

WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

NEWSLETTER OCEANIA & S.E. ASIA



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.



Way2Happiness and Peacebuilding Seminar Series

Theme: How can Family Violence be Stopped

December 7 | Melbourne, Australia

Written by Dr John Bellavance
Vice-President, UPF Australia

OVERVIEW

- THE SEMINAR SERIES FOCUSES ON PILLARS OF FINDING MEANING AND CONNECTION BY:
 - MANAGING ONESELF
 - FOSTERING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
- THE WORKSHOP EMPHASISED PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, PARTICULARLY IN PARENTING, AND ADDRESSED THE CHALLENGES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE WHILE FOCUSING ON RESTORING FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS AFTER TRAUMA.
- THIRTY-FIVE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING SEVERAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, ATTENDED ONLINE. REV. DR. NELSON PERVAZ SERVED AS THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES.



PRESENTERS

Tessa Jetson

Topic: Mothers Can Change the Destiny of their Children's life

Tessa has empowered thousands to overcome limiting beliefs, negative mindsets, and procrastination, helping them pursue their dreams. Despite early business and professional success, her life took a dramatic turn at 26 when she and her three young children sought refuge from family violence.

Tessa highlighted the profound physical and emotional harm children face in violent households, underscoring the need for mothers to prioritise their safety. Inspired by her children, she rebuilt her life with a focus on stability and financial independence. Today, as founder and CEO of the Tessa Jetson Foundation and the Restart Your Life program, Tessa empowers others to achieve lasting transformation.



SCREEN CAPTURE FROM THE ONLINE EVENT



Dr John Bellavance

Topic: The Foundations of a Good Marriage

Dr. John Bellavance, Vice-President of the Universal Peace Federation Australia, delivered insightful presentations on two critical topics during the seminar.

One presentation addressed sexual ethics and its influence on attitudes towards women. Dr. Bellavance highlighted how popular culture significantly distorts the understanding of gender roles, equality, and sexuality. Sexualised media

messages perpetuate harmful stereotypes, pressuring young people to define their value through physical desirability.

He emphasised that such trends displace young men and women from their authentic selves and contribute to the troubling reality that 1 in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys experience sexual abuse or assault before the age of 18. Dr. Bellavance stressed the vital role families and society play in instilling values and guiding adolescents toward healthy, responsible attitudes about sexuality. These efforts are essential to addressing the root causes of family violence.

He also outlined five essential practices to remedy family violence within marriages:

1. Love – Treating one’s spouse with the utmost respect and care, akin to royalty.
2. Commitment – Prioritising dedication to the relationship.
3. Self-Management – Cultivating emotional maturity and self-control.
4. Understanding and Support – Knowing one’s spouse deeply and encouraging their aspirations.
5. Gender Equality – Embracing and practicing equitable beliefs and behaviours.



DR JOHN BELLAVANCE
VICE-PRESIDENT, UPF AUSTRALIA



Miranda Wills

Topic: Self-Love Ends Family Violence

Miranda Wills, a certified Transformational Coach through the Global Coaching Institute and a graduate of Melbourne Business School's Mindful Leadership program, is dedicated to heart-led leadership and trust-building. She combines professional expertise with profound personal resilience, having found inner peace after enduring family violence.

In her journey, Miranda courageously confronted and healed from childhood trauma, including experiences of incest. Through a deep spiritual awakening, she discovered the transformative power of self-love. Miranda advocates that self-love is key to reshaping family dynamics, fostering safety, respect, and compassion. By healing past wounds, embracing self-compassion, and recognising our intrinsic worth, individuals can break cycles of conflict and pain.

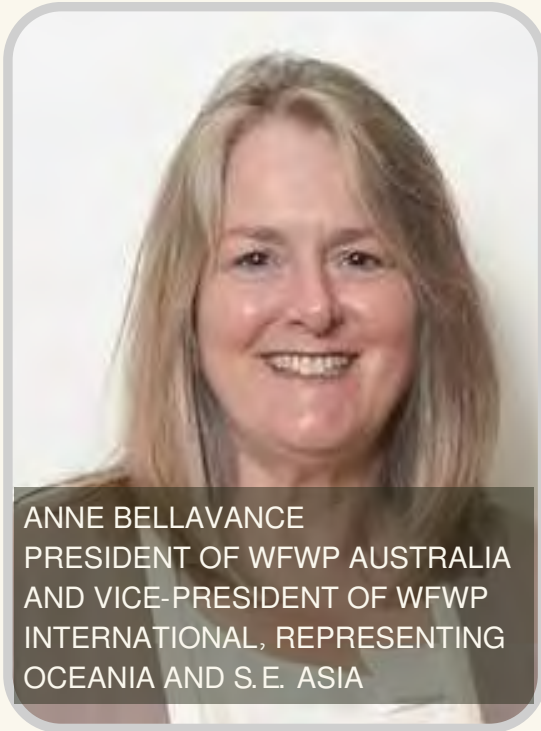
She emphasises moving beyond limiting beliefs and reconnecting with a loving, higher nature that empowers intentional, peaceful interactions. This approach not only heals but creates environments where love, peace, and understanding thrive—paving the way for breaking cycles of violence once and for all.





Anne Bellavance

Topic: Advocating for the Implementation of Clare’s Law Nationally



Domestic violence is a pervasive issue impacting millions across Australia, requiring urgent and proactive solutions. In response, the Women’s Federation for World Peace Australia and its co-partners are advocating for the implementation of Clare’s Law across all States and Territories. Clare’s Law is formally known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS). This law provides individuals with the legal right to access a partner’s history of domestic violence, equipping them with potentially life-saving information.

Why Clare’s Law?

Named after Clare Wood, a UK domestic violence victim, Clare’s Law has been successfully implemented in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and several Canadian provinces. It offers a vital pathway for individuals to learn about a partner’s violent history, enabling informed decisions to protect themselves and their families. With one in six Australian women experiencing physical or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15, the need for preventive measures like Clare’s Law is undeniable.

Anne calls on all individuals and organisations to join this critical campaign, working together to make Clare’s Law (DVDS) a reality across Australia.

Tendai Togara

Topic: The Role of Faith in Women's Lives in Creating Loving Families

Tendai is a leadership development coach and consultant at Leading Impact Now, committed to creating inclusive and equitable organisations. She is also the founder of Found by Grace Ministries; a platform dedicated to empowering women to embrace their God-given purpose and transform from victims to victors. Her vision focuses on cultivating female leaders who embody strength, wisdom, and purpose.



Tendai highlighted the vital role of empowering women to discover their purpose and grow in wisdom, emphasising that their unique ability to nurture and influence shapes healthy families and communities, with an impact that resonates across generations.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



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. <https://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 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. <https://familyfed.org/>



Homeless Christmas Drive

December 22 | Sydney, Australia

Written by Satomi Terasaka
President of WFWP NSWa

OVERVIEW

- WFWP-NSW PARTICIPANTS DONATED ITEMS TO THE HOMELESS CHRISTMAS DRIVE.
- THE NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS IS SKYROCKETING, THIS PROGRAM ADDRESSES THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS WHILE SHOWING COMPASSION.

The NSW WFWP Chapter collaborated with the Homeless Christmas Drive to deliver essential items in support of people experiencing homelessness. We collected a generous amount of items from members, including gift cards, sleeping bags, deodorant, and sanitary packs. Their volunteers packed the items into backpacks and delivered them to people living on the streets. This year, they handed out 30 backpacks.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:

The **Homeless Christmas Drive** is a Sydney-based initiative. Each year, they assemble and distribute care packages containing essential items and gifts throughout the city, particularly on Christmas Eve. The organisation has expanded its efforts to include a Winter Drive in July, continually striving to reach more people in need. <https://samdbing.wixsite.com>

With support from:



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. <https://www.wfwpaustralia.org>



Victoria Christmas Party Get Together

December 15th | Victoria, Australia

Written by Anne Bellavance
President, WFWP Australia

OVERVIEW

- A CELEBRATION OF UNITY AND PEACE TO HONOUR THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND FOSTER UNITY, PEACE, AND GOODWILL; THE CHRISTMAS GATHERING STRENGTHENS CONNECTIONS, INSPIRES GRATITUDE, AND RENEWS OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE.
- FESTIVE FELLOWSHIP TO CELEBRATE PROGRESS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND THE SEASON OF GIVING. THROUGH JOY AND MEANINGFUL REFLECTION, WE EMBRACE LOVE, UNITY, AND HOPE FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

On the 15th of December, WFWP Australia, Victoria Chapter and the Universal Peace Federation Victoria (UPF) came together with family and friends to celebrate the joy of Christmas in a beautiful gathering at Camp Belgrave in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. It was a heartwarming day filled with connection, smiles, and the spirit of unity with yummy food, children’s water activities and a visit from Santa.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:



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New Zealand



Bridging Divides Annual Symposium

October 26th | Auckland, New Zealand

Written by Lia Goijarts
Secretary, WFWP New Zealand

OVERVIEW

- THE "BRIDGING DIVIDES" CONFERENCE AIMED TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING AND COLLABORATION ACROSS SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, RACIAL, AND HISTORICAL DIVIDES.
- TONGAN AND COOK ISLAND CULTURAL DANCE PERFORMANCES WERE KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR GUESTS.
- TO CONCLUDE THE EVENT, PARTICIPANTS TOOK PART IN A BRIDGE OF PEACE CEREMONY.



On Saturday 26 October, the New Zealand chapter of the WFWP held their Annual Symposium in Auckland, New Zealand. The event began with a karakia (prayer) by a local community representative. Matapa Shelley the Chapter President emceed the event, welcoming around 60 attendees.

Speeches were heard from influential women; Mrs. Lotu Fuli, Suanoamaali'i Dr. Karanina Sumeo, Mrs. Anne Pala, Mrs. Ruth Clever and Mrs. Anne Bellavance, on topics such as; peace and unity, cultural understanding and healing historic wounds. The aim of the "Bridging Divides" conference was to foster understanding and collaboration across socio-economic, cultural, racial, and historical divides. It sought to empower individuals, especially women, to act as agents of change in their communities by promoting peace, equality, and unity.

In between speeches, a Tongan dance was performed by Anna Pogoni and Rachel Afu, daughters of two WFWP members. Later, a beautiful Cook Island dance was performed by Matapa Shelley's daughters. These performances not only enriched the event but also showcased the vibrant cultural diversity and the power of the arts in bringing people together.



The event held a Q&A session and lunch. Then, to conclude the event joyfully, participants took part in a bridge of peace ceremony to the beautiful singing of Jessa Verdadero. The key takeaway was the importance of collective action, understanding, and forgiveness in overcoming divisions and creating a more harmonious society.

PRESENTERS

Mrs. Lotu Fuli

Mrs. Lotu Fuli is a politician and Auckland City councillor. Previously serving as a Manukau Ward councillor and a previous member and chair of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board. Active in community advocacy since 2013, she has focused on issues such as public resource management and local governance, particularly in representing South Auckland's diverse population. Her efforts often highlight education, social welfare, and infrastructure improvements within her community.

In her speech, she spoke about bridging socio-economic divides in South Auckland. Mrs. Fuli emphasised the role of women as allies in fostering peace and unity.



Saunoamaali'i Dr. Karanina Sumeo



Saunoamaali'i Dr. Karanina Sumeo is the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner for the New Zealand Human Rights Commission. Originally from Samoa, she has been a strong advocate for social justice, focusing on closing pay disparities and addressing discrimination, particularly for Pacific women, ethnic minorities, and vulnerable workers in New Zealand. With a background spanning chemistry, social work, and child abuse prevention, Dr. Sumeo continues to champion equity and human rights across diverse socio-economic sectors.



Saunoamaali'i Dr. Karanina Sumeo spoke to the audience about addressing socio-economic disparities, highlighting the importance of equality, the impact of racial discrimination, and the Human Rights Act. She discussed upcoming "modern slavery" legislation and the need for fair justice access.

Mrs. Anne Pala



MRS. ANNE PALA (RIGHT)

Mrs. Anne Pala (right) is a community advocate recognised for her work supporting ethnic minorities, women, and children in New Zealand. She was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2008 for her contributions to ethnic communities, reflecting her decades-long engagement in social leadership roles, including serving as the first woman president of the Waitakere Ethnic Board and working with the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel. Mrs. Pala has also been involved with organisations promoting diversity, safety, and community welfare, emphasising public policy, governance, and intercultural advocacy.

In her talk she discussed overcoming cultural barriers, emphasising civic engagement and cultural understanding.

Mrs. Ruth Clever

Mrs. Ruth Clever became a member of the Unification Movement in the USA. She has been involved as a volunteer in interfaith work for over 30 years both in the USA and NZ, including as a founding member of Auckland Inter-Faith Council where she served as Treasurer for 7 years and as President for 12 years. She was a founding member of the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace (now known as the Universal Peace Federation) in New Zealand;



MRS. RUTH CLEVER

Saunoamaali'i Dr. Karanina Sumeo spoke to the audience about addressing socio-economic disparities, highlighting the importance of equality, the impact of racial discrimination, and the Human Rights Act. She discussed upcoming "modern slavery" legislation and the need for fair justice access and was a founding member and first chairwoman of the Women's Federation for World Peace (NZ). She was employed as a trusts administrator in an accounting firm for 20 years but is now retired.

Mrs. Ruth Cleaver shared her experiences in healing historical wounds, drawing on insights from interactions with Holocaust descendants. She stressed the value of education, apology, and forgiveness as tools for healing.



REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

"I truly enjoyed the other speakers and felt their talks were meaningful and uplifting"

- Ruth, Speaker.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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With support from:



Otahuhu Primary School is the oldest school in the Otahuhu district and hosts 500 children. The school motto he wahi tutaki mo nga tamariki o te ao — A meeting place for the children of the world is representative of the schools cultural diversity. <https://otahuhuprimary.school.nz/>



Universal Peace Federation NZ (UPF-NZ) is an international and inter religious network of individuals and organisations, that is dedicated to achieving world peace. An NGO in general consultative status with the ECOSOC UN, UPF supports the work of the UN, particularly in interfaith peace building, peace education, and strengthening of marriage and family. <https://archive.upf.org/>



Family Federation for World Peace NZ (FFWP-NZ) is a global movement that focuses on creating world peace through the family. <https://familyfed.org/>

FLORENCE ANNE LILIU: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

EDUCATION DEGREE AT
SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Hello! My name is Florence Anne Liliu, and I'm currently a student study at the Solomon Island National University (SINU). As I continue on my educational journey, I am excited to share the courses I undertook during my second semester classes of 2024.



First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Womens Federation for World Peace (WFWP), Victoria, Australia and WFWPSI for the Pasifika Scholarship Fund. Also, a special heartfelt thanks to all other supporters and sponsors for their generous sponsorship during my semester two classes.

Your support has helped me overcome the financial difficulties my parents faced in paying my school fees. Your sponsorship allowed me to focus on my studies without financial stress. Thank you once again, for your kindness and unwavering support.



In this semester, I enrolled in four key courses that have enriched my understanding and skills in the field of education. The first course; Curriculum and Assessment, focused on the development and evaluation of the alignment of the curriculum and assessment method with educational goals. The second course; Teaching Primary Science, equipped me with innovative techniques to teach young learners about scientific concepts.

The third course I took was; The Natural Environment, this course inspired me to think about how to integrate sustainability concepts into my future lessons. Lastly, a Grammar and Writing course, provided practical strategies for teaching students how to communicate their ideas clearly and creatively.

During my second semester classes in 2024, I developed a keen interest in exploring innovative teaching methods. The Primary Science course particularly sparked my interest for hands on learning and inquiry-based approaches. Whereas the Natural environment course fostered my appreciation for sustainability.





I actively participate in various volunteer programmes during my one-week break, including volunteering and participating with WFWPSI during the UN International Day of Peace on September 21, 2024 organised by the WFP Solomon Islands. This experience allowed me to engage with my community leaders and fellow volunteers, promoting peace and gender equality and raising awareness about women's rights and the importance of peaceful coexistence in our communities.



My study career at SINU, during semester two in 2024 has provided numerous benefits for my family, community, and society as a whole. Firstly, my education equips me with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute positively to my family's well being, enabling me to support them better both emotionally and financially. Next, the skills and insight I gain from my courses allows me to engage with my community effectively, I can help inspire others and promote positive change. Finally, my education at SINU positions me to address pressing challenges in our society, while encouraging collaboration and progress towards a brighter future for all.



Once again, my heartfelt thanks to WFP Victoria Australia and WFP SI for coordinating this scholarship and huge thanks goes out to the major sponsors who continuously support the Pasifika Scholarship Fund, for without your support, my study at SINU could not be successful.

JOHN GALOKANIKI: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT


DIPLOMA IN SECONDARY TEACHING AT SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



This is my second semester study report on my progress at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). I am deeply grateful for your continued support, which has enabled me to pursue my studies with dedication. Below, I provide a detailed overview of my coursework and progress this semester and an overall summary of my journey so far.

A⁺

Since the start of my studies in 2023, I have completed a total of 15 units out of the 19 required for my Diploma in Secondary Teaching. This means I have four units remaining, which I plan to complete in 2025 to fulfil all the requirements for my diploma. The knowledge and skills I have gained through these units have been helpful. They have not only deepened my understanding of education, history, and ethics but have also improved my confidence in taking on leadership roles in my future teaching career.



In my second semester this year, I enrolled in four units:

1

SSR602: Christian Worship, in this unit, I studied the theology of worship, focusing on the differences between worship practices in the Old Testament and the New Testament. I gained a deeper understanding of the types and significance of worship during these two eras and how they shape Christian worship today.

2

HIS602: Church Histories, This unit explored how Christianity arrived in the Solomon Islands through European missionaries during the colonial era. I learned about the challenges and contributions of these missionaries and how their efforts laid the foundation for the growth of churches in the region.

3

SNU600: Ethics, This course examined ethical and unethical behavior, as well as moral and immoral actions. It has equipped me with the skills to make sound, ethical decisions in my personal and professional life.

4

EDU603: Curriculum and Assessment, This unit focused on curriculum development and student assessment techniques. I learned how to design effective curricula and use various assessment tools to evaluate student learning outcomes. This knowledge is vital for my future teaching career.

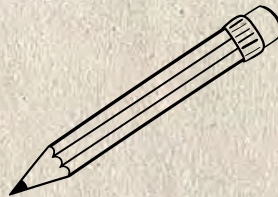
These courses have significantly contributed to my academic and professional development, preparing me for my role as a teacher and a school chaplain.

Final Gratitude

I want to say a big thank you to you, President Anne, and your team for helping me by paying my school fees. Your support has made my studies much easier and has inspired me to do my best in school. Because of your help, I can fully focus on my education and work toward my dream of becoming a school chaplain.

I truly appreciate your trust in me, and I promise to work hard and make the most of this opportunity. Your help has been a real blessing, and I hope to use my education to help students and my community.

May God bless you all.
With heartfelt thanks,
John Galokaniki



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

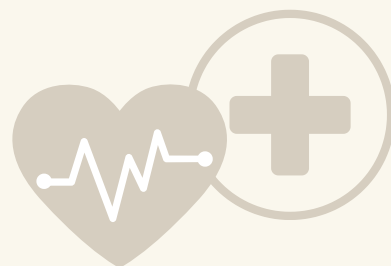
ANDREA DERBY: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

NURSING DEGREE AT SOLOMON
ISLANDS NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

My name is Andrea Derby, a year two Nursing student at the Solomon Island National University (SINU). I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generous support I have received through the Pasifika Scholarship Fund from the Women's Federation for World Peace Australia.



The scholarship has been a cornerstone of my academic journey, allowing me to focus fully on my studies without the heavy burden of financial challenges. With this support, I have done well in my coursework, consistently maintaining good grades, and successfully completed my clinical attachment at the Hospital setting (National Referral hospital- NRH), where I have gained valuable practical experiences.



This assistance has not only lightened my financial load, but also inspired me to dream bigger. I am determined to graduate with good grades and contribute to the improvement of health care service delivery in the Solomon Islands.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your support has had a profound impact on my life. Thank you.



WFWP OCEANIA NEWSLETTER



Solomon Islands 2024 Closing Event

December 15th | Honaira, Solomon Islands

Written by Monica Longanimala
President, WFWP Solomon Islands

OVERVIEW

- OVER 60 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE SOLOMON ISLANDS END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- THE AIM OF THE EVENT WAS TO CELEBRATE AND REFLECT ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT FOR THE YEAR 2024, AS WELL AS TO APPRECIATE THE SUPPORTERS, MEMBERS AND FAMILIES FOR THEIR DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPPORT TOWARDS WFWP-SI.



On the 15th of December, 2024, WFWP Solomon Islands celebrated their closing event for 2024. The aim of the event was to celebrate and reflect on the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt for the year 2024, as well as to appreciate the supporters, members and families for their direct and indirect support towards WFWP-SI.



WFWP-SI President Monica Ilala Longanimala acknowledged the hard working support of her executive members for their volunteer support towards WFWP-SI for year 2024. She also thanked the supporters, WFWP Victoria Australia and WFWP Japan for their unwavering support. There was also thanks expressed for the DSE (Development Service Exchange), the umbrella body for NGOs in Solomon Islands, for their extension of invitations to WFWP-SI to be part of the civil society organisation in various meetings, conference and stakeholders networking throughout the year.

The WFWP-SI President also invited the WFWP Pasifika Scholarship Fund recipients from Solomon Islands to express their academic learning experience and gratitude to WFWP Victoria for the Pasifika Scholarship Fund, for without their generous and continuous support their studies would not be so successful. This year, WFWP Victoria under the Pasifika Scholarship Fund has successfully sponsored 3 students at the Solomon Islands National University.

As part of the event, WFWP-SI also gave special Christmas gifts to the children, youths and all participants. The end of the event was marked with a cutting of the victory cake for WFWP SI and sharing of food. The WFWP-SI President thanked everyone for attending, for without their presence, the event would not be successful.



Global Women's Peace Network



Purpose: 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.

New style of leadership: Leaders in our 'flattening world' need a different set of skills; requiring aptitude in emotional intelligence, reconciliation, mediation and forgiveness.

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.

Philippines



Visit by WFWP leaders to Bohol

September 29th | Bohol, Philippines

Written by Christine Rose Bulayo
Secretary-General, WFWPI Asia Pacific Region

OVERVIEW

- THE VISIT OFFERED A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, SHARE LOCAL INITIATIVES, AND RECEIVE INSIGHTS FROM HIGHLY RESPECTED WFWP LEADERS.
- CENTRAL TO THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES WAS A HEARTFELT SHARING SESSION, WHERE WFWP BOHOL MEMBERS SHARED STORIES ABOUT THEIR LOCAL CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS.
- LOOKING AHEAD, WFWP BOHOL IS HOPEFUL TO EXPAND ITS OUTREACH AND IMPACT, WITH PLANS FOR WORKSHOPS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY.

On September 29, 2024, the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Bohol Chapter had the privilege of hosting a meaningful visit from distinguished international and national leaders. Mrs. Anne Bellavance, International Vice President of WFWP Asia Pacific 2, together with her spouse, Dr. John Bellavance, Vice-President of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Australia, journeyed to the island province of Bohol. Accompanying them were Mrs. Almera Grace Mayo, President of WFWP Philippines, and her husband, Mr. Eduard Mayo.



The delegation was warmly welcomed by Ms. Christine Rose Bulayo, Chapter President of WFWP Bohol, alongside her team. This visit was more than just a formal occasion; it marked a significant milestone for the local chapter, offering a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, share local initiatives, and receive insights from highly respected WFWP leaders.

Central to the day’s activities was a heartfelt sharing session, where WFWP Bohol members shared stories about their local challenges and achievements. Mrs. Bellavance and Mrs. Mayo, both highly experienced leaders within the organisation, provided invaluable guidance and wisdom. Drawing from their experiences with other successful WFWP chapters across the Asia Pacific region, they emphasised the core values of unity, sisterhood, and collaboration. Their insights resonated deeply with the WFWP Bohol members, who were encouraged to further



strengthen their local efforts. Additionally, the meeting included discussions on improving the organizational structure of WFWP Philippines, with both international and local leaders agreeing on the need to build a more cohesive network of chapters throughout the country.



One of the highlights of the visit was the tour of the Permaculture Training Hub, a significant project currently under construction in Bohol. This hub is a major undertaking for the WFWP Bohol Chapter, as it will serve as a training center for women and youth in regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices. Once completed, the facility will offer permaculture courses designed

to promote environmental sustainability and equip participants with practical skills they can implement in their communities, contributing to local food security and sustainable development.

Following the tour, the WFWP delegation engaged in a pivotal meeting with local government officials from the Municipality of Carmen, Bohol. In attendance were Municipal Mayor Conchita Toribio Delos Reyes, Municipal Agriculturist Arlene Cabusao, and the Municipal Head of the Department of Women and Children, Jocelyn Sombrio. This meeting provided a platform for discussing collaborative efforts between WFWP and the local government. The municipal officials expressed strong support for WFWP's initiatives, recognising the organisation's potential to drive meaningful change in the province. Mayor Che expressed openness to future collaborations, noting the alignment of WFWP's mission with the municipality's ongoing efforts to improve community well-being.

Ms. Bulayo and the WFWP Bohol team expressed heartfelt gratitude for the presence and guidance of Bellavance couple and Mayo couple. The exchange of ideas, experiences, and strategies left all participants feeling inspired and ready to pursue new initiatives with renewed energy.

Looking ahead, WFWP Bohol is hopeful to expand its outreach and impact, with plans for workshops, training programs, and community-building activities already underway. During this visit, WFWP Bohol also had the opportunity to highlight the province’s natural beauty, including its rich marine life and unique geological formations. United by a shared vision and a strong support network, WFWP Bohol is eager to continue paving the way toward a more harmonious and sustainable future for the province and beyond.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Hosted by:



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The Digital Bridges for Peace: A Symposium on Global Peace and Reconciliation

September 28th | Manila, Philippines

Written by Helena Asuncion
WFPW Philippines

OVERVIEW

- THIS DAY-LONG EVENT FOCUSED ON NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION FOR PEACE.
- THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS EVENT WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A 21-DAY ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE THE REUNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.
- AN INCREDIBLE 130 GUESTS ATTENDED THIS EVENT.

PRESENTERS

Ms. Sua Han - *The Global Significance of Korean Unification: Advancing Peace and Prosperity on a Global Scale*



Ms. Sua Han has a Ph.D. in North Korean Studies from Dongguk University. Her professional experience includes being Director General of the Women's Federation for World Peace and at Ewha Woman's University Department of Social Welfare. Ms. Sua Hua is now Chairperson of the Gangdong-gu Council in Seoul and Director of the Democratic and Peaceful Unification Advisory Council. In 2017, she received the Presidential Commendation Award for the Civilian

Unification Movement and again in 2022 for Peaceful Unification Activities.

Ms. Sua Han delivered a short talk on the topic, "The Global Significance of Korean Unification: Advancing Peace and Prosperity on a Global Scale". Ms. Han Sua's presentation explored the Korean Peninsula's division since WWII, marked by the Korean War and North Korea's recent policies to preserve its cultural identity. It highlighted how North Korea enforced cultural protection laws, such as the Pyongyang Language Protection Act, while focusing on the broader implications of regional cooperation organisations like the EU, OAU, and ASEAN post-Cold War. The vision for a unified Korea centres on building mutual trust, strengthening international cooperation, and fostering diplomacy to create a peaceful Korean Peninsula that contributes meaningfully to a global peace community.

Ms. Anne Bellavance - *Great Leaders are Masters who Rewrite Futures and Transform How Situations Occur*



Ms. Anne Bellavance is an educator, not-for-profit pioneer, environmental scientist and volunteer with over 40 years of experience in Australia, the U.S., and Canada. Anne is dedicated to establishing a 'culture of heart' based on the motto 'Living for the Sake of Others,' reflecting the core values of the Women's Federation for World Peace International. Anne spends a significant amount of time supporting and mentoring women and networking with community organisations. Through the Global

Women's Peace Network, she emphasises leadership, family education, and environmental stewardship.

Ms. Anne Bellavance delivered a short talk on the topic, "Great Leaders are Masters who Rewrite Futures and Transform How Situations Occur". One of the highlights of her lecture was the activity and steps on how to become masters of ourselves and our situations by

understanding the past, analysing the present, and planning for the future. She highlighted how the youth should have the power to hold and navigate their lives.



Ms. Patricia Nicole G. Uy - *Youth as Catalysts for Peace: Empowering the Next Generation to Foster Harmony in the Digital Age*



Ms. Patricia Nicole G. Uy is an alumna of the Ateneo de Manila University, where she graduated with Cum Laude distinction in Computer Science, with a specialisation in Data Science and Analytics and attained a double degree in Digital Game Design and Development. She received the Samsung Research Excellence Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance and Research, with both of her thesis papers being published in renowned journals; the Philippine

Computing Science Congress and the Philippine Information Technology Journal special issue on Serious Games.

Nicole has also moderated a panel for Girls in AI during the ASEAN Girls in ICT Policy Summit 2023 supported by the ITU and was a panellist during the ASEAN Youth Dialogue 2023. Her understanding of emerging trends as well as her unique position as a young woman government representative in the field of technology coupled with her background in computer science and the start-up industry has set her as an upcoming exceptional young woman leader at the forefront of her field.

Ms. Uy delivered a short talk on the topic, “Youth as Catalysts for Peace: Empowering the Next Generation to Foster Harmony in the Digital Age”. Being the youngest among the speakers, Ms. Patricia Nicole Uy instantly built a connection with the young audience. Her talk highlighted how the youth can use digital platforms to foster harmonious spaces. She also advised the participants of the dangers within the cyber world. Ms. Uy highlighted digital vigilance in using the internet in order to avoid scams or getting hacked.

Ms. Christine Miles A. Laberinto-Miranda - *Connecting Communities: Leveraging Digital Platforms for Global Peace and Harmony*

As the Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Christine Miles A. Laberinto-Miranda leads and oversees the implementation of ICT Industry development programs including the Digital Cities Program for the IT BPM Industry EDGE PH Program. She has also worked as a Freelance writer for Filipino artists under the DF Art Agency, the Leon Art Gallery, and Metro Gallery. She earned her Master’s Degree in Community Development from the



University of the Philippines Diliman, and earned her Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from the University of Santo Tomas where she graduated as Cum Laude.



Ms. Laberinto-Miranda delivered a short talk on the topic, “Connecting Communities: Leveraging Digital Platforms for Global Peace and Harmony”. She created an opportunity for participants to get to know the online professional communities that they could join. Ms. Laberinto-Christine also highlighted how the Philippine Government, through the Department of Information and Communications Technology, raises digital job opportunities for the Filipino people, especially in the countryside.

Dr. Florida C. Labuguen - *Promoting Peace and Strengthening Communities through Collaborative Efforts*



Dr. Florida C. Labuguen is a highly respected figure in the field of education in the Philippines. With her extensive experience and dedication to nurturing young minds, she has made significant contributions to the development of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) in the country. Dr. Labuguen served at the Technological University of the Philippines-Manila as the former Director of the National Service Training Program, Vice President for Academia and Finance, and she also stood as a former OIC University President.

Dr. Labuguen delivered a short talk on the topic, “Promoting Peace and Strengthening Communities through Collaborative Efforts”. Dr. Labuguen had a very interactive lecture encouraging the participants to do some icebreakers and even sing. She focused on how families, as the smallest unit of the community, are the foundation of a peaceful community and nation as a whole. Dr. Labuguen also asked the participants to participate in a poll where she challenged them to fulfill their chosen advocacy or strategy to promote peace in their communities.





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With support from:



The **TUP-College of Liberal Arts** in the Philippines is a premier state university with recognised excellence in engineering and technology education, at par with other leading universities in the ASEAN region. It provides progressive leadership in applied research and developmental studies in technical, industrial, and technological fields, producing globally competitive professionals.



Cayman Islands Government TV (CIGTV) serves as the primary public broadcaster in the Cayman Islands. CIGTV frequently collaborates with local organizations and media outlets to expand its reach and content offerings, including partnerships that enhance public access to key news and community stories.



Coffai was born amidst the Global pandemic in 2020. It pioneered the “coffee subscription” industry in the pursuit of bringing the café to home. Coffai emphasises sustainable and innovative approaches while working closely with coffee farmers to elevate the Philippines coffee scene.



Digitribe Innovations Philippines specialises in providing comprehensive digital marketing services to elevate brand's online presence. Their team of industry-certified professionals offers customised innovative solutions and a results-driven approach.

Malaysia




Giving Back! Youth Community Service: Cleaning Together for a Better Tomorrow

November 16 | Banting, Malaysia

Written by Jenisse
WFPW Malaysia

OVERVIEW

- 70 VOLUNTEERS FROM UTAR, UM AND THE LOCAL VILLAGE PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT THAT ADDRESSED ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY HYGIENE.
- VOLUNTEERS ACTIVELY CLEANED DRAINS AND REMOVED TRASH, REDUCING RISKS OF FLOODING AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES.



On 16 November 2024, 70 volunteers came together for the Giving Back! Youth Community Service project held along Rantau Panjang Road in Teluk Panglima Garang, Selangor. Jointly organised by WFWP Malaysia and the Kuala Langat Constituency Service Centre, the event united students from University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), University Malaya (UM), and villagers from the local community to clean up the village premises.

Mr. Haridass Ramasamy, Parliament Coordinating Officer for Kuala Langat, commended WFWP for coordinating this meaningful project and emphasised the importance of helping one another, regardless of racial and cultural differences to build a harmonious community.

Mdm. Lina Cheng, President of WFWP Malaysia, thanked the volunteers and highlighted the importance of volunteerism. She said, “this is a great opportunity to learn from one another, gain valuable experience, and contribute to the community.”

Mr. Badrul Idzman bin Ahmad Latipi, the village chief, divided the participants into four groups and assigned tasks to them. Each team was led by a village committee member. Together, the volunteers cleaned 12 villagers' compounds, picked up trash, and cleared drains to prevent clogging and flooding. Volunteers worked hard under the hot sun to remove plastic bottles, wrappers, and other waste trapped in bushes and drains.



The event taught participants valuable lessons: teamwork, environmental responsibility, and the importance of caring for one's community. The collaboration between locals and students showed how unity can create a positive impact.



The day ended with a sense of accomplishment and hope for a cleaner, healthier environment. Thanks to the organisers, staff and volunteers, the Giving Back! Youth Community Service project was a great success.

REFLECTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

“The best part was seeing everyone come together to work towards a cleaner environment. I learned that small efforts can make a big difference.” - Thien

“Cleaning up made me realise how important it is not to litter. It was great to see the difference we made as a team,” - Syfia

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With support from:

The **Kuala Langat Constituency Service Centre** which serves as a platform for addressing the needs of local residents. It provides support for community-driven projects, including environmental clean-ups, education initiatives, and health campaigns. The centre works closely with local leaders, NGOs, and volunteers to improve the quality of life for its constituents.

WFPW Mission and Vision



WFPW 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, WFPW International aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.



Building Bridges for Peace: Asia Talk Series

December 8 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Written by Tan Wan
WFWP Malaysia

OVERVIEW

- THIS EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER 90 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS, COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES, AND PEACEBUILDERS, TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FOSTERING PEACE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GENDER EQUALITY, AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT.
- THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENT WAS THE PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING THREE ESTEEMED SPEAKERS.

The "Building Bridges for Peace: Asia Talk Series," held on December 8, 2024, in Bukit Kiara Country Club, Kuala Lumpur, was a significant milestone in promoting peace and collaboration, with the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Malaysia proudly supporting the event.

WFWP sponsored 10 youths and students, who were the past recipients of the Give Me a Chance Refurbished Laptop Project, to attend this forum on community empowerment. Organised by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Malaysia, the event brought together 90 participants, including distinguished speakers, community and business leaders, youth representatives, and peacebuilders, to explore innovative solutions for fostering peace through sustainable development, gender equality, and youth engagement.



The event began with a networking session, setting the tone for an engaging day of dialogue and collaboration. Mr. Anil Pillay, the Organising Co-chairman, delivered the welcoming remarks,




emphasising the importance of partnerships in addressing global challenges. Assistant Professor Sudesh G. Balasubramaniam, President of UPF Malaysia, shared an inspiring message about the collective responsibility to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to global peace.

The panel discussion, which was the key highlight of the event, focused on "Empowering Communities through Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Youth Engagement." Moderated by Ms. Nadiah Hanim Abdul Latif, the panel featured insightful presentations from three speakers:

1. Hon. Larry Sng Wei Shien, Member of Parliament for Julau, discussed local engagement and sustainable development, particularly in rural communities. He emphasised the importance of leveraging technology and innovation to enhance agricultural practices and support the empowerment of local handicrafts in rural Sarawak.
2. Mdm Bindi Rajasegaran, Past District Governor of Rotary International D3300, emphasised the role of youth leadership in peace building. Mdm Bindi Rajasegaran referenced data from the Global Peace Index, highlighting significant declines in peacefulness across most countries in 2024. She underscored the pivotal role of young leaders in peace building in her presentation.
3. Ms. Khadijatul Azada (KD), Founding President of Women Holistic Leadership (WHOLE) Malaysia, underscored the critical role of women's economic empowerment in achieving sustainable peace. She highlighted the crucial role of women in economic development and demonstrated the link between economic empowerment and societal resilience.





The event also featured a dynamic Q&A session, offering practical strategies for advancing peace, as well as a performance by young volunteers. The closing remarks by Mr. Lai Peng Keong, Secretary-General of UPF Malaysia, reinforced the event's commitment to building a more inclusive and harmonious world. Overall, the "Building Bridges for Peace" event was a great success in advancing the shared mission of peace, collaboration, and empowerment. WFPW Malaysia remains dedicated to supporting such initiatives and fostering peace through dialogue, gender equality, and youth engagement.

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Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is an international and interreligious network of individuals and organisations, that is dedicated to achieving world peace. An NGO in general consultative status with the ECOSOC UN, UPF supports the work of the UN, particularly in interfaith peace building, peace education, and strengthening of marriage and family.

With support from:



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Feel inspired?



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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.