Universal Peace Federation's International Leadership Conference held in Seoul, South Korea on February 9-13, 2014. This conference entitled 'Toward a New Paradigm for Peace and Human Development' was a great opportunity to connect and dialogue with other Ambassadors for Peace from around the world including government officials, leaders in the private and non-government sector, religious leaders and many others. It was certainly uplifting to see people from all sectors that are passionate about creating a world where people of every region, race, nationality, culture and religion live together in peace.

included a cohort of amazing speakers including the President of WFWP International Dr Lan Young Moon; Mr Sa-duk Hong, President, Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation; Dr Rehab Bitar, President, Culture Bridge Syria; Dr Shigeko Fukai, Professor, Chiba National University, Japan; Ms Cynthia Turner, Executive Vice President, Seraphim Global, USA; and Dr Meena Upadhyaya, Professor of Medical Genetics, Cardiff University. All speakers shared their passion for the work they do, applying the principle of living for the sake of others in all endeavours. Their work demonstrated what is possible when women work together in partnership and support each other through "True Love" but they also highlighted the challenges and work yet to be done.



Sharon Orapeleng (far right) with participants from the ILC during dinner

Although all the sessions were equally thought provoking and exciting, with an underlying core message of creation of a peaceful world based on essential and universal principles and practices necessary to achieve peace, I particularly enjoyed the WFWP session on Women Leadership – A new Paradigm for Peace, Partnership and Development. This was session chaired by the Deputy Director of UN Office, WFWP International Ms Alexa Ward and

I made connections with amazing women, shared learning's and built foundations for future collaborative work on common issues that hinder the progress toward true and lasting peace.

I would like to thank WFWP Australia and especially the Brisbane Chapter Chair Mamiko Rattley for the amazing opportunity. I look forward to continuing this journey and movement to advance women's true participation towards creating world peace. I would like to acknowledge the connection and support of the Oceania region participants throughout the workshop and hope to stay connected and build on opportunities together.

Written by Sharon Orapeleng



The women from Oceania Region (Australia, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Zealand) with President of WFPW International, Dr Lan Young Moon and Mrs. Julia H. Moon, General Director, Universal Ballet, Korea.



Oceania region ILC delegates enjoying lunch together before departure from South Korea.

Christmas Celebration in Brisbane



On November 27th, 2013 a Christmas celebration was held. We had a festive gathering with nice food, Christmas carols and sharing. Firstly, we reported on all WFPW activities for the year of 2013 and then enjoyed each other's friendship and celebrated our efforts during the past year.

Everyone brought gifts for Chris Cringle and we sold raffle tickets to raise funds for the Women's Centre in Vanuatu. It was a wonderful opportunity to look back on the year and say thank you to all those who have been supporting WFPW's work.

Regional

The Women of Lamnatu Village, Tanna Island, Vanuatu

(The Island Lights & Water Project, Dec. 2013)

WFWP Australia, in partnership with WFWP Vanuatu and the women of Lamnatu Village, Tanna Island, Vanuatu are piloting a project that will empower the women of Lamnatu Village through the management, maintenance and ownership of a women's cooperative micro-business; involving a solar farm and the Rota Pota water filter unit. The Island Lights & Water project is planned to be in operation towards the end of 2014.

Especially in village life, women of the Island are the back bone of the community and the family. The mothers and girls raise the children, cook, clean and tend the gardens to support their families. In village life, women do not have a significant voice; as men make most decisions and women are not given the opportunity for leadership. WFWP's goal is to empower women of the village with knowledge and skills within a supportive community and the men are supporting their women and giving them the opportunity.

Lamnatu is home to 340 people, within 40 households. The women leaders will run the cooperative to help support the 15 family groups of the village by maintaining the solar array that is aimed to supply light and power points to the family groups. Women will also be able to sell the clean drinking water through their micro-business.



Anne Bellavance, WFWP Australia president, spoke with the women leaders to gauge their level of ownership and explained the aims and goals of the Women's Federation for World Peace activities. The women welcomed the opportunity to take a leading role within the community in establishing the project. Men within the community supported the initiatives and listened in as the project was discussed and clarified. Anne explained the philosophy behind WFWP; that leadership is a partnership between men and women, together having equal value, position and opportunity.

Solar technology has already started to come to this remote village, but the solar panels are expensive and beyond the means of most families. Some people work in the main city of Lenakel and come home for the weekend. They can afford more established homes; yet there is no electricity or running water and cooking is done outside in a separate kitchen building that surrounds an open wood fire on the ground.

The water component of the project is to provide the community with the opportunity to use clean, bacteria free drinking water. The Rota Pota water unit is able to manually filter 60 litres of dirty water per hour. For more details visit www.wfwpaustralia.org



Even rain water runoff from roofs hosts worms. Diarrhea is a constant and common problem.

Families use a local water pool for bathing, gathering water for consumption and washing clothes. The women and girls walk over a kilometer through the bush to reach this spot, using plastic containers to

gather the water. Already plastics and metal rubbish is visible at the water source; washed down as the villager's access more processed food packaging. No garbage pickup in such remote areas. Three kilometers deeper in the bush is the underground spring water source which services 3 villages of the area.

The Island Lights & Water Project is a not for profit development project of the Women's Federation for World Peace, Australia. It carries out tangible and practical humanitarian projects within the Islands of Oceania. The Island Lights & Water Project aims to provide sustainable and safe solar lighting and clean filtered water for women and their families who live in remote Pacific Island communities. The pilot project is being conducted in the remote village of Lamnatu, Middle Bush region of Tana Island.

For more information and how to support, visit www.wfwpaustralia.org

Support the WFWP Women's Groups of Vanuatu

(Dec. 2013)

While conducting a fact finding visit to Tanna Island, Vanuatu to prepare the way for WFWP Australia's Island Lights & Water project; Anne Bellavance (WFWP Australia president) had the chance to meet with 2 active WFWP women's groups and lay the foundation for 1 more WFWP group. Tess Kaveng (our WFWP representative in Tanna) will be able to continue supporting the 3 Tanna Island Women groups.

Yellow Ruth and Annie run the Cooperative Mama Federation which WFWP Australia has been supporting for many years through funding the extension of their women's centre and putting down a concrete floor. WFWP Australia also supplied



sewing machines for the women's co-operative. The front of the building runs as a women's co-operative called the 'Cooperative Mama Foundation' and the back meeting room was built through funds donated by WFWP Australia. The 41 women in the cooperative make mats and clothing using the sewing machines donated through WFWP Australia. Women of the area also receive management training on how to start businesses.

The Vanuatu Women's Centre was built in 2003 under the guidance of Yellow Ruth and now with the support of Annie. Throughout the past 30 years, Yellow Ruth has travelled on foot throughout Tanna Island; connecting to the women of the area serving their needs and inviting

them to participate in the cooperative so that items can be purchased affordably by the village women.

During her visit to the Women's Centre, Anne was able to show and explain some of the service projects and activities of WFWP International, as well as the service projects and activities supported by the WFWP Australia chapter. Yellow Ruth and her committee discussed their goals for the Women's Centre and how they support women of the area.

Yellow Ruth requested to WFWP Australia that the electric grid that is now available in Lanakel be attached to the Women's Centre so they can be active during the evening and use electric sewing machines. WFWP Australia Queensland and Victoria have now raised the money for this.



During a visit to Imaelone Village, representing WFWP Australia, Anne Bellavance was officially welcomed by Tess Natuman, wife of President Nako Natuman. President Natuman is in the Australian equivalent of Premier for TAFE province. After her welcome, Tess handed Anne a petition requesting support from WFWP Australia for 3 large cooking pots; one for rice and 2 for soup. Imaelone Village hosts many official party functions and the women do not have enough equipment to cater for these functions. WFWP Sydney has raised the money and purchased the pots, which are now on their way to Vanuatu.

The Vanuatu Women's Centre is a not for profit support project of the Women's Federation for World Peace, Australia. WFWP Australia carries out tangible and practical humanitarian projects within the Islands of Oceania and works in partnership with WFWP Vanuatu and the 'Cooperative Mama Foundation' of Lenakel, Western Tanna, Vanuatu.

International

Women's Federation for World Peace Session at the International Leadership Conference, Seoul Korea

UPF and WFWPI co-sponsored an International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Seoul, Korea, 9-13 February 2014 with the theme "Toward a New Paradigm for Peace and Human Development". During the conference WFWPI held a session on the topic "Women's Leadership: A New Paradigm for Peace, Partnership and Development." The session was attended by around 300 participants from 40 nations. Participants from Oceania were Ms. Sharon Orapeleng, Secretary, Federation of African Communities of Australia, Prof. Shobhana Lata Ram, Professor, Fiji National University, Dr. Caroline Pagcaliwagan, Director of The Peace Foundation Ongleo-Calub, New Zealand, Ms. Dorosday Lui, Director, Department of Women's Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu and Mrs Jynene Helland, Advisor, WFWPI Oceania region

Dr. Lan Young Moon, President of WFWPI and Co Chair of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation in her Welcoming Remarks spoke about the role of women and how in terms of value, men and women are equal. "Women" she said "should be at the centre of realising a world of peace. The starting point is women. What does that mean? It means that the sacrificial love of a mother is the way to true peace."

Congratulatory remarks were given by Mr. Sa-duk Hong, Co-chair, Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation.

There was a panel of 4 speakers chaired by Mrs. Alexa Ward, Deputy Director of the WFWPI UN Office. The first speaker, Dr. Meena Upadhyaya, Professor of Medical Genetics, Cardiff University, UK shared her journey to becoming a leader in her field of genetics. She never planned to be a leader. She was born in India to quite a poor family. A series of unforeseen events including moving to England with her husband and the subsequent death of her husband took her on this path. She said she broke through the glass

ceiling but sometimes found herself clinging to the edge of the glass cliff. She shared some of the things she learned along the way. One point she made was to give and to serve the community around you.

Dr. Shigeko Fukai, Visiting Professor, Chiba National University, Japan, outlined the urgent need for change in our attitude toward the environment. "Women can have a powerful impact" she said. She gave practical ways women can make a difference especially as consumers.



Welcoming Remarks by Dr Lan Young Moon

The third speaker was Dr. Rehab Bitar, President of Culture Bridge, Syria. Rehab lives in USA. She spoke with passion about her work in her home country of Syria to bring an end to the violence. "Syrian women do not want to give even one more of our children to be killed in this violence".

Ms. Cynthia Turner, Executive Vice President, Seraphim Global, USA said that women seem stalled at taking leadership. Why? Women have been programmed that if we don't get what we want then it's OK. Women are competition diverse. We have the ability to be agents of change. Women tend to under value themselves and lift others up. It's all about us becoming leaders that can make the paradigm shift.

Stimulating discussion followed over tea and coffee.

UNITED NATIONS 8 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger



2 Achieve Universal Primary Education



3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



4 Reduce Child Mortality



5 Improve Maternal Health



6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases



7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability



8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

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

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United Nations Affiliation

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

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

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

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

The benefits of receiving this status include:

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

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