

## Women's Federation for World Peace Inaugurated

April 10, 1992



*The Women's Federation for World Peace, chaired by True Mother, sponsored "Sisterhood Ceremonies" during the 1990s*

On April 10, 1992, True Mother delivered the keynote address before a filled Seoul Olympic Stadium at the inauguration of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP). In her speech, True Mother testified to "the reappearance of the True Parents ... the conclusion and final fruit of human history." "The Reverend Sun Myung Moon and I, Hak Ja Han Moon, standing in the position of the True Parents have walked the course of worldwide indemnity so that all humanity may be liberated from their bondage." She stated that "women have the mission to give proper guidance to men who lead lives of moral decadence and disorder" and noted, "the Women's Federation for World Peace must someday develop into a federation of families for world peace."

Established on the foundation of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia, WFWP has become a women's organization of international scope with members in 143 countries. In 1994, more than 200,000 Korean and Japanese women "came together to create sisterly ties" on thirty-eight occasions under the auspices of WFWP. In 1995, WFWP sponsored "sisterhood ceremonies" between some 8,000 Japanese and American women, culminating in dramatic "bridge crossings" which were moving to many participants, including former first lady Barbara Bush. She and her husband, former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, subsequently accompanied True Mother and spoke in support of WFWP on a six-city speaking tour of Japan. In 1997, WFWP received general consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As only 11 percent of religious NGOs associated with ECOSOC attain "general" status, this was a signal achievement.

In his Congratulatory Address, True Father proclaimed the beginning of the "Age of Women." Thousands answered the call, and under the direction of True Mother, began a movement that would span the globe. Since its inception, WFWP has become a formidable voice in the struggle for women's rights around the world. The organization holds forums at the United Nations, and continues to do service work and projects that encourage racial and religious reconciliation both locally and abroad.