

WFWPI 2025 New Year General Assembly - Global Voices for Shared Vision

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On January 11, more than 300 leaders, members, and supporters from around the world gathered virtually for the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) New Year General Assembly. Under the inspiring theme, "Global Voices for Shared Vision," the assembly reinforced a shared commitment to unity and collaboration for a brighter future.

The event began with Mrs. Andrea Fayad, the moderator, who warmly welcomed attendees and acknowledged their unwavering dedication to peace and unity.



The Opening Ceremony featured an impassioned address from Dr. Paris Moon, International Secretary General, who emphasized the urgent need for collective action amid global challenges: "Let us unite with purpose and determination as we work toward meaningful change in our communities and beyond."

Mrs. Moriko Hori, International President, then delivered an inspiring message that celebrated WFWPI's 33-year legacy. She highlighted that 2025, represented by the "Blue Snake," symbolizes "wise transformation and growth." Sharing reflections from her international visits, she underscored the importance of data-driven progress: "Despite our wonderful activities, we need to strengthen our ability to

appeal effectively to others by presenting measurable results."

The assembly also heard a congratulatory message from President Emerita Dr. Lan Young Moon, who called for women's leadership rooted in love and resilience amid the world's crises.



Mrs. Merly Barlaan, Vice President for Administration, reflected on the organization's successes in 2024 and emphasized the importance of preparation and leadership development: "This year, we hit the ground running, supporting the ISG's office and regional presidents through our membership program and training initiatives." She invited members to participate in advocacy training for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to strengthen their ability to influence policy and promote women's rights on a global stage.



Vice President Mrs. Young-Sun Choi shared a heartfelt reflection on her new role: "Being entrusted with the role of Vice President is both a profound honor and a heavy responsibility. I will do my utmost to ensure smooth financial operations and foster collaboration with organizations in Korea." She acknowledged the challenges of division and conflict, including national discord following the presidential impeachment and the recent Jeju airplane tragedy. However, she called on women to serve as beacons of unity and hope: "Our role is not limited to facilitating dialogue - it is to actively embody the values of love, understanding, and reconciliation."

A highlight of the assembly was the presentation of impactful initiatives by WFWP chapters from around the world.

Mrs. Fujiko Paul, President of WFPW Haiti, presented the chapter's Literacy and Sewing Program, which aims to address education gaps and economic challenges. Key achievements were establishing literacy classrooms in Port-au-Prince, expanding to Miragoâne, and launching a sewing course in 2024 to provide women with practical skills for income generation. She also shared a powerful testimonial of program participants: "I was the only seamstress in my neighborhood, and thanks to this program, I can now support my family and community." Despite the political unrest in Haiti, WFPW's programs have continued to foster self-sufficiency and hope.



Mrs. Marisa Chilavert, President of WFPW Paraguay, highlighted the Bridge of Peace International Conference, which brought together high-level leaders to promote reconciliation and empowerment. She was meeting with government officials, including the Minister of Women and Minister of Urbanization, to strengthen partnerships, and hosted the Mother's Day celebration that honored women's contributions to peace and engaged influential figures to invite them to the central Bridge of Peace Conference. A powerful moment during the conference was when representatives exchanged symbolic gifts and embraced to heal historical wounds. This gesture exemplified WFPW's commitment to fostering unity and forgiveness.

Ms. Helena Asuncion, project manager for WFPW Philippines, presented the Digital Bridges for Peace Symposium, held in partnership with universities and local organizations. Key features of the symposium were five thought-provoking talks on how digital technology can advance peace and unity and the launch of a 21-Day Advocacy Campaign promoting the reunification of the Korean Peninsula and engaging youth in digital peacebuilding initiatives. Despite challenges such as securing government endorsements and engaging students, the event succeeded in forming partnerships with key institutions, including the Department of Interior and Local Government. The event concluded with cultural performances that celebrated Filipino heritage and reinforced the importance of cultural diplomacy.

The assembly featured a special performance of "Die hungrige Katze" from Li-Na im Garten by renowned composer Yi Sang Yun, performed by Dr. Yezu Woo, an internationally acclaimed violinist known for her technical brilliance and emotional depth. The performance, which blended Western and Korean musical traditions, beautifully symbolized WFWPI's commitment to cultural unity.

Mrs. Moriko Hori announced the 2025 WFWPI Global Themes, which will guide the organization's efforts throughout the year:

Women, Peace, and Security

Women's Leadership through the Global Women's Peace Network

Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability

Global Development, Aid, and Service

Mrs. Hori emphasized the importance of aligning WFPW's local initiatives with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and collaborating with governments to influence meaningful policy changes.

In her Keynote Address, Mrs. Hori outlined the 2025 Action Plan and stressed the importance of creating a unified global identity for WFWPI, including ensuring the proper use of the WFWP logo and enhancing global visibility through digital platforms, setting measurable targets and collecting data to evaluate impact and strengthen credibility and encouraging members to participate in key UN events, such as the CSW sessions, and to engage in local voluntary reviews to influence policy on women's empowerment. "Our strength lies in our ability to unite across regions, share our expertise, and empower one another," Mrs. Hori concluded, calling for renewed collaboration and grassroots action.

Participants then joined breakout sessions focused on the 2025 Global Themes. Each group shared valuable insights and actionable recommendations. The "Women, Peace, and Security" group conveyed the importance of advocating for women's education and economic independence. The "Women's Leadership through the Global Women's Peace Network" group shared successful regional collaborations, particularly from Europe, South Africa, and the Dominican Republic. The "Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability" group promoted grassroots initiatives for recycling and environmental conservation. The "Global Development, Aid, and Service" group greeted and introduced each other to strengthen partnerships.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Mrs. Hori, who expressed gratitude for the dedication and insights shared throughout the assembly: "This assembly has been an amazing opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. Let's work together to make WFWP stronger than ever and create lasting change for a peaceful world."

The WFWPI 2025 New Year General Assembly ended with a resounding message of hope and unity, setting the stage for a transformative year ahead.