

WFWP Malta, at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Women's Forum

Myrabelle Corlett
November 24, 2015



Myrabelle Corlett with Mrs Suhi Arafat during GHOGM Malta 2015

From 22-24 Nov 2015, foremost women leaders from 53 countries of the Commonwealth, traveled to Malta to meet at the first ever 'Women's Forum' held at the 'Hotel Intercontinental', under the theme 'Women Ahead: Be All That You Can Be' under the patronship of The President of Malta and the Spouse of the Prime Minister and H.E. Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

I was proud to volunteer to serve my country at this prestigious event. My job as support staff involved office work, registration, ushering in speakers and guests as well as helping out with general issues.

Five parallel group workshops were gathered in different rooms, and I was assigned to assist Group 1 entitled 'Women's Political Empowerment.' The moderator was Prof. Hon. Margret Wilson, first Woman Speaker, NZ Parliament, supported by Prof. Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop (Auckland University)

At the end of this workshop (I had noticed there were no men in attendance except for one reporter), I introduced myself as President of WFWP Malta and was able to offer an observation to the panel, that.... "...for the next Women's Forum there should be some male representation, since men can also offer some valid contribute towards women's issues!" The representative from Trinidad and Tobago came up to me later and said that she would put my suggestion forward on the drafting of the Outcome Document.

Throughout the 3 days I enjoyed making new acquaintances and even had the pleasure to talk and meet or be of service to some very wonderful ladies among them Madam Suhi ARAFAT, wife of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat; Hon. Baroness Sandip Verma, Parliamentary Under-secretary of state, Dept for Int. Development, UK, and Ms Baria Alamuddin, foreign editor of Alhayat newspaper.

At the end of the Forum I invited Prof. Peggy and her Samoan colleague for a drive around the Island and a tour of the old silent city of Medina, during which we could get to know each other in more relaxed setting, and I could introduce WFWP.

Reported by

Myrabelle Corlett
WFWP Malta President