

WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE

NEWSLETTER
OCEANIA & S.E. ASIA



CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PEACE



ISSUE 3 | 2024

OCEANIA / S.E. ASIA WFWP NEWSLETTER

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

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WFWP is committed to:

- Serving communities – Service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands.
- Strengthening the family – Workshops, forums, seminars, and conferences.
- Bridge of Peace - Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past.
- Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development.

Australia

International Day of Peace Conference

2024 Theme - Cultivating a
Culture of Peace

September 21 | Melbourne, Australia

Written by Dr John Bellavance
Vice-President, UPF Australia



OVERVIEW

- COUNTERING POLARISATION AND BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS IN ORDER TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF PEACE.
- THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARED VALUES IN FOSTERING A HARMONIOUS AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY.
- HAVING A SUPPORTIVE PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE CULTIVATES EMOTIONAL STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE.
- THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE.



Attended by 55 participants, each twenty-minute presentation was followed by fifteen minutes of group discussion and Q&A with the speaker. The interactive program enabled participants to share insights about each topic. Anne Bellavance, President of WFWP Australia was master of ceremony.



The conference began with a guided meditation by Venerable Bodhicitta Ven. Bhikkhuni Bodhicitta a Sri Lankan Theravada Buddhist Nun (left photo).

This was followed by welcoming remarks from Ms Sylvia Coombe – the first Pacific Island Multi-Cultural Commissioner in Victoria, Australia (right).



PRESENTER

Dr John Bellavance

Topic: Countering Polarisation, Breaking Down Barriers and Enlarging Circles

Dr John is a Global Vice-President of Sun Moon University (SMU), Oceania Coordinator for the International Association of Academicians for Peace and Vice-



President of UPF Australia

John shared the game plan for peace building based on the vision of its founders, namely, the six pillars of peace –

- (1) managing oneself
- (2) one's relationships with others
- (3) our natural environment well
- (4) universal values
- (5) interdependence
- (6) mutual prosperity.

These six pillars are the means to countering the polarization that exists in our world.



Dr Bruce Wong

Topic: The Importance of Shared Values in Fostering a Harmonious and Prosperous Society.

Dr Wong is an Australian entrepreneur and philanthropist, has journeyed from a Cambodian refugee in 1980 to a successful business leader.

Bruce highlighted the vital importance of shared values in fostering a cohesive and thriving community. Reflecting on Australia's multicultural success and its accompanying challenges, he emphasized the need for respect, equality, and fairness as foundational to social harmony and economic prosperity in our global village.

Preetah Bolaky

Topic: Everyone needs someone in their corner.

Preetah Bolaky is a global business strategist and motivational speaker who has made a significant impact in finance and personal development. With over a decade of banking experience, she has served as a strategic advisor and co-founded a fintech company, showcasing her





innovative financial solutions.

Preetha shared that having a supportive presence in your life cultivates emotional strength and resilience, empowering individuals to act with peace and positivity. This encouragement not only benefits the individual, but also creates a ripple effect of kindness and compassion within communities.



Pastor Daniel Meadows

Topic: The role of family in building a culture of peace

Pastor Daniel Meadows is the Victorian Director of FFWPU Australia and Vice-President of FFWPU Australia.

Daniel explored the foundation of a culture of peace through understanding the core values that promote harmony and cooperation within communities.

One key area of focus is how we can expand peace starting from within our families, as they are the fundamental units of society.



Mary Zeit Musleh

Topic: Cultivating a Culture of Peace: A Global and Palestinian Perspective

Mary Zeit Musleh is a seasoned professional with expertise in translation, administration, and community leadership. Mary has led the women’s committee at the Orthodox Club in Beit Jala, Palestine, and directed organizations focusing on violence prevention and educational development. She is the president of the Beit Jala Palestinian Association in Victoria.



Mary shared that creating a culture of peace underscores the global need for fostering harmony, justice, and equality. She highlighted the pivotal role of education in addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting dialogue and empathy. Her message reflected on the Palestinian quest for peace, advocating for justice, equality, and a two-state solution as essential to global stability and a brighter future for all.



Mr Yutaka Yamada **Closing Remarks**

The closing remarks were given by Mr Yutaka Yamada Chairman, Universal Peace Federation, Oceania. He encouraged all to see themselves as one family under God. He maintained that siblings avoid fighting in front their parents, hence, if we recognise our Heavenly Parent – God, this will motivate us to be at peace with our brothers and sisters around the world.

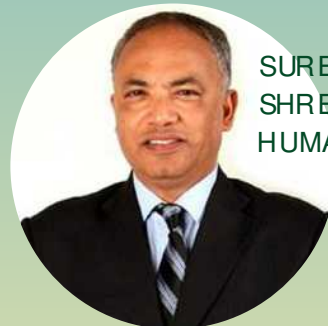
AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE

Five new Ambassadors for Peace joined the ranks of UPF network of peace builders.

DR BRUCE WONG
ENTREPRENEUR AND
PHILANTHROPIST



SURENDRA MAN
SHRESTHA
HUMAN RIGHT LAWYER



PASTOR JONATHAN
WALKER
SERVING COMMUNITIES,
MIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES



SALEHA NADEEM
EDUCATOR, HUMAN
RIGHTS AND INTERFAITH
ACTIVIST.



FARAH M. WARSAME
PRESIDENT OF THE
SOMALI COMMUNITY,
BROADCASTER AND
COMMUNITY SUPPORT





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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 - www.wfwpaustralia.org



Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals www.upf.org



Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) is comprised of families from around the world striving to establish a world of peace and unity among all peoples, races, and religions as

envisioned by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon and to embody the ideal of true love, which is to live for the sake of others. FFWPU champions three ideals: family, peace, and unification.



UN World Oceans Day UN Environment Day

Written by Dr John Bellavance
Vice-President, UPF Australia

OVERVIEW

- **OWFWP AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS JOINED TOGETHER WITH BEACH PATROL FOR WORLD OCEANS DAY, AND WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, WHILE ALSO PROMOTING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION.**
- **OSUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
 - **GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
 - **GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER**
 - **GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND**
 - **GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**



WFWP Victoria members, family and friends, joined forces with 3207BeachPatrol to care for the treasured inner-city Port Melbourne beaches and promote sustainability. 3207BeachPatrol conducts monthly cleanups across four stretches of beaches: Sandridge Beach, Princes Pier, Station Pier, Lagoon Pier of Port Melbourne

Not only was it a chance for WFWP to participate in helping the environment, but it was also a great activity to bring the community together and foster meaningful relationships.

Beach Patrol volunteer groups in Victoria operate across more than 40 postcodes. These groups meet monthly to collect plastic litter from local beaches, streets, and parks. Volunteers connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for preserving our environment, wildlife, marine life, and ecosystems.



To find out more, visit: <https://www.beachpatrol.com.au/about-us>

United Nations World Oceans Day, celebrated on 8 June and throughout the year, mobilises global action for ocean and climate preservation. The UN collaborates with youth leaders, zoos, aquariums, museums, and a wide array of organizations and businesses across all sectors, creating a robust global network dedicated to this cause.

World Environment Day, observed annually on 5 June, promotes awareness and action for environmental protection. Supported by numerous NGOs, businesses, and government entities, it stands as the foremost United Nations outreach day dedicated to supporting the environment.



It is time to accelerate this action and transition to a circular economy. It is time to #BeatPlasticPollution. To find out more, visit: <https://www.unep.org/events/un-day/world-environment-day>

Romana, the head of Port Melbourne Beach Patrol, explained that the garbage found on the beach originates from stormwater drains and rivers flowing into Port Phillip Bay. When southerly winds blow inland, they push this debris onto the shore, resulting in significant amounts of trash accumulating along the tide lines.



Left-to-Right Romana, Anne



Alberta and her family



Clean-up bags are emptied into appropriate garbage and recycle bins that Council has placed along the beach walking paths. Bags are taken home to reuse next time!

Out to dry on the line first!!



This is a photo of the thousands of styrofoam pellets lying throughout the sand dunes located above Port Melbourne Beach.

Over time, plastics and styrofoam ending up at the beach break down into small beads which become ingested by birds and fish.

A study found that drifting plastic waste accumulates algae and gives off a smell very similar to the krill that many marine birds feed on.

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/why-marine-debris-problem/ingestion>



After our early morning clean-up, WFWP Members gathered for coffee / breakfast at a local café. It was a chance to get to know each other, develop deeper relationships, and connect. A very rewarding morning.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS



I enjoyed catching up with everyone. - Sebastian

It is so good to have real face-2-face connections and get to know our members.

It does make a difference. - Debbie

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Beach Patrol volunteers who raise awareness and empower communities to reduce plastic pollution and other litter in our environment. <https://www.beachpatrol.com.au/about-us>



GWPN

ASSEMBLY

Global Women's Peace Network

A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development. It seeks to ensure mutual prosperity and lasting peace through feminine peace leadership rooted in a culture of care, responsibility and education in family values.

GWPN inaugural assembly: the founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon called for a new era of women's leadership in peace building. The assembly highlighted the need for a body of NGO leaders, whose collective wisdom and judgment can complement the deliberations of the United Nations; which as a body of government representatives is overwhelmingly male. GWPN is a project of WFWP international.





Mental Health Awareness Month

Theme: Let's Talk About It

October 5 | Sydney, Australia

Written by
Satomi Terasaka,
President, WFWP NSW


OVERVIEW

- **OCTOBER IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN NSW.**
- **2024 THEME: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**

The event addressed one of the most prevalent social issues, mental health. There are still stigmas that prevent people from talking about mental health issues. Events like this help raise awareness and encourage individuals to be more open about mental health by breaking down barriers towards seeking support.

The focus of the speaker's talk was on self-care and moving on from trauma. Maries stories were insightful, sometimes amusing, and always captivating. Her strategies for self-improvement and the practical methods for overcoming trauma were particularly informative, especially as they were backed by her real-life experiences as a survivor of abuse.

'Let's Talk About It' was designed to foster a safe and open environment for



discussions on mental health, encouraging individuals to share their experiences, support each other, and take proactive steps in managing their mental well-being. Participants were also encouraged to prioritize self-care and seek help when necessary.

The event began with a WFWPI YouTube video highlighting WFWP's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities worldwide and promoting harmony and peace. NSW Chapter President Satomi Terasaka delivered a welcome message, emphasizing that inner peace leads to family peace, which in turn builds community peace. This collective peace contributes to national stability and ultimately fosters global harmony.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marie Louise - author and program developer of Discover World With

Topic: Healing and Recovery



Marie Louise has guided thousands of people worldwide in areas such as trauma, mindset, creativity and spiritual growth.

She shared her own transformative experiences, including long-term childhood abuse and her lived experience with a loving mother diagnosed with manic depression.

Based on these stories, Marie offered

profound insights into the power of developing a relationship with our central nervous system. Marie believed that this relationship is key to fostering a worldview grounded in harmony. Her presentation aimed to unpack limiting beliefs, embrace true potential, and align with one's highest self.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

Marie Louise, is an experienced advocate who can teach us how to “live our own lives” and “be our true selves.” She shared how to live in the present moment free from past worries and future anxieties by using strategic methods such as physical activities and meditation.



Marie also conveyed a powerful message: “Before you fill others’ cups, make sure to fill your own first. When your cup is full, the overflow will naturally spill into others’ cups.” She truly embodied this wisdom, and we realised just how important self-care is in positively influencing others.

Her warm, healing energy touched our hearts, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to meet her and hear her speak.

Solomon Islands

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PEACE



UN International Day of Peace

September 21 | Honiara, Solomon Islands

Written By Satomi Terasaka
President, WFPW New South Wales

OVERVIEW

- BINGING TOGETHER LEADERS AND VISIONARIES TO DISCUSS AND PROMOTE MEANINGFUL STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING LASTING PEACE.
- RESOLUTION BY PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME ROLE MODELS AS PEACE BUILDERS WITHIN THEIR FAMILY AND CONTINUE PEACE BUILDING NETWORKS WITH WFPW-SI.
- PARTICIPANTS HAD THE CHANCE TO DISCUSS AND SHARE STORES AROUND INDIVIDUAL PEACE, FAMILY PEACE, COMMUNITY PEACE, NATIONAL PEACE AND WORLD PEACE.



PRESENTERS



Monica Ilala Longanimala - President, WFWP SI

Monica gave welcoming remarks and strongly emphasised the WFWP Solomon Islands Actions for Peace, saying “Our ambition for the decade is answering the global call to engage in impactful actions towards fostering peace.”



**Mr. Peter Houanihau -
President of UPF Solomon Islands**

emphasised the role of the Universal Peace Federation and its peace building principles, highlighting its activities to address peace building



Mrs Alice Houaniahu

Advisor for WFWP-SI and President of the Guadalcanal Council of Women introduced the three pillars of Peace: Women, Peace, and Security. She Spotlited the position of WFWP and UPF’s alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Mrs Joyce Warousu

presented the topic: 'Family is the School of Love'. She highlighted the importance of the family to create a culture of love and peace.

Mrs Mavis Kikolo Namu - Vice President of WFWP Solomon Islands and a registered nurse

emphasised that for women to foster peace within their families, they must first practice self-care and ensure their own well-being. She urged women to prioritise their health, noting that inner peace and self-care are essential for effectively caring for their families and contributing to their surroundings.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

Grateful to be part of the Peace Seminar as it empowers and reminds us of our role as a peace builders to their family and surroundings. Looking forward to engaging in more peace building, partnership, and networking events in the future.

This half day Peace Seminar spotlighted this year's theme, "Cultivating A Culture of Peace" by emphasising that self-peace starts with me, then it extends to the family, community, nation and the world.



WFWP-SI and UPF Representatives in their branding uniforms



WFWP-SI and UPF Representatives in their uniform advocating "Peace Start with me"




Days for Girls Project New Hope Academy School: Primary & Secondary

September | Honiara, Solomon Islands

Written by Joyce Warousu
Secretary, WFWP SI

OVERVIEW

- PRESENTATION OF RE-USABLE DAYS FOR GIRLS MENSTRUAL KITS TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AGED STUDENTS AT THE NEW HOPE ACADEMY.
- WORKSHOP ON FEMININE HYGIENE, AND THE CARE AND USE OF THE KITS.



Over a hundred students and teachers, along with representatives from WFWP-Solomon Islands (WFWP-SI), participated in a workshop led by WFWP-SI President Monica Longanimala Ilala. Monica acknowledged the partnership with WFWP Victoria, Australia, and emphasised the importance of the Days for Girls project, which promotes menstrual hygiene. The workshop demonstrated how to use period kits, empowering 84 female students and their teachers with education on menstrual health. This initiative aims to end stigma around menstruation, boost confidence, reduce the cost of buying sanitary pads, and enable girls to attend school during their menstrual cycle.

New Hope Academy's Principal expressed deep gratitude for WFWP SI's continued support. Two boxes containing 84 Days for Girls kits were received with appreciation by Madam Alice, the Home Economics and Science teacher. She highlighted the positive impact the kits will have on students and staff.

This project plays a vital role in advocating menstrual health education, empowering young girls and their teachers to manage menstruation confidently and promoting a positive attitude toward menstrual periods.

REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

Madam Alice, the Home Economics and Science teacher, expressed heartfelt gratitude to WFWP-SI for the invaluable Days for Girls packs, calling them a meaningful gift. She extended her thanks to WFWP Australia for their donation, noting that these kits will greatly benefit both female students and teachers by helping to reduce costs.

With the high cost of living in the Solomon Islands, allocating funds for necessities like sanitary products can be challenging. The Days for Girls kits provide much-needed relief and support for the girls and staff at the school.



Strengthening Solomon Islands Civil Society Conference A Tok Stori Approach


September 24 - 25 | Honiara, Solomon Islands

Website: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon-islands/development-assistance/development-assistance-in-solomon-islands>

Written by Joyce Warosu
Secretary, WFWP SI

OVERVIEW

- A PLATFORM FOR MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE AND SHARED LEARNING AMONG CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOS), NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS), GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS.
- THE TOK STORI APPROACH EMPHASISED INCLUSIVE AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS; CRUCIAL IN SHAPING COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.
- THROUGH COLLECTING INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT NGOS, THE AIM WAS TO FIND BETTER SOLUTION TO ADDRESS NATIONAL ISSUES.



The Strengthening Solomon Islands Civil Society Conference was organised to address problems that exist in Solomon Islands society such as:

- climate change,
- sustainability,
- domestic violence,
- women's education.



The key event objectives of the Tok Stori Conference were:

- Strengthening partnerships and enhance collaboration between NGOs, CSOs, Government, and development partners to foster a unified approach to addressing community needs and challenges.
- Promoting local voices to provide a space for different CSOs/NGOs to share their experiences, insights, and challenges.
- Capacity building: to foster partnerships and equip organisations with the knowledge and tools needed for effective community development, climate action, gender equality, disability inclusion, and sustainable development initiatives.
- Action-oriented discussions: to identify priority areas for collective action and develop practical strategies for grassroots implementation, advancing sustainable development goals in the Solomon Islands.

HIGHLIGHTS



The event gathered nearly 200 participants from various NGOs and CSOs in the Solomon Islands, including WFPW-Solomon Islands, represented by President Monica Ilala Longanimala, Secretary Joyce Warousu, Advisor Alice Houanihau, and Acting President of DSC/Guadalcanal Women Council. UPF Solomon Islands President, Mr. Peter Houanihau, also attended.

The key takeaway from the conference was the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and skills among NGOs and CSOs, fostering stronger networks to achieve shared sustainable development goals for the Solomon Islands and the wider Pacific region.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

The event was a significant gathering of Civil Societies, NGOs, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Church Faith Organizations (CFOs), people with disabilities, and youth representatives from various fields.

Participants shared success stories and challenges, strengthening partnerships and fostering collaboration between NGOs, CSOs, government, and development



partners. The event also provided an excellent opportunity to build capacity, enhance partnerships, and expand networks.

Participants gained valuable knowledge and tools to engage more effectively in community development, focusing on key areas such as climate change, gender equality, disability inclusion, and sustainable development practices to benefit their organisations and communities.

WFWP-SI President Monica Ilala Longanimala

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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT under the program of ASIPS [Australia Solomon Islands Partnership Service and in collaboration with DSE [Development Service Exchange].



MISSION AND VISION

WFP 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 and are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level - the family.

Vision: Women working together to realise one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

Mission: Empowering women as peace builders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFP International aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

About us

Philippines



32nd Founding Anniversary Theme: Women for Peace, Reaching our Ambition

September 24 | Quezon City, Philippines

Written by Janet Kabayama,
WFWP Philippines Corporate Secretary



OVERVIEW

- **EMPHASISING WFWP AND GPWN AND THE BENEFITS OF BEING A WFWP MEMBER.**
- **120 WOMEN LEADERS OF ORGANISATIONS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WERE IN ATTENDANCE.**
- **WFWP PHILIPPINES CELEBRATED ITS 32ND FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AND AWARDED GLOBAL WOMEN PEACE AMBASSADORS.**

Nine Global Women Peace Ambassador awardees who significantly contributed to advancing women's empowerment in their areas of expertise were recognised during WFWP Philippines 32nd Anniversary celebration.

They were: Dr. Nancy Pascual, Dr. Marites Manalo Rio, Dr. Wilhelmina P. Masinsin, Dr. Fe Esperanza T. Mateo, Mrs. Anunciacion V. Prospero, Mrs. Norhata M. Alonto, Hon. Ma. Eleanor R. Juan, Mrs. Erlinda Saspas Marcelino Naseb and Hon. Ma. Victoria Co- Pilar.

Giving congratulatory remarks were: Honorable Ma. Eleanor R. Juan, Quezon City Councilor and Dr. Nancy Pascual, Mrs. Minerva de Leon, and Mrs. Merly Barlaan, former WFWP-Philippines President. They emphasised their appreciation for WFWP Philippines efforts in bringing women together to advocate for peace initiatives.

PRESENTERS



Mrs. Moriko Hori – WFWP International President

Through a pre-recorded video, President Hori delivered a powerful message emphasizing the significance of women's involvement in peace initiatives and reconciliation efforts for the

peacebuilding of GPWN, a WFWP project.

Anne Bellavance – Regional President for Asia Pacific 2 (Oceania & SE Asia)

Mrs. Anne demonstrated to the audience how global peace networking is achievable through an engaging activity that resulted in positive communication outcomes.





REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

A former Member of the House of Representatives and a former Special Assistant to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Mrs. Annie Andanar, who is a strong supporter of WFWP, said: 'Women's empowerment is not just about gender equality. We must be partners with our men, our husbands, our fathers, our brothers, and all those who are committed to the work for peace. It does not end. And as you know, as women, as mothers, as sisters, as daughters, we cannot resign. We cannot afford to say, 'I am tired' or 'I am exhausted.'

It is always a joy to hold hands with our sisters, our girlfriends, our male friends, but also to enjoy the many areas of involvement as a mother, as a child, as a daughter,

and as sisters. I want us not to compete, but instead to cooperate and collaborate with other women.



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WITH SUPPORT FROM

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former Member of the House of Representatives, and former Special Assistant to President.

Honourable Ma. Eleanor R. Juan – Quezon City Councillor

Barefoot Architect brings Sustainable Housing to Pakistan's poor

WRITTEN BY BY NATASHA SPENCER-JOLLIFFE
THE EARTH & I MAGAZINE



Summary

Yasmeeen Lari, known as the "barefoot architect," has dedicated her career to providing sustainable housing solutions for Pakistan's poorest communities. After a successful career designing modern architecture, Lari shifted her focus to creating environmentally friendly disaster-relief dwellings for those affected by earthquakes and flooding.

Lari founded Barefoot Social Architecture (BASA) and the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan to preserve architectural heritage and address disaster relief housing needs. Her approach emphasises using locally sourced, renewable materials and incorporating traditional techniques, following the motto "low-to-no cost, zero carbon, and zero waste".



HOUSES BUILT WITH SUPPORT FROM LARI'S FOUNDATION

In response to Pakistan's catastrophic floods in 2022, which destroyed 1.4 million homes and affected 33 million people, Lari and her foundation launched an ambitious plan to build a million flood-resistant homes by 2024. These shelters are designed to be durable, easily replaceable, and constructed using indigenous materials like lime, mud, and bamboo.

Lari's work extends beyond housing to include the development of eco-friendly cookstoves that reduce wood consumption and improve indoor air quality. Her efforts have gained international recognition, including the prestigious Royal Gold Medal in architecture at the age of 82.



Through her innovative approach to sustainable architecture and disaster relief, Yasmeen Lari is making a significant impact on the lives of Pakistan's most vulnerable populations, while also addressing critical environmental concerns.

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We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters.

Feel inspired?



Support our Pacific Islands Humanitarian Service Projects

Volunteer:

Get involved with one of our Regional Chapters. Contact us to find out how.

Donate:

Make a financial contribution, where 100% of your donation supports Global Development and Aid projects. WFWP International is a volunteer based NGO and a NFP charitable organisation.

Pasifika Scholarship Fund:

The full scholarship is for young adults living in the Pacific Islands who do not have the financial means to attend university, but who have a driving desire for education to become future leaders.

The program supports young adults who are passionate, and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFWP International: 'Living for the sake of others'.

Pasifika Micro-Credit: Taking a partnership approach between WFWP Australia and WFWP Chapters within Pacific Island Nations, Pasifika Micro-Credit aims to empower Island women by directly investing in their business idea, economic activity, or micro-enterprise. The program provides micro-business training and a low interest micro-loan.