

WFWP Italy: Her Story Webinar: Hope in Times of War

Elisabetta Nistri
October 19, 2023



WFWP Italy invited Lisa Clark to share her testimony at the Her Story webinar, a monthly meeting promoted by WFWP, where guests and friends can share their experiences.

Lisa Clark has been an activist for peace for a long time. She lived in Sarajevo, Bosnia during the war in the 1990s, and later spent time in Kosovo, building bridges of peace across the front lines.

In more recent years Lisa has been involved in disarmament campaigns, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its role in promoting the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which entered into force in 2021.



We heard from her special stories about women who, even while they were under bombing, were able to give hope to their children that soon the war would be finished and that they would be able to return to school. She gave many other examples of strong women who, while their husbands were on the front line, cultivated and worked the land for crops and kept the country united.

The meeting ended with the common understanding that it is possible to stop the wars if we can give voice to the civil society that normally doesn't want the war, and if women can unite and break the barriers between nations in conflict zones.

See report here:

www.wfwp-europe.org/her-story

Reported by Elisabetta Nistri
WFWP Italy President



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HER STORY

An inspiring series of monthly encounters with women from Europe, the MENA and Eurasia. They will tell their stories to bring us closer to their culture and their life of challenges and successes."

LISA CLARK

Peace Activist,
Contributed to
the Nobel Peace
Prize Winner Intl.
Campaigner,
Leader



Lisa Clark

19th Oct. 7pm cet

Lisa Clark is an Italian-based peace activist with a remarkable track record. She lived in war-torn Sarajevo, worked on reconciliation in Kosovo, and organized a peace symposium in Eastern DR Congo. Lisa's recent focus has been on disarmament, notably with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

[Zoom link](#)

[See poster](#)

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Iris Dotan Katz

Senior Clinical
Psychologist,
Peace Advocate
Women's
Empowerment
Leader



Dr. Iris Dotan Katz

21st Sep. 7pm cet

Dr. Iris Dotan Katz is a senior clinical psychologist, peace advocate, and women's empowerment leader. With over 27 years of experience, she combines therapy, organisational development, and spiritual practices to promote reconciliation and social change. Dr. Katz actively engages in peace organisations, fostering dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians through compassion and prayer.

[Zoom link](#)

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Patricia Lalonde

Former Member
European
Parliament -
Foreign Affairs
Committee -
Activist



Patricia Lalonde

17th Aug. 7pm cet

Patricia Lalonde worked in Afghanistan for 15 years, building girls' schools and promoting women's rights. She was a member of the European Parliament, conducted research, and attended international conferences on human rights and peace. Now, she is Vice President of the French Think Tank GEOPRAGMA, having recently visited Iran and Syria.

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Renáta Ocilková

Doctor -
Educator
- Author



Renáta Ocilková

22nd Jun. 6pm cet

Renáta Ocilková is a Slovakian graduate of Comenius University and Catholic University. She has attended international internships and trainings and is involved in ministry to Roma women. She lectures and publishes on education, bioethics, and gender issues. Currently, she is the President of the Forum of Life in Slovakia.

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Laetitia van Haren

Laetitia van Haren
Cultural Anthropologist – Coach – Activist



Laetitia van Haren

20th Apr. 7pm cet

A cultural anthropologist who has lived and worked for decades in sub-Saharan Africa and south-east Asia. In Geneva she was director of Defense for Children–International, Humanitarian Policy with Action by Churches Together.

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[See video recording](#)

ASHA GEESDIIR
Government Advisor – Human Rights Activist



Asha Omar Geesdiir

16th Mar. 23

Has over 20 years experience in policyrelated development, particularly in participatory development, advocacy, human rights, refugee welfare, good governance, constitutional development, education, and as an expert on conflict resolution, peace building and conflict management projects. " Her story" this month featured Asha Omar Geesdiir, a strong human activist from Somalia that spent many years in Sweden before returning back to Mogadishu Somalia as a special advisor to the government on women and childrens issues. She shared about how the love in her family was the platform from which she could believe in herself and her ability to contribute to positive developments in her country .

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Maria del Carmen Quintanilla Barba
Politician – Activist



MEP Maria Carmen Quintanilla Barba

February 16, 2023, at 7 pm CET

MEP Maria Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Spanish National MP (2000-2019) Spanish Senator (2020). Permanent Parliamentarian in the European Council. Founder and President of AFAMMER, organization dedicated to the family and women's development in the rural area. She shared about her experience in the 40 years since AFAMMER was founded. Maria Carmen shared the dream from her youth of seeing the establishment of Gender Equality at various levels. She ensured the rights of Rural Women in Spain, which later led her to defend many other causes linked to Gender Equality, and she consequently earned her place at the European Parliament as MEP. She contributed and promoted the creation of the Convention for the Elimination of all kinds of Violence against Women. Mrs. Carmen spares no efforts in her work of highlighting the issue of Violence against Women. She is the founder of the well-known AFAMMER Association, where she is President, and which is dedicated to the Family and Women's development.

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KHOLOUD W. KASSEM
Politician – Social Servant – Author – Activist



KHOLOUD W. KASSEM

19th Jan. 23

Active Member of the Global Network of Women in Politics. Several times Candidate to the Parliament - Lebanon. Founder and active member of several organisations to empower women in politics and decision making

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