

Women & Peace

Winter
Newsletter
2024

GREETINGS from the
President of WFWP UK

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**
Poland.

LEADERSHIP OF THE HEART
Discover the leader within

WINNERS SPEECH 2024.

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Grand Finals Celebration

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

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COMING EVENTS



Women's Federation for World Peace UK
Registered Company in England and Wales, No 0331944

Greetings from WFWP UK President

Dear friends and colleagues,

As the holiday season approaches, I hope this message finds you in good spirits and surrounded by loved ones. May this time of year bring you warmth, joy and moments of reflection on the incredible work we do together.

With the coming of winter we witness the beauty of change with the leaves gracefully falling and a crisp breeze signalling the season's shift. Reflecting on 2024, I am deeply inspired by the remarkable achievements of the Women's Federation, thanks to each of you who have enhanced our programmes and initiated new projects aligned with our vision.

This year, we are focusing our efforts on a pressing cause: supporting those affected by the devastating conflict in Gaza. Our board has committed to raising funds for a vital baby incubator to be delivered to a hospital in Gaza once the war subsides. This initiative will be our ongoing project throughout 2025, embodying hope for new life.



Recently we concluded our European WFWP Conference for Women Leaders in Warsaw, Poland. It was a powerful gathering, uniting women from diverse backgrounds under the theme, “Women Leading the Change Through Peacebuilding, Justice and Transformation.” Expert speakers shared insights on promoting peace through non-violent communication, while NGO leaders bravely addressed violence against women and girls.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers, especially the branch coordinators and project managers, whose dedication sustains the Women's Federation. Their tireless commitment is the foundation of our mission.

As we navigate the complexities of our world, let us remember that every small action contributes to the greater good. Together we can uplift those in need and create an environment where peace and justice prevail. As we embrace the season of change let us step forward with hope and determination, united in our purpose.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season filled with hope and peace.

Warm regards, Mitty Tohma

President, Women's Federation UK

**'Every Small Action contributes
to the Greater Good.'**



Women's Leadership Conference

Reflecting on the conference,

Mitty Tohma, WFWP Europe President /UK:

Poland, a country rich in history and culture, served as the vibrant backdrop for the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Europe's 21st Annual Women's Leadership Conference. From November 8th to 10th, this remarkable event brought together around 130 passionate women and a few supportive gentlemen, all dedicated to advancing the cause of peace and social transformation.

The conference acted as a beacon of inspiration, inviting leaders from across Europe and beyond to share their diverse experiences and insights on effective leadership. Participants engaged in thought-provoking sessions that explored the power of education in promoting peace and stability, the importance of personal responsibility in reconciliation and the crucial contributions of women of faith in conflict prevention.

Conversations also highlighted the impactful work of NGOs in uplifting communities, showcasing how collective efforts can transform lives. Another engaging discussion focused on the innovative roles of women in STEM fields, demonstrating how they are driving positive societal change. These sessions created a dynamic atmosphere of learning and collaboration, where participants united to share knowledge and support one another.

The conference featured exceptional guest speakers whose expertise enriched the discussions, skillfully moderated by our dedicated leaders.

In a moment of celebration, women were honored with the prestigious Global Women Ambassador Award, recognizing their outstanding contributions to peace. This award emphasizes the unwavering commitment and profound impact these women have made in their communities, inspiring others to join the movement toward justice and social transformation.

As we reflect on the inspiring moments shared during the 21st Annual Women's Leadership Conference, we are invigorated in our mission to promote peace and equality. Together, we are creating a path toward a world where women's voices resonate and lead the way to a more just and harmonious society. We eagerly anticipate the 22nd Annual WFWP European Women's Leadership Conference in 2025, where we will continue this vital work.

**'Women Leading the
Change:
towards Peacebuilding,
Justice and
Social Transformation'**



NOVEMBER
8th –10th

REGENT WARSAW HOTEL
POLAND

“A BEACON OF LIGHT AT THE TIME OF WAR”

Amid the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Russia, as well as in the Middle East, specifically in Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon, the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Europe, in conjunction with the Global Women’s Peace Network, held its 21st Annual Women’s Leadership Conference titled “Women Leading the Change: Towards Peace Building, Justice, and Social Transformation.” This event, which drew 130 women and a handful of men, took place from November 8 to 10, 2024, at the Regent Warsaw Hotel in Poland.

The welcoming portion of the conference began on Friday evening, moderated by **Ms. Marcia de Abreu**, WFWP Europe Secretary General and WFWP Spain President. Greetings were given by:

- **Ms. Mitty Tohma**, WFWP Europe President / WFWPI Vice President, UK
- **Ms. Moriko Hori**, WFWPI President / WFWP President, Japan
- **Ms. Danuta Przywara**, President of the Council of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, who emphasized the need to constantly protect the values of justice and democracy. She stated that citizens must be aware of their rights and freedoms, as well as their obligations.
- **Ms. Susana del Rio**, Member of the Independent Experts Committee of the European Commission, European Union, and Ambassador of Peace, Spain. Most recently, she authored a book entitled Twelve European Women, which portrays notable figures such as Berta von Suttner, Hannah Arendt, Angela Merkel, Ursula von der Leyen, Marie Curie and Princess Leonor.
- **Dr. Michael Balcomb**, Chairman of Universal Peace Federation EUME, UK, passionately shared about the women in his life, particularly his own relationships with his mother, his wife, and the founder of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. He spoke about how profoundly these women have influenced his life.



- **Ms. Aleksandra Skoniecz**, WFWP President, Poland, noted Poland's progress since the 1990s. The country is now a NATO member, and its economy ranks 24th in the world for GDP growth over the past 30 years. There is minimal pay disparity between men and women; 43% of Poland’s top managers are women, 60% of university students are women, and 30% of Members of Parliament are women.

Before departing for dinner we enjoyed a musical interlude with a performance by **Mr Wojciech Skonieczny**

On Saturday morning a “Meditation for Inner Healing” session was facilitated by **Dr. Tina Lindhard**, President of the CICA Foundation (International Dialogues about the Brain and Aggression).

Session I: **The Role of Education in Promoting Peace and Stability in Society**

a. From Conflict to Cooperation: Lessons in Non-Violent Resolution

Moderator: **Ms. Margoth Kalstad**, WFWP President Norway..... [to read the full report of the conference click here.](#)



To view the video of the conference, please click on the photo.



PART 1: DISCOVER THE LEADER WITHIN

“Leadership of the Heart” Taster Programme.

Online 17th August 2024

On a sunny day filled with energy, over 20 women gathered for our first "Leadership of the Heart" taster session. This event aimed to empower participants with valuable tools and insights on leading with love, service and effective communication.

The session began with a warm welcome from **Kefilwe Lebepe**, Chair of the Young Professionals International, who set a positive tone for the day. Her opening remarks highlighted our mission to engage in compassionate leadership.

Next, **Mitty Tohma**, President of WFWP UK and Europe, shared her excitement about this important leadership curriculum, inspiring participants as we started our journey together.

Tanya Chandler, Social Media Manager for WFWP UK, gave the formal introduction of the seminar, emphasizing the importance of personal leadership and the need for leaders of the heart in the current world climate. She highlighted the significance of leadership skills such as negotiation, empathetic listening and communication, but stressed that these skills are insufficient without deeper characteristics like trustworthiness, authenticity, courage, service and humility. Tanya also underscored the core of peace leadership, which is leadership of the heart, and the transformative power of love in healing and creating peace.



Spirituality

Tanya then discussed the connection between spirituality and leadership, emphasizing the importance of service, community engagement, and moral standards. She highlighted the transformative power of spirituality in personal growth and the creation of something more beautiful and positive. Tanya also stressed the need for passion, a calling, and good character in leadership roles, and encouraged everyone to reflect on their gifts and calling, and to actively pursue discovering and offering them for the greater public good.

Tanya suggested that prayer and meditation can help individuals discern their passions and gifts, and encouraged everyone to delve into inner work and spiritual reflection to better understand their role in serving the larger purpose.

She then led a meditation session focusing on self-reflection and the connection between the self and the world. She emphasized the importance of seeking answers sincerely and highlighted the toxicity present in daily life. Participants were encouraged to connect with their inner selves and discuss their special gifts and how they could use them for a higher purpose.

SPIRITUALITY

*‘The transformative power of spirituality
in personal growth’*



SELF-WORTH

‘Self-love and self-care for women are not selfish but rather essential for maintaining one's intrinsic value’

Emotional Maturity

The next topic was led by **Ena Softic**, Board Member of WFWP UK, focusing on emotional maturity. Ena emphasized the importance of emotional maturity, spirituality and authenticity in navigating through changing times. She highlighted the role of self-reflection, managing fears, and setting personal boundaries in becoming more authentic and vulnerable. Ena also discussed the concept of imposter syndrome and the negative impact of living in fear, encouraging participants to challenge their instincts and develop mature responses.

The conversation ended with a reflection session and an announcement about the upcoming full presenter training programme, with limited spaces available.

As we wrapped up the session, we expressed our gratitude to **Kefilwe** for guiding the programme and to **Erica Pina** for skillfully managing the technology. We appreciated all participants for their contributions and support.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our presenters' training session on August 31st, 2025 for those aged 18-40.

We are already fully booked!!

Keep a look out for more Leadership of the Heart sessions across the UK and Europe!

Written by Tanya Chandler

Self-Worth

Sharon Kabubi, Co-Chair of the Young Women's Speech Contest UK, then took the floor to discuss the topic of **self-worth**, emphasizing its importance in leadership and its connection to spirituality, as well as its impact on individuals' well-being.

She highlighted the difference between egoism and a healthy sense of self-worth, the impact of negative messages and societal expectations, and the importance of self-awareness and practicing reality checks. She also emphasized the importance of self-love and self-care for women arguing that these practices are not selfish but rather essential for maintaining one's intrinsic value. Sharon encouraged the participants to reflect on their own experiences and challenges as women, and to recognize their own inherent value and beauty.

Sharon then focused on the concept of the inner child, encouraging participants to contemplate their own self-worth. Tanya shared her personal journey of overcoming low self-esteem and emphasized the importance of understanding the root causes of her low self-esteem, self-reflection and self-compassion. Sharon then discussed the importance of practicing affirmations and changing one's inner dialogue to instill self-worth. The session concluded with a quote by **Dr. Moon**, emphasizing the uniqueness and value of each individual.



EMOTIONAL MATURITY

‘Emotional Maturity, Spirituality and Authenticity are important in navigating through changing times’

To view the full webinar, [click here](#)



WINNERS SPEECH 2024

The Young Women's Speech Contest 2024, held at Lancaster Gate, London, featured the talents of seven remarkable contestants. Today we highlight the inspiring speech by **Ms. Sara Bokrugji**, who captivated the audience with her insights on "Women Leading with Creativity," emphasizing the importance of innovative leadership and governance.

Women Leading the Fight Against Domestic Violence:

A Campaign for Creative and Compassionate Leadership
Drawing from Personal Experience to Advocate for Change

When will it stop?

Is this my fault?

Please make this stop.

999 what is your emergency? My husband has hit me and I am reporting after 23 years.

To 'I am so proud of you mum'.

As I stand before you today, I am reminded of the countless nights I spent as a child, hiding in my room, fearful of the violence that plagued our home. For 23 years I watched my mother endure the unimaginable—abuse and terror that no one should ever face.

Domestic violence wasn't just a distant issue for me; it was the harsh reality of my everyday life. Before going to school I would hear the same script from my dad every morning: "Shhh, do not go to your school and tell the teachers what is happening at home."

To coming home and hearing shouting and screaming of pain and begging for forgiveness. But for the forgiveness of what? Maybe it was my fault. Maybe if I was not around my dad would not do this to my mum. Growing up, I saw the world through a lens of fear, my childhood overshadowed by the brutal cycle of violence that gripped our home and trapped us.

To hearing from family members 'Sara it is normal, this is what women have to endure – for a man to protect his household and family' because the only way a woman will 'learn' is through violence. But we are all thinking, "learn' what exactly?". Learn that her place as a woman is to remain silent and abide to every word a man says – whether it is "wrong or right"?.

But after enduring all that pain for 23 years my mum said STOP! Stop



to the violence, ending the generational cycle of trauma and abuse and escaping to a new reality. One that is difficult to transition to. Centuries of normalised abuse can lead to thoughts like "Did I make the right decision?", "what will his family do now?", "what will he do when he is released?"... Nobody really talks of the struggles as soon as that 999 call goes off. What do I do? Where do I go? Who do I contact? Will the police even help? Omg he will revenge now...his family will too... Maybe I should just go...

But today, as I share my story with you, I also share a vision of hope—hope that is being ignited by women around the world who are leading with creativity, compassion, and unwavering determination to end domestic violence. These women are using innovative ...

To read the full speech of Ms Sara Bokrugji, please click on the link below.

<https://www.wfwp.org.uk/post/winners-speech-for-the-ywsc-2024>

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL ART COMPETITION THEME MY ROLE MODEL



The 4th annual 'Artists for Peace' Children's Art Contest Grand Finals Celebration

The 4th annual 'Artists for Peace' Children's Art Contest began with excitement and hope as families joined over Zoom for the grand finale. With more than 70 participants, parents and children from around the globe were eager to present their beautiful and creative works of art.

Our welcoming host, **Dawn Pollitt**, expressed gratitude to all the young artists and acknowledged all the staff who pulled this event together, making sure to give a special thanks to **Ala Zubovskis**, the visionary behind the event. Special thanks were given to **Pascal Murphy** and **Chris Bennett** for their invaluable support.

The energy soared when Dawn introduced **Simon Rosselli** from the Amigo's Magic. Simon captivated the children with his magical tricks, filling the virtual space with laughter and wonder. After the show, participants enjoyed a stunning slideshow featuring over 120 beautiful artworks that showcased a variety of colours, shapes, and textures on the theme "My Role Model."

Dawn then introduced the judges, **Romica Jones**, **Anna Johnson** and **Chris Bennett**, gifted artists and designers, who faced the tough task of selecting finalists. Chief judge Chris Bennett announced the winners from three categories, celebrating the hard work and creativity of the young artists. A recognition was given to those children who sent in their artwork from abroad.

Before concluding the event, children shared touching stories about their artwork and what their role models meant to them. It was a heartfelt moment that highlighted the importance of creativity and inspiration.

Oksana Torok, the new chairperson having taken over from Ala Zubovskis, wrapped up the contest by encouraging the children and parents and thanking the dedicated team behind the scenes who made everything possible. She also announced the exciting new theme for 2025: "Underwater Adventure," chosen by the children themselves. The event concluded with a joyful musical performance, celebrating the spirit of art and community, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a sense of accomplishment.

To view the event video recording please [click here](#).

We are thrilled to announce the release of a stunning calendar featuring the exquisite artwork of the children, thoughtfully and lovingly crafted by **David Rennie**.

The Artists for Peace team:

Oksana Torok, Mitty Tohma, David Rennie, Dawn Pollitt, Ala Zubovskis, Chris Bennett, Pascal Murphy, Karen Grant, Joanna de Souza and Eva Chan
Invited guest judges: Romica Jones and Anna Johnson.

Report by Mitty Tohma

Winners of UK Artists for Peace



5 to 7 years old



8 to 12 years old



13 to 15 years old

Pictures of the 2nd and 3rd places of the 'Artists for Peace' contest.



2nd place 5 to 7 years old



2nd place 8 to 12 year old



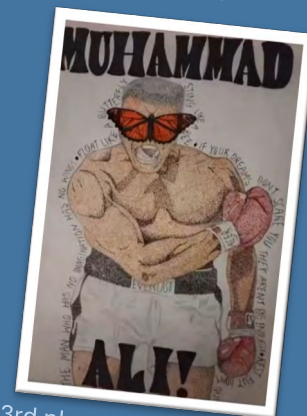
2nd place 13 to 15 years old



3rd place 5 to 7 years old



3rd place 8 to 12 years old



3rd place 13 to 15 years old

Looking for a gift for Christmas or the New Year?

What about getting the 'Artists for Peace' Calendar 2025?

Each month features captivating winners artwork from talented children in the UK on the theme of the Art Contest 2024: 'My Role Model'.

By getting the calendar you will not only give a wonderful gift to your family and friends but you will also support the work of the WFWP.



by Yasushi, 11 yrs

by Aaron Roshan Aheo 5 yrs



Calendar 2025



The cost of the calendar is £10.00
+ extra cost for shipping
To order the calendar,
please scan the QR code



Peace Adventurers

Unique Series of Peace Learning Events

In today's fast-paced world, fostering peace and understanding from an early age is more important than ever. "Peace Adventurers" is an innovative educational program designed for children aged 6 to 10. This unique initiative combines engaging workshops and interactive activities to teach essential values like kindness, compassion, and non-violent communication.

Creative play, games, arts and crafts, music, yoga & meditation



Enroll your children right away and allow them to showcase their exceptional peace building abilities!

Gain a deeper understanding of what it means to live peace, give peace, and celebrate peace at every level of society.

Parents Welcome to stay and participate together with children

Engaging Workshops and Activities

Peace Adventurers offers a variety of workshops that explore themes such as self-worth, inner peace, love for others, and conflict resolution. Children participate in activities like meditation, yoga, crafts, drawing, music, and storytelling, making learning about peace both fun and memorable. These sessions are not only educational but also encourage teamwork and foster positive family relationships.

The program aims to help children understand and share peace, from achieving inner calm to promoting global harmony. By learning essential values, kids can build peaceful environments at home, school, and within their communities. The focus on kindness, compassion, tolerance, and non-violent communication equips them with the tools to navigate conflicts and contribute to a more harmonious world.

The dedicated team behind Peace Adventurers includes **Tchi Mbouani, Merope, Adriana, Eva & Oksana**. Their combined expertise and passion for peace education ensure that each session is impactful and inspiring.

Peace Adventurers is more than just a program for kids; it is a valuable opportunity for parents to take a break and focus on their well-being. By inspiring children to be kind and understanding, Peace Adventurers is helping to create a brighter, more peaceful future for everyone.

Written by Oksana Torok



Every month

for ages 6 - 10 43 Lancaster Gate, 15:00-17:00pm
W2 3NA



Christmas Celebration



The lovely Mrs Eva Chan was MC. She introduced 4 main speakers:

Ms. Martha Paisi, a researcher from Cyprus now based in Plymouth, (with an introduction from Dr Zoe Bennett, President of WFWP Middle East) who talked about her experiences working with children in war-torn Gaza.

Ms Patricia Earle, who has been the Coordinator of WFWP since 1993 in Birmingham, talked about her experiences going to Middle East with Jewish, Christian and Muslim women and their extensive interfaith work and cooperation.

The third speaker was **Ms. Asma Ahmed**, Co-Chair of YWSC UK, with **Sharon Kabbubi**, who spoke about her role in and the history and alumni of YWSC.

Then **Ms. Sara Bokrugji**, the 2024 winner of YWSC final, who spoke about her chosen topic, elimination of violence towards women, eloquently and fluently from the heart.

In the Recognition of Awardees ceremony, **Mrs Mitty Tohma**, UK and Europe WFWP president, presented 4 awards. **Dr. Nezha El Ouafi**, a prominent sociologist and former Minister Delegate for Moroccans Residing Abroad; **Ms Audreia Joseph** author of “Art of Letting Go”, life coach and director of The Mango Girl CIC; **Ms Patricia Rowell** for her 20 plus years of dedicated service to WFWP; and **Ms Christa Rennie**, for over 12 years as UK National Secretary General of Women’s Federation, all received awards. Photos were taken of each awardee.

Ms Betty Rodrigues sang “What a Wonderful World”, with **David Rennie** on guitar, followed by “Oh Holy Night”, and “12 days of Christmas”, with **Howard Miller** on piano, David on flute and the whole congregation participating.

Ms Prachi Desai led everyone in a lively dancing session and moderated the raffle

Dr. Nezha El Ouafi gave some moving words about working together and supporting each other. Mitty Tohma concluded the afternoon. Then food, fellowship and sharing followed the customary group photo

Written by Helena Stout

An inspiring and joyful afternoon celebrating the outstanding contributions and achievements of amazing women.



DECEMBER 14TH

LANCASTER GATE
LONDON

*Global Women’s
Ambassador
Awards*

*Raising funds for
a baby incubator
for newborns
in Gaza*



JOIN US in Our Mission to Support Newborn babies in Gaza

Dear friends and colleagues,

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to share an urgent initiative from WFWP UK asking for your support. As the situation in Gaza remains critical, we are launching a fundraising campaign to raise £7,000 for a baby incubator that will provide essential medical support to newborns in desperate need.

Phase One: A Life-Saving Investment

So far, we have raised £2,000, and our goal is to raise an additional £5,000 to purchase one incubator. We will set aside these funds and wait until the conflict in Gaza has subsided, ensuring that our efforts can be fully utilized when the time is right. This incubator will be a beacon of hope, offering warmth and protection to fragile babies who deserve a fighting chance at life.

Looking Ahead: A Long-Term Commitment

This is just the beginning. We envision a continued program to raise funds for additional medical equipment and resources to support even more babies in need. Your generosity can help us expand our efforts and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless infants and their families.

How you can help:

Donate Generously

Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. You can donate directly to our bank account:

- **Bank:** RBS
- **Account name:**
Womens Federation For World Pe
- **Sort Code:** 16-00-82
- **Account No.:** 14333369
- **IBAN:** GB64RBOS16008214333369
- **BIC:** RBOSGB2L

Alternatively, you can donate via PayPal:
Please [click here](#).

Spread the Word

Share this message with your network to help raise awareness. The more people who know, the greater our chance of success.

Stay Involved

Follow us on social media and engage with our future events to be part of our mission.

Together, we can provide hope and healing to those facing unimaginable challenges. Please consider making a donation today and join us in this vital mission for the future of newborns in Gaza.

Thank you for your compassion and support. Together, we can create a brighter future for these precious lives.

Warm regards,

WFWP UK

Info@wfwp.org.uk

<http://www.wfwp.org.uk>

WFWP UK

Annual Women's Retreat



From September 3rd to 5th, 2024, the lovely setting of Great Hucklow, Derbyshire, served as the backdrop for the WFWP UK Annual Women's Retreat. This gathering was a heartfelt meeting of women dedicated to empowerment and reconciliation of women.

Participants arrived at the Nightingale Centre, followed by a beautifully prepared dinner with the opportunity to get to know each other through fun ice-breakers and introductions.

The morning session began with a reflective reading by **Joanna de Souza**, WFWP Treasurer, on the important "Role of Women in Reconciliation," setting a thoughtful tone. Gentle yoga, led by **Patricia Earle**, helped everyone embrace mindfulness and calm.

Moderated by **Oksana Torok**, WFWP UK Secretary General, and supported by **Eva Chan**, the program included a presentation by **Mitty Tohma**, WFWP UK President, on our 2024 outreach projects in education and empowerment, caring for the environment, reconciliation and healing (Global Themes).

Participants then broke into three groups to discuss important global issues, sharing insights by WFWP representative **Sarah Monah** on Women, Peace and Security; **Rosaleen Bloomfield**, on Women's Leadership through the Global Women's Peace Network; and **Harumi Currie** together with **Angela Sandiford** on Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability.

After a delightful lunch, participants ventured to the charming town of Bakewell, indulging in the famous Bakewell pudding, a sweet highlight of the retreat.

Reem Abuwarda from Birmingham opened the afternoon program with an informative talk on healthy eating and lifestyle. Throughout the rest of the retreat, we continued discussing nutrition and the benefits of good food and a healthy environment for the mind, body, and soul. This focus on wellbeing helped us connect and understand that nourishment goes beyond just what we eat.

We concluded the day with a family evening, singing, dancing and playing games, where everyone shared their hearts and enjoyment.

On September 5th, we gathered for early morning readings with **Yasmin Fazal**, who shared about her faith and experiences. This was followed by a relaxing yoga session by Rosaleen Bloomfield. After breakfast, we enjoyed wonderful Japanese crafts led by Harumi Currie from the WFWP chapter in Scotland, where we had a great time making beautiful cards.

We concluded with a group photo and a nice lunch before we headed home. This retreat, being together, learning and sharing not only strengthened our friendships but also reignited our commitment to creating a more peaceful society.



NEWS from our Local Branches

BIRMINGHAM

'Community and Partnership'

On Saturday, October 12th, the WFWP 'Women's Peace Group' in Birmingham organised a 1-day seminar for their many members, friends and supporters.

In partnership with the UPF, the presentation, given by **Dr David Hanna**, focussed on the 'Universal Principles of Peace'. The concept of an ideal and harmonious, peaceful world, why such a world has not been realised, and the long journey of human history towards that ideal were the central tenant of Dr Hanna's three presentations.



With numerous quotes from sacred scriptures, he gave an inclusive presentation, suitable for a diverse audience of many faiths and cultures, young and old alike, people from the 'top to bottom' of society - religious leaders, city councillors, women's leaders together with people having refugee status. We also presented a summary of the Life and Works of the co-founders of WFWP, **DR S M Moon and Dr Hak Ja Han Moon**.

About 150 people attended throughout the day, and the feedback was very positive. There was time for sharing and lively discussion, after which we enjoyed a nice lunch together, with vegetarian food provided by one of Birmingham's best Asian caterers.

A collection was also made for a WFWP project in Gaza to buy incubators for premature babies, and generous donations of £750 were received. Money continues to be donated online by those who could not attend the Saturday programme. As a result of everyone's collective effort, and generosity, we had a genuine, warm feeling of being one family of humanity. In these difficult and troubled times, we hope that each person could gain a little inspiration to continue their efforts to make the world a better place.

Written by Patricia Earle

LONDON CENTRAL

Westminster Volunteers' Fair

In October members of the WFWP Central London Branch, attended the Westminster Volunteers' Fair, an event connecting people wishing to volunteer with organisations that are looking for and are welcoming volunteers.

Like the other organisations represented there, we had a stall where we could exhibit our leaflets and literature and show a video presentation. The Fair was attended by around 200 people. Many people of all ages showed interest in our stall, and some expressed interest in working with us.

Helena Stout walked around the venue and found many other interesting organisations, some of whom she was able to connect with a view to supporting each other in the future.

First was Community Council (Queens Park), that is very active in supporting the residents through various clubs and associations. They were impressed by the work of WFWP and offered to place an article about our events in their monthly newsletter.

Westminster Abbey offers tours for up to 30 people of any age, where we could organise a women's group to be shown around the cathedral.



Towards the end, the **Lord Mayor Robert Rigby of Westminster** joined the event taking great interest in all that was happening; he graciously handed out the raffle prizes to participants creating a joyful atmosphere.

We had the opportunity to pose for photo taken with the Lord Mayor at our WFWP stall.

It was a lively and joyful gathering, where everyone involved felt able to showcase their projects and to network with many of the event participants interested in offering their services. We felt inspired and grateful to have been part of this worthwhile event.

Written by Anne Kobayashi

LONDON SOUTH

Interfaith Harmony Week

On September 21, the Women's Federation for World Peace UK, in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation held a commemorative event for the UN International Day of Peace at the Peace Embassy in Thornton Heath, London.

The gathering was attended by around 50 participants, on the theme "**Cultivating a Culture of Peace.**"

Mr. David Fraser Harris, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation for the Middle East and North Africa region, emphasized the organization's relief efforts as extensions of its peace-building principles, highlighting the initiatives in response to recent disasters in Morocco, Libya, Turkey, Syria, and Gaza. He described how logistical challenges were overcome through the cooperative efforts of several Ambassadors for Peace.



Mrs Annerose Adams, committee member, coordinated the proceedings as Emcee, and opened the programme by introducing the hosting organization and the background behind the annual commemoration of this significant UN day.

Dr. Mitchell Eboigbe underscored the region's historical contributions to civilization and urged unity based on love. **Mrs. Siew Lian Gardiner** shared her observations about the successful evacuation of injured children from Gaza to Italy for medical treatment, demonstrating that collaboration with other organizations like 'Save A Child' can have positive impact. **Mr. Mekki Elsayed** poignantly discussed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan, calling for international attention. The event also included readings from the memoirs of founders **Dr Sun Myung Moon and Dr Hak Ja Han Moon** promoting peace through forgiveness, read by **Mrs. Martina Coombs** and **Mr. Adrian Lee**.

Musical interludes featured vocalist **Caroline Fredriksson**.

The chairperson of South London WFWP, **Mrs. Dolores Read**, announced that fundraising efforts will support the peace projects in the Middle East. In conclusion all participants enjoyed fellowship and refreshments, making the event both meaningful and communal.

Written by Dolores Read

SCOTLAND

Art and Craft Workshop - experiencing community

Celebrating International Friendship Day, WFWP Scotland organised a '**Family Craft Fun Day**' in July. The event offered an opportunity to meet many wonderful people in a friendly and inclusive environment and cultivate our creativity through learning new skills.

Participants enjoyed workshops on various crafts, including Origami, making flowers from tissue paper, creating bracelets with beads and colouring for small children. All participants enjoyed the inspiring and creative environment. New friendships were formed, sharing and learning about different countries, hearing several life stories, altogether it left a lasting impression. While making an origami bird, the conversation naturally evolved around the story of a young Japanese girl who had been exposed to atomic bomb radiation and how one thousand origami cranes and prayers for peace are connected.

Networking always provides new opportunities. Representing WFWP Scotland we were invited to several of their events to share our skills.



Guests left with the reflection saying 'Excellent day! Learnt a lot!'

Written by Harumi Currie

**For more information about WFWP UK
and its activities please visit:**

www.wfwp.org.uk

or: <https://www.facebook.com/WFWPUK>



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE, UK

NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations



Women's Federation for World Peace UK is part of a network of National WFWP Chapters in over 127 nations dedicated to empowering women with the knowledge, the tools and the support needed to create peace at home and in our communities.

We invite you to join us and become a member as a "Peace Builder".

As a WFWP Member, you'll join a network of women and men contributing to a peaceful world through building strong families and empowering women leaders.

Your membership fees support:

- ◆ Bridge of Peace and reconciliation projects
- ◆ Seminars on human rights and women's dignity
- ◆ National and local service projects
- ◆ Educational programmes on character and values education
- ◆ Educational programmes on healthy family relationships
- ◆ Schools in Africa, refugee programmes in Jordan

To apply for membership please [click here](#):

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For your Diary:

2025 monthly series:

- ◆ **Herstory** highlighting the contributions of women throughout history
- ◆ **Peace Adventurers** children's activities promoting peace.

March 8: International Women's Day

Celebrating women's achievements and advocating gender equality.

May 15: Women, Faith and Family

women from various faiths share insights and strengthen community ties.

July/August: Annual women's Retreat

September 20: Finals, Artist for Peace, children's Art competition.

October 18: Young Women's Speech Contest

A platform for young women to express their ideas and voice on important issues.

November: Annual WFWP European Women's Leadership conference

November 25: UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

December 13: Annual Christmas Celebration and Awards

end-of-year celebration recognizing outstanding contributions and achievements

* *Dates subject to change*

We welcome your Comments!

For your comments and more information about our events
Please email: info@wfwp.org.uk