

Access to Education for Refugee Children at the UN in Vienna, Austria on April 16

Elisabeth Riedl
February 17, 2016



WFP Int'l will be co-organizing this important conference at the UN in Vienna, Austria, under the theme 'Access to Education for Refugee Children', on 14 April 2016. Please see the invitation letter and draft program along with some drawings by refugee children. During this conference, recommendations will be submitted to decision makers, based on experiences and contributions from professionals in the area of education. If you are interested to attend please do get in touch at renate.amesb@gmail.com:

“Access to education for refugee children internationally cannot be emphasized enough. Today is only a moment in time when we can give attention to one of the largest migration movements, because of war.

This has indeed caused misery, suffering and deaths by the score. WFWPI would cordially like to invite you to this afternoon conference with high level experts from the UN, Vienna Diplomatic Corps, NGOs and Educational experts.

Although the refugee children may only be in Europe for a few years, the need for their education must be underlined.

WFWPI is a women's group with UN ECOSOC Status and we have been holding conferences in UN Vienna now for 3 years, bi-annually, on Education and Global Citizenship.

The pictures are newly drawn by some refugee children passing through Salzburg last week and given to me as a parting thank you for the Austrian hospitality.

Please find the attached draft for our 6th conference on Education.

Sincerely,

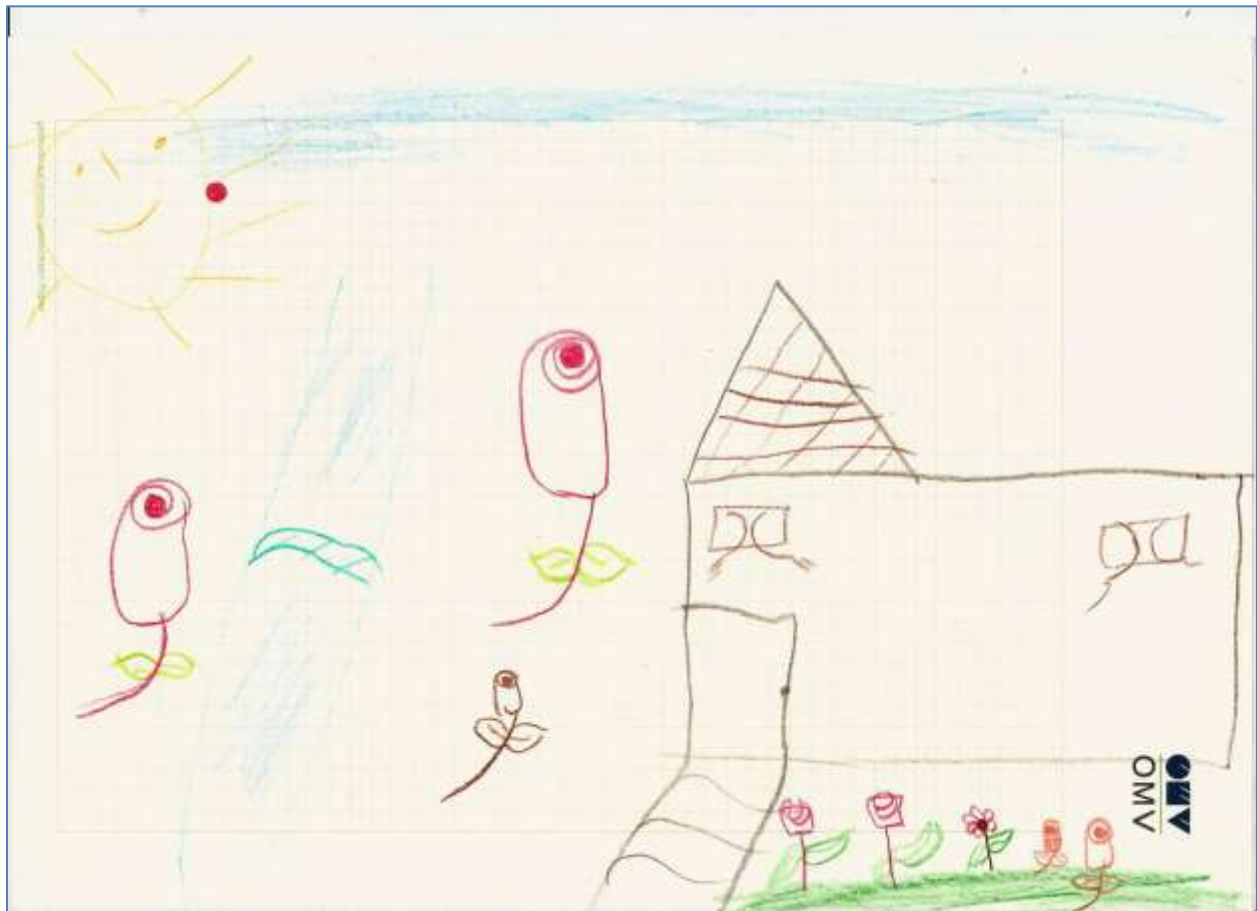
Women's Federation for World Peace, Intl

Elisabeth Riedl

WFWPI European Secretary General, International Affairs.

WFWPI UN Office Director Vienna

WFWP Austria Vice President



“Education is everyone’s birth right. I, myself, was born poor, after Korea was devastated by the Korean War. I owe everything I have now to education — a good education — and investment by the Government. I owe it to the world, to the United Nations, to do everything possible to give all people the same start. At that time, the United Nations was a beacon for many Korean children. Now the United Nations is also a beacon for millions and millions of children around the world. We have to help them. A family’s poverty should never deprive any child of a good education. No child should be left out of school because of gender, ethnicity or geography”, *UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon*



Pictures drawn by Refugee children in the Alte Asfinag Camp Salzburg in February 2016



A ground pass is required to enter Vienna International Centre (VIC). If you do not have a permanent pass, please register not later than April 7th.

Needed information for Registration are the following: Title: Mr. or Mrs;

First Name: Last Name: Type of ID: ID number: Issuing Country:

Those who would like to enter the VIC and attend the conference on April 14th are requested to present this identity document at Gate 1 of the VIC.

Renate Amesbauer Tel. 0650 7514073: renate.amesb@gmail.com



Elisabeth Riedl, WFWPI UN Off Director Vienna, 0650 885 1988 wfwpeurope@gmail.com

Access to education for refugee children:

Policy, Practice and commitment

Thursday, 14th April 2016 at 13.00

Registration from 12.00

Vienna Int. Centre, C3 in the C building 7th floor.

1220 Vienna, Wagramer Str.5

Subway U1 (Kaisermühlen).

“Syrian and other refugees need the chance to work and provide for their families. Today, let us commit to getting all Syrian children into school, within months, not years. Offering hope is the best way to slow the exodus of educated Syrians and prevent the radicalization of a lost generation.” United Nations Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon

“Integration – that’s not just a word – it is humanity put into practice.”
Doraja Eberle, Bauern helfen Bauern

“Let us advance together until education is no longer a privilege for some – but a right for all. When we put education first, a life of dignity will follow. Thank you for your commitment.”

United Nations Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon

Ahead of the recent Supporting Syria and the Region conference in London, **UK International Development Secretary Justine Greening** called on world leaders to seize the chance to change the lives of a generation of children caught up in the conflict. Around half of the 1.4 million Syrian refugee children in the region are not in school. Within Syria the challenge is even greater with 2.1 million children out of school. Missing out on education prevents children from gaining the skills to compete in the jobs market of tomorrow, increases the risk of families resorting to negative coping strategies such as early marriage and child labour and leaves young people potentially vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism.

Alpine Peace Crossing is also dedicated to all those people who, at this very moment, find themselves on the run from political, racial or religious persecution, in whichever part of the world this is being inflicted. Ernst Loeschner Alpine Peace Crossing

UNESCO Director Irina Bokova advocated for an increased focus on education for Syrian youth, and appeal for longer-term education funding commitments. Outlining efforts made over the past five years to build

resilience and ensure the continuity of education, the Director-General stressed preventing radicalization and ensuring a bright future for young Syrians.

OPENING: Doraja Eberle tbc
Carolyn Handschin, *WFWPI UN Director*

13.15 SESSION 1: “Access to education for refugee children: Policy, practice and commitment”

Dr. Christian Konrad Refugee coordinator tbc
Marcio Barbosa CEO Education Above All Foundation tbc
UN speaker tbc
H.E. Ambassador Andrei Popov- Moldova Embassy tbc
Chair: H.E. Ambassador Ayoob Erfani, Afghanistan Embassy

14.15 SESSION 2: Global Quality Education: a Call to action

Mag. Teresa Habjan, Youth Advisory Board Chair to the
Austrian Commission for UNESCO tbc
Mag. Matthias Huber, Uni Vienna *Emotion tbc*
tbc
tbc
Chair: tbc

15.15 Break

15.45 SESSION 3: Education and Global Citizenship

Friedrich Forsthuber, President Criminal Court Vienna tbc
Marie Therese Kiriaky Chair Arab Women Assoc. Vienna tbc
Ms.Gabriele Zoehrer, *Family Assistant; Youth and education*
Counselling;
Ernst Loeschner Alpine Peace Crossing tbc
Billy Batware RAUN tbc
Chair: Mamadou Kone

16.45 SESSION 4: Recommendation proposal and Discussion
Dr. Lan Y. Moon *President Global Women’s Peace Network*
Carolyn Handschin,