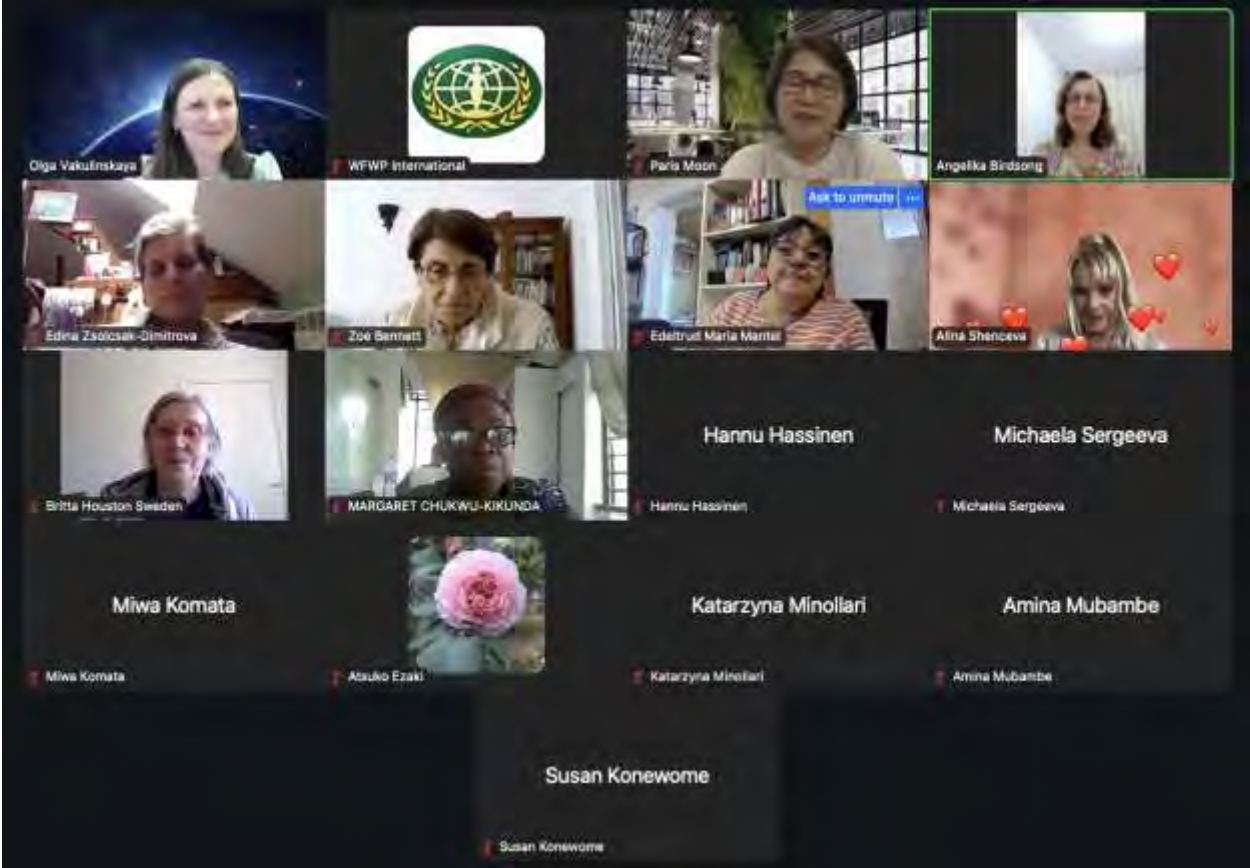


WFWP Eastern Europe: Connecting with WFWP Leaders Around the World

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March 28, 2025



On March 28, WFWP International hosted a heartfelt global online event titled "Connecting with WFWP Leaders Around the World - WFWP Eastern Europe." Leaders, members, and guests from across the globe gathered on Zoom to exchange experiences, share insights, and explore ways to foster peace and unity.



The main speaker, Olga Vakulinskaya, brought over 25 years of experience in youth moral education and intercultural work. She shared an in-depth look at several meaningful initiatives that she leads as National President of WFWP Russia and Regional President of WFWP Eastern Europe.

Mrs. Vakulinskaya then described the "Family World Festival," an annual intercultural and interreligious event that brings together families from different backgrounds, including Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist traditions. The festival highlights family values and unity by showcasing cultural performances and shared beliefs in love and peace.

Mrs. Vakulinskaya also presented the "Children Are Angels of Peace Festival," where children of diverse

nationalities come together to express their cultural heritage through music and dance. More than just a performance, the event emphasizes world peace and the value of service to others. Many children later participate in outreach activities, such as concerts for elderly communities, creating long-term relationships and learning compassion firsthand.



One of the most touching projects that was shared was "Children of Russia for Children of Africa," where children in Russia collect toys, handmade cards, and clothes to send to children in African countries. Olga shared a powerful moment when she learned that, for some children, the gifts they received were the first toys they had ever owned. Despite logistical challenges, the project continues with new schools joining independently after learning about it online.



Mrs. Vakulinskaya also emphasized her work in moral education programs in schools, where she and her team conduct lectures on various topics, such as the difference between true love and infatuation, the importance of purity, healthy lifestyles, avoiding digital addiction, and preventing bullying. These programs are often requested by schools and have received powerful feedback from students. Many students are deeply moved, sometimes responding with handmade gifts and emotional reflections.

To expand this outreach, Mrs. Vakulinskaya has formed a team of young people called "Compass of Conscience" who are trained to deliver these lectures themselves. Young speakers often inspire their peers even more effectively and are now taking the lead in sharing these important messages.

Following her talk, several participants shared reflections and questions. One lady from Nigeria spoke about similar character education initiatives in Africa and suggested adding poverty-reduction elements like school meal programs. One other shared a personal story about her daughter's experience with bullying and expressed a desire to contribute to anti-bullying initiatives.



Mrs. Vakulinskaya closed her remarks with a heartfelt thank you to WFP chapters worldwide, giving special recognition to Japan for its enduring support and inspirational example. She stressed the importance of cultural exchange and cooperation, highlighting programs such as the "Bridge of Peace," which promotes international friendship and reconciliation through performances and shared dialogue. The session left attendees inspired and reminded of the collective power of women working together for peace.