

Report on WFPW Germany's First Online Zoom Meeting Conference

Magda Haugen
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We had our first Virtual Zoom Conference of Women's Federation for World Peace in Germany on 17th May where 30 women participated, some active with contributions and reports, others with questions. A big thanks to our host, Margaret Staudinger, who provided us with the Zoom link and stood also technically at our side!

I gave a welcome at the start, giving a review of 2019 in pictures and a reminder of the most important events in 2020, especially the World Summit 2020 in Seoul, S. Korea.

Dr. Elke Preusser-Franke, Chairman of the Jewish Women's Association in Dresden gave us a special greeting, because this very weekend our general meeting was originally planned for being in Dresden, which had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus development. She informed us about the current situation in Dresden, with demonstrations and protests on the streets.

This was followed by a lecture by Bettina Kircher, Consultant Conflict and Development Management, on the basics of non-violent communication. Her talk showed us how, in the personal and political sphere, ways can be found to resolve conflicts peacefully through non-violent communication (according to Marshall Rosenberg), through listening, willingness to engage in dialogue, and appreciation of the other person. This often seems more difficult in the personal and family sphere than at the political level. A very helpful impulse, in this important area, is to be capable of learning and to remain capable of development!

Rita Seewald gave us an overview of the current situation in Bagandou/Central Africa. Here, Women's Federation from Germany supports various projects: 2 teachers are funded, as well as school materials. Computer training is highly sought after by young people and women, and additional laptops are urgently needed for this purpose. Opportunities are also offered for women: literacy courses, training in agriculture and livestock farming. With goats, poultry, etc, women can earn a small income and get out of poverty. If you want to know more or want to donate, please contact Rita Seewald. Or directly via Mathias Monzebe - initiator and responsible for the Bagandou project.

Carmen Rizzi-Haugen reported about the young women's activities. She also told us about her participation in the online cooking event with Mrs. Sun Jin Moon for Mother's Day and about her lecture in Munich for the World Women's Day in March. She was also able to announce to us the joyful news that Nicole La Hogue (Vice-President of the Women's Federation Germany) gave birth to little Elijah at

7:50 PM in Mainz, so we got a new little member right during our Zoom Conference. Congratulations!

In addition, Bettina Kircher and Begona Monzebe have applied for membership - Welcome!

Brigitte Makkonen gave a brief insight into our financial situation - many thanks for the careful and professional accounting to Rita and Brigitte, for so many years! And for all your membership fees and donations!



I was also able to report on various webinars, which in the past weeks have been my quarantine activity - "Special holidays" have made it more varied:

- 1.) Webinar: WFWP Europe: "Dealing with New Media," with Director Ajay Raj from England
- 2.) Webinar: UPF USA: "The Role of Faith in the Times of Covid-19," with four religious leaders
- 3.) On the UN World Day of the Family in German by UPF Austria: "Family is Systemically Important Family Needs to Come First (e.g. with Hedwig von Beverfoerde)
- 4.) UPF USA: Also for the UN World Day of the Family: "The Covid-19 Crisis and its Impact on Families"

The possibilities that the Internet, Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp offer us are truly a blessing. We are all challenged to continue to educate ourselves and to "upgrade" ourselves technically so that we can stay in touch, despite travel restrictions, social distance, etc. I wish you a lot of energy and joy to try it all out.

As participants at our Zoom Conference we could even welcome Traudl Mantel from Iceland and Rosi Rizzi from Italy, so it was really a meeting from north to south and from east to west. Thanks again to all those who came on!

Now that our "premiere" has been successful, we can consider if and when we will meet again online next time. For the time being, I wish you all the best - I always look forward to emails and hope you stay healthy and optimistic - despite everything!

Kind Greetings from Magda Haugen
WFWP Germany Chapter Leader