

## Women's Federation for World Peace and Me

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It has been nearly seven years since I first became involved in the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) as the WFWP USA Vice President. Prior to being appointed to this role, I had very little knowledge about the organization. My mom was involved briefly when I was younger, and I had participated in a handful of [Bridge of Peace](#) ceremonies in my community.

When I started working with WFWP, I gradually learned how much this organization was an answer to my prayers at the time. I had recently completed graduate school, and I wasn't really sure what to do next. In my academic career, I had learned about various peace initiatives and efforts to make life around the globe more equitable and fulfilling for many of the most underprivileged. However, I felt that pursuing a career in many of the nonprofits or international organizations out there wasn't quite the right fit for me. I felt there is so much pain and suffering in the world and people are trying their best to alleviate it, but as long as humanity is

generally self-motivated, those laudable efforts are not enough. It will always feel like two steps forward, one step back, or maybe even three steps back. But how to inspire and re-educate enough people to genuinely think beyond themselves and sincerely care for others, to the point that we are willing to sacrifice our own comfort? How can we reach a tipping point in humanity so that this kind of mindset becomes more and more common and our self-gratification culture becomes less and less common? Imagine my surprise when in WFWP, I found a group of women who thought of these questions and sought to answer them.

It has been a wonderful experience these past few years. What I appreciate most about WFWP is that it is an organization of genuinely caring women who are working to live for others in reality and in their daily lives. And indeed, as our Founder teaches, it is women's natural inclination to think about how others are thinking and feeling, that compassionate heart, is what can bring that tipping point. During my time at WFWP, I had the opportunity to help develop many different programs, both large and small, all with the aim of bringing that internal transformation, a revolution of heart among the lives we touch. I have also developed my professional skills, especially in public speaking! What has made this learning experience especially phenomenal has been all the many women I've interacted with throughout the past year. From Mother Moon, I have learned poise, grace, and strength while remaining true to a woman's divine feminine character and qualities. From the women of WFWP USA, Canada, and beyond, I have been connected to a true sisterhood, women who will cheer you on and support you through thick and thin. As I reflect on my past seven years with WFWP and the 30 year history of this organization, I am filled with gratitude. I know there are many more amazing years ahead.



# Bridge of Peace

“If women all around the world take one another’s hands as sisters, their men would cease to fight and kill one another...parents would no longer mourn the loss of their sons and daughters.”

— Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP Founder



**WFWP’s signature project, the Bridge of Peace,** was developed as a means of reconciliation, an avenue for individuals of conflicting backgrounds to come together in forgiveness for the past with hope and determination for the future.

In 1995 and 1996, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, over 20,000 Japanese women came to the United States to cross a symbolic bridge with an American “sister” in order to heal the gap which still existed between the former enemy nations. Many tears were shed, with laughter and smiles, as each side made a commitment to end the animosity of the past. Since then, we have used the Bridge of Peace in Ireland, to unite Catholics and Protestants; even in Jerusalem, between Israelis and Arabs, between Jews and Christians, and Christians and Muslims. In the United States, it has been used to heal racism by uniting women and girls in a multicolor bouquet of sisterhood, to mend the rift and misunderstanding between

police and citizens, and to reconcile couples who have considered divorce and want to renew their dedication of love.

The transformative power of the Bridge of Peace lies not in the act of the ceremony, but within the heart and mind of each individual who take this step toward reconciliation. Two individuals stand at opposite sides of the bridge and bow both in repentance for anything they or their ancestors may have done to cause pain to the other as well as in forgiveness to the other side. As they cross to meet each other at the center, they cross over fear, prejudice, resentment, and pain, and embrace each other with a bigger heart and a bigger mind. In this embrace is also a commitment to a new future of peace. The Bridge is a symbol of crossing the barriers that we hold in our hearts and a willingness to embrace and accept someone different.



## REFLECTIONS

**“If we could have done this 50 years ago, maybe we could have prevented a war.”**

— George H. W. Bush, Former USA President

*“Things inside me loosened. I felt I had to apologize to Gloria for my family and for the culture in which I was raised to view black people as inferior and ignorant. Although we have grown very close as sisters and twins, and had alluded to the fact that there had been racial tension between us before God brought us together; I had never said this to Gloria before...Apologizing was difficult for me, and she readily forgave me, for which I was relieved and grateful...I told her I was sorry. It was unbelievably liberating for me after confessing to Gloria and being forgiven which I honestly did not expect, and I wanted to apologize for more situations, but I could not go on.”*

*“I do believe that if peace is to ever become a reality in this world, women will be at the forefront of the efforts, as the bridge and the negotiators to bring it about. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this event and meet the wonderful women who were present that day!”*



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