



Issue 01 | 2019

## Enhanced Skills for Success

Leaders and members from the Chapters of the Solomon Islands, PNG, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne gathered in Sydney for four days during the inaugural WFWP Oceania leadership Retreat.

Our professional development focus was:

Day 1: Chapter team building

Day 2: Professional Development

Day 3: Chapter Evaluation and Reflection

Day 4: Our Sydney sightseeing

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## Overview of WFWP activities in Oceania

WFWP is founded on the belief that a peaceful world begins in the heart of each person and in each family. The family is the cornerstone of peace and mature couples are the foundation for strong and loving families. The organisation encourages every woman to become a ‘woman of peace’ through cultivating her heart, the mother's heart, to care not just for her own children, but for the children of others, the children of other nations, the children of the world, by developing and expressing the qualities of empathy, forgiveness, and unconditional love.

WFWP Australia supports projects within Australia and the Island Nations of the Oceania region.

“Empowering  
women  
Strengthening  
families  
Connecting  
communities”

WFWP is committed to

- Serving communities – Service projects within Australia & the Pacific Islands
- Strengthening the family – Workshops, forums, seminars and conferences
- Bridge of Peace - Reconciling differences and healing wounds of the past
- Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN) – A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development

Projects include: Global Women’s Peace Network; Dignity Project; Marriage, Family and Wellness education; reconciliation through the Bridge of Peace ceremonies; Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Forums on Peace Building; an Annual Walk-a-thon to support its Pacific Neighbours; Books for the Islands; Solomon Islands New Hope Kindergarten; Pacific Island Scholarship Fund; Women’s Sewing Centers; and, Island Lights Project.

WFWP is a dynamic organisation committed to providing women with the opportunity to create lasting peace in the world by fostering dialogue, developing projects that nurture reconciliation and conflict resolution, and supporting projects that serve the community and overcome racial boundaries; all centering on the inherent feminine characteristics of care, empathy, support, nurturing and cooperation.

## The Hope for Humanity Comes from Mothers



“History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service and sacrifice. Today’s problems cannot be solved by the logic of power. Our present problems can only be solved by the logic of love.”

*Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon*

*Founder, WFWP International*

## WFWP

### Mission and Vision



WFWP Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately “solutions” come as true partnerships between men and women and are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society’s most elemental level - the family.

**Vision:** Women working together to realise one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

**Mission:** Empowering women as peace builders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

# Victoria

## Enhanced Skills for Success: Professional Development for WFWP Oceania

Sydney, July 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2019

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Members from WFWP Chapters of the Solomon Islands, PNG, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne gathered in Sydney to attend the inaugural WFWP Oceania Leadership Retreat.

While the focus of each day was different, the daily themes helped the participants to enhance their skills and knowledge which will ultimately contribute to the achievement of WFWP goals.

The first day focussed on two main themes – sharing information and attaining the skills required while conducting a collaborative project. In the initial session, Chapter leaders provided a short description of the projects in which they are involved.



The next session conducted by Elaine Hendrick, the Director of Elaine Hendrick Consultancy, provided guidance to participants in discerning the best approach to achieving one's dreams – in this case, the dream each Chapter would like to achieve.

Next, Elaine supported participants to recognize and undertake a joint project which involved collaboration and effort from each chapter. After much discussion, a

decision was reached about the project – to raise funds for the Pacific Scholarship Fund to enable young women in the Pacific Islands to access university level education.

The same evening, we were graced with the presence of our International President, Professor Yeon Ah Moon who shared her philosophy on 'living for the sake of others'. Her accounts of Mother Moon were interesting and gave us further insight into the depth of love and compassion Mother has for members of WFWP and the human family. Each participant was presented with a gift from Mother which confirmed her generosity and love.

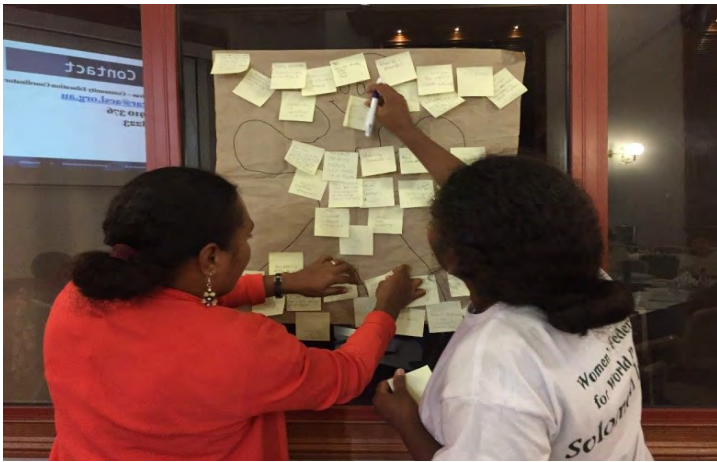


Day 2 was another interesting day as Monica Rivas from ACCESS Community Services in Brisbane guided participants through the application of the Logic Model. Using this model will enable participants to plan events or projects using a sequential and methodical process.

This was followed by a session on developing strategies for successful Grant Writing and effective Marketing of an event. The interactive nature of these sessions helped the participants to work collaboratively and build a bond with each other.

The third day facilitated by Anne Bellavance provided an opportunity for participants to spend some time reflecting on their strengths and their personal preferences using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Using this tool, participants are able to recognize how their personal preferences can assist them to work effectively with others.

During the afternoon, each Chapter worked together to evaluate the events that had been conducted during 2018 with the view of recognizing what worked well and what changes were needed to ensure



the success of these events in the future.

The last day was a more relaxed day as most of the participants spent the day sight-seeing in Sydney. It was a wonderful opportunity for members of the



different Chapters to spend time together in a leisurely setting.

## Feedback from Participants

❖ A customized approach ...

The Retreat felt customized for each WFWP Oceania Chapter, and also for the individual leaders. After the workshop, I felt closer to all the members of the Australian Chapters and those of Chapters in Oceania.

I was able to learn more about each Chapter's annual goals, their past activities and their challenges. This made me appreciate that we all as WFWP leaders are striving to promote the woman's motherly heart in our community level work.

Personally, meeting women leaders from the Pacific Islands provided me with great inspiration to become involved with diverse Island projects such as involvement with medical voluntary work in PNG.

Every morning, by starting our day with yoga and meditation our minds and our bodies were energized which definitely boosted our ability to focus through the day.

The session with the presenter from Access Community Services who shared the tools to achieve our goals by setting up logic models and how to apply for grants was very interesting and helpful.

The highlight of my workshop experience was completing the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. This tool has not only allowed me to recognize my strengths, it has also helped me to discern how my weaknesses deter me from being an efficient team player. This knowledge will be of great assistance in helping me to move forward and to work collaboratively with others even if they have different perspectives or preferences.

Thank you!

YeJeong DeGeer (QLD Vice-president)

❖ Energy flows where intention goes ....

The feeling of warmth and camaraderie from being surrounded by fabulously committed women was certainly a powerful experience. It was encouraging to know that members were at ease with each other, open to new ideas and transparent about finding news way of working together; inevitably sparking amazing group discussions during the sessions.



I walked away with more than a feel-good experience. Overall, I felt the sessions bundled the intentions of the group – which was to make a ‘breakthrough’ experience during the Retreat, and to find the much-needed common ground within the Chapters. I hope the transformational experience has recharged everyone and the motivation generated during the Retreat will be sustained and ultimately create long-term results for the collaborative work of Oceania Chapters moving forward.

Elaine Hendrick (Elanie Hendrick Consulting)

❖ Tools for Leadership ...

The Retreat has identified potential qualities for me personally to be in a leadership role. It was a great opportunity indeed to participate, and to bond with WFWP members from other Chapters. Through the Retreat, I could see that our Chapters are working together, cooperating together and sharing our heart,

passion and talent. We are learning from one another by creating harmony and multiplying love, joy and peace.

I am also so grateful for gaining further knowledge on grant request applications and effective and efficient marketing strategies to grow as an organisation, and in the business world. It has been an enriching opportunity for me and will help me while planning for our chapter events and also while working with others.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge with great thanks the WFWP Victoria team for hosting the Retreat an making it an enriching and successful event. I am looking forward to attending the next Retreat with WFWP Oceania in the near future.

Monica Longanimala Ilala (Secretary, Solomon Islands)



❖ We feel your support ...

It was great attending the 4 days retreat with professional women who gathered together to share experiences, ideas and plans for the best approaches to achieve the WFWPI goals. I must congratulate the Australian Chapters leaders for taking the lead in supporting the Island WFWP Chapters.

I was more interested in the Turn the Curve Planning session lead by Elaine Hendrick. I feel that collaborative effort and the Plan we put in place is the way forward to work with our local Leadership Teams. Our Island Chapters need to involve more professionals in our Boards. Each chapter has to be financially sustainable.

It has been great opportunity for me to meet the International President of WFWPI, Prof. Yeon AhMoon, and learn from the experiences she shared with us about taking on challenges during her leadership.

I am thankful to the Australian Chapters for supporting the Island Chapters in the partnership network by funding the Pacific Scholarship Fund and Endeavor Credit, the micro credit fund. Endeavour Credit will be empower women financially to take care of their families.

The Papua New Guinea WFWP Chapter is planning to appoint its board and apply for IPA registration from the Government, giving us approval to do business.

I felt so blessed to meet all the great and wonderful Chapter leaders and look forward to working with you all, and hope to see everyone again at the next meeting.

Betty Kaime (Papua New Guinea)

## Global Women's Peace Network



Mission: A network of women leaders and organisations dedicated to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment for human development. It seeks to ensure mutual prosperity and lasting peace through feminine peace leadership rooted in a culture of care, responsibility and education in family values.

People in our 21st century are demanding a new style of leadership. Leaders in our 'flattening world' need a different set of skills; requiring aptitude in emotional intelligence, reconciliation, mediation and forgiveness.

In 2012 during the GWPN inaugural assembly, the founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon called for a new era of women's leadership in peace building. The assembly highlighted the need for a body of NGO leaders, whose collective wisdom and judgment can complement the deliberations of the United Nations; which as a body of government representatives is overwhelmingly male. The GWPN is a project of WFWP international.

Find out more at: [www.wfwpaustralia.org/global-womens-peace-network](http://www.wfwpaustralia.org/global-womens-peace-network)

# School Books & Sewing Machines to Samoa

## Samoa, January 2019

### School Books for Itu o Tane College, Samoa

In late December, volunteers from WFWP Victoria collected, packed and helped to ship seventy one boxes of books both fiction and non-fiction. The books were bound for a remote high school - Itu o Tane College located in Avao, on the Samoan island of Savaii. The books arrived in Samoa in the middle of February.



WFWP Victoria has a strong relationship with the Samoan community in Melbourne. Through this relationship, we were able to connect with MrManase, the Principal of the Itu o Tane College, who transported the books to the school when the shipment landed in the port city of Apia.

This consignment would not have been possible without the support of the library staff at Beaconhills College who donated the books and Doug and Paul Greenall for picking up the books and transporting them to the shipping warehouse. The Greenalls who operate and own Doug's Mini Movers are one of WFWP Victoria's corporate sponsors.

In the same shipment, six sewing machines were also shipped to Samoa to support the Women's Sewing

Centres there.



### Upcoming events in Australia

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Charity Walk & Pacific Island Festival
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Mindfulness Retreat
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Connecting Communities Dinner
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Faith Stories: conversations and storytelling
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Peace Building Seminar Series
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Speech Contest
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Peace Building Seminar Series
Mid-August	Movie Night
21 <sup>st</sup> September	International Day of Peace Conference & Bridge of Peace
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Peace Building Seminar Series
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	WFWP Workshop
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Evaluation Meeting



# Challenges Facing Families in Australia and Opportunities for Renewal

Melbourne, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019



The four seminars in the 2019 Peacebuilding Seminar Series explore the challenges facing Australian families, and offer participants a range of opportunities for renewal.



The initial seminar for 2019 was launched by Bill Pontikis the founder of Café Care and a former Councillor with the City of Monash. In his presentation titled “My Experience in Healing Families”, he provided an outline of his experiences while operating Café Care for over 20 years. He described his interactions with the clientele who were dealing with difficult conditions including drug and alcohol abuse, family violence and depression.



While in his presentation, Dr John Bellavance introduced the concepts behind a new family renewal initiative – the *Extended Family Network (EFN)*. He explained that an EFN can be initiated anywhere in Australia when three families form a network to support each other. Through forming friendships and offering physical support to each other, families are enabled to become part of an ‘Extended Family Network’. The guiding principles of the network he acknowledged were mutual prosperity, interdependence and universally shared values.

During his presentation, Bill conducted an interview with Venesa where they discussed the various challenges she had experienced in her life. Addicted to drugs at the age of 12 years, Venesa explained how that addiction ultimately led her to prostitution and a gradual downfall. She observed that it was a lack of parental love that had led her to believe that she was worth nothing and therefore, she had sought fulfilment through drugs. Eventually, she was able to assure her audience that when in the depths of despair she sought comfort from Christ, her life was completely transformed.



The keynote address delivered by John Adamedes focussed on “Essential Values and Principles in Life”. An educator for over 25 years in the university and high school sector, John reflected on the

moral and ethical challenges confronting people in today’s technological driven world and the difficulties in trying to live a principled life.

His next presentation addressed the fundamental relationships that are formed and grounded within a family. As the family is a key social unit, he believed it is there, that one’s character is formed in an environment of shared love and care. The family unit, he emphasised is the key social unit upon which all other social units depend.

### **Interfaith, Intercultural Marriage Rededication**

During the Seminar, a marriage re-dedication ceremony was conducted to recognise the importance that marriage and family have on the wellbeing of individuals and nations regardless of people’s world-views, faith or national origins.



From the top-left: Rev John Izvernariu bestowing a Christian blessing, Adel Gaballa sharing Muslim wisdom in regard to marriage and Ven. Bodhicitta, providing a Buddhist blessing.

## **Ambassador for Peace Awards**

As part of the seminar, four community leaders were recognised for their contributions to the community by awarding each of them with an Ambassador for Peace Award.



From left: Nizar Ashkar, Principal of Al Kamal Arabic School and Vice-President of the Unitarian Druze Community Victoria; Taniya K Jayasinghe, Vice-President South Asian Community Link Group, coordinator for Miss Africa Victoria Australia/ Miss Africa Australia, and Multicultural Community Ambassador GC2018 Commonwealth Games; Dr Moses G Adepoju, Founder/Chairperson of Care Africa International, Secretary of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Ambassador for White Ribbon Australia, and Founder/CEO Miss Africa Australia; and Jeffrey Lawrence Osayande, Director of the African Community Development Network of Australia and President of Pad An African Girl (PAAG)

# Annual Charity Walk & Pacific Islands Festival

## Lysterfield Lake Park, Melbourne, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

Lysterfield Lake Park was the setting for a wonderful celebration on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> - a celebration of the culture and traditions of the people from the Pacific islands. This event for which much preparation had taken place was ably organised by Giulia Iacono, Secretary and Pacific Island Project Coordinator and her team of helpers. With the assistance and support from a number of organisations including Parks Victoria, the Victorian Samoan Advisory Council (VicSAC) and the City of Casey, the Pacific Festival and Charity Walk was altogether a great success.



The Festival commenced with the Charity Walk which offered participants three different options – a short walk for children and seniors, a 5 km circuit of the lake or a 7 km hike through the park. After participating in the walk, walkers were then able to enjoy the Pacific Festival which offered entertainment and a range of food and gifts from different parts of the Pacific region.

After opening the Festival with an Acknowledgement of Country, Tofiga Tuigamala, the Secretary of VicSAC invited the Samoan High Chief Muagututia Lemalu Faatau to perform an AVA traditional opening ceremony.



This interesting ceremony was followed by a Taupou Samoan Traditional Dance presented by the High Chief's daughter, Adele Faaosofia. Addresses from Cr Rosalie Crestanifrom

the City of Casey and the Hon Luke Donnellan a Local MP were next on the agenda.



Besides offering a warm welcome to all those present, they shared their views on the importance of being connected with local communities. The

entertainment continued with performances of a number of traditional Samoan and Hawaiian dances and songs. The highlight of the afternoon was the appearance of Miss Samoa Victoria, Norah Aloiai, who presented certificates of thanks to all the performers and brought the Festival to a close with a traditional Samoan dance.



By the end of the day, we had raised just over \$4 300 for our Pacific Island Projects. This will allow WFWP Australia to offer two young women from the Solomon Islands scholarships to attend university through the Pacific Island Scholarship Fund. While Rose will be studying to gain a nursing degree, Selina aims to gain a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education. Besides contributing to the Scholarship Fund, the money will contribute to our other projects including the Women's Sewing Centre in Honiara in the Solomon Islands.



Much appreciation is owed to all the members of our WFWP team who helped to put up banners, set up our beautiful new marquee, coordinate the setting up of the stalls and perform all the other tasks which contributed to the success of the day. They proved that following our WFWP philosophy of 'living for the sake of others' can definitely contribute to the greater good.

## Testimony by Tofiga Tuigamala, Secretary of VicSAC, and Pacific Islands Liaison Officer for WFWP Victoria.

As a member of the Samoan community, it was a wonderful privilege to be involved in many different ways with the Charity Walk and the Festival focusing on the Pacific Islands.

As a Liaison officer for my community, I was able to promote this event on a regular basis on our two Melbourne Samoan Radio stations and through advertising the event on Facebook as well as personally distributing flyers to a range of my Polynesian friends. Being able to invite leaders from the Samoan community to conduct a traditional 'Ava Ceremony' was an additional bonus. It was a great

honour to have the Samoan High Chief, the Honourable Muagututia Lemalu Faatau open the festival with the 'Ava Ceremony' – a beautiful and inspiring ceremony which helped to share a Samoan tradition with the spectators at the festival.



In addition to being involved with the promotion and organisation of the event, I was the emcee for the festival – a role I thoroughly enjoyed. I was thrilled to introduce the different Samoan rituals during the festival including a graceful dance performed by Adele Faaosofia, a former Miss Samoa Victoria.

Overall, my family and I enjoyed the festival and feedback from members of my community implied that the festival was a wonderful success which besides providing them with an exciting day offered them an opportunity to support the goals of the WFWP.



# Solomon Islands

## Yeon Ah Nim Moon visits Solomon Islands

Sydney, July 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2019

A new primary school is being built in Honiara to widen the access young children have to education.



WFWPI President Ms Yeon Ah Nim Moon was the guest of honor at the Groundbreaking ceremony at Town Ground in West Honiara. Addressing the other dignitaries and guests at the ceremony, Ms Moon acknowledged that the “Sun Hak Primary School would play a key role in educating future leaders who would not only contribute to an ideal world of peace but become successful and devoted citizens of the Solomon Islands”.



Attending the Groundbreaking ceremony were Eddie Ngava, the former Deputy City Mayor; Mrs. Gladys Siale representing the Ministry of Education

and Human Resources, Mrs. Benardean Ha'amori, Co-founder of Early Childhood Education in the Solomon Islands and international guests from Korea and Oceania.

Originally known as the New Hope Academy, the school has changed its name to the Sun Hak Primary School to acknowledge the change it has undergone from being a kindergarten to now becoming a primary school.



Yeon Ah Nim visited the School and encouraged the schools staff to build a quality school that develops good and smart citizens. She strongly emphasized to “educate students of filial heart to their parents and to live for the higher purpose. You must create a school that meets the desire and happiness of others”.

The school has a registered land size of 0.0391 hectare at Town Ground, West Honiara. The building is expected to be completed by December 2019.

In her address, President Yeon Ah Nim Moon declared, "The Leaders we need today are not those who only have intellectual knowledge but those who can lead with heart and filial piety towards heaven and humanity." She stressed that the students who are to study at the school will become global leaders who would not only enrich the Solomon Islands but have an impact on the whole of the Asia-Pacific region.



While speaking to the assembly, the former Deputy City Mayor, Eddie Ngava said, "Investing in education is a great move for a stronger nation. Despite limited space in the city, the purchase of the land for the Sun Hak Primary School has been approved by the City Council because of its belief in the value of education."



In her statement, Gladys Siale said that the government was seeking quality education for its children. "To achieve quality education in the country," she said, "the ministry can't do it alone. Therefore, when WFWP SI registered for the development of Sun Hak Primary School in 2018, this submission was approved by the ministry."

## Feeling inspired?



### Support our Service Projects in the Pacific Islands!

Here is how you can make the difference:

**Donate:** make a financial contribution to our WFWP National Island Account. 100% of your donation will be used for our service projects. WFWP is a fully volunteer organisation.

**Bank:** Commonwealth Bank  
**Account Name:** WFWP Island Project  
**BSB:** 1037 7911  
**Account number:** 063 503

For more options and to donate online visit:  
<https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/get-involved>

**Donate your sewing machine:** The sewing machines are sent to our Women's Sewing Centres in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa. Through the machine donations from WFWP Australia, local women are able to start a sewing business by sewing school uniforms and women's clothing.

Due to the fact that machine parts need to be ordered from Australia or New Zealand and this is extremely costly, please ensure that your sewing machine is in good working conditions. The Women's Centre is also in need of sewing machine oil and tools. If you can help, please let us know.

Contact us to organise a pick-up or drop off time.

For more information about our Service Projects, visit:  
<https://www.wfwpaustralia.org/pacific-islands-project>

# International

## Sun Hak Peace Prize 2019 laureates

Seoul, Korea, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: VICE PRESIDENT KATARINA CONNERY'S REFLECTIONS ON THE 2019 SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE



When you think about Africa, what do you think of? For myself, I think of a place full of contradictions. It is the cradle of humanity, where our human ancestors originated, Mother Africa. Yet most countries in Africa have a long and tumultuous history of brutality from realities such as colonialism and the international slave trade, stripped of the human labor and natural resources which have enriched countries outside of the continent. Such a history of exploitation and abuse has had far-reaching consequences today. Many countries in Africa are still plagued by war, civil unrest, economic instability, poverty, disease, and conflict. Attempts to improve are often marred and stifled by corruption and inequality. However, Africa is also filled to the brim with potential, beautiful and diverse. Rich with natural resources - minerals, wood, diamonds, gold, oil, and much, much more - as well as fertile rivers, lakes, and farmlands, African countries could develop phenomenally with the right input and thoughtful investment. Africa also has some of the most stunning

landscapes and biodiversity on the planet, from the jungles, to the savannah, mountains, and several natural wonders such as Victoria Falls. Over 30 million tourists visit Africa each year to enjoy these marvels.

Given all the diverse realities Africans face in this century, I was particularly excited to see the announcement of the 2019 Sunhak Peace Prize awardees. Founded in 2015 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Sunhak Peace Prize was launched with a goal to “help resolve worldwide suffering, conflict,



**“The coming time is the age of one world under God. God is working for this kind of world and will always help those people who are working for the same goal. However, there are many people who want to live in that kind of world, but do not want to participate in God’s providence to help make it a reality.”**

*Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon*

poverty, and threats to the environment by promoting a comprehensive, future-oriented vision of peace.” Awarded every two years, each award follows a theme. This year’s theme was “Peace and Human Development in Africa” and was given to Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina from Nigeria and Ms. Waris Dirie from Somalia. The laureates were presented the prestigious award at a very moving and joyful ceremony on Saturday, February 9 in Seoul, Korea.

At a time when we are bombarded with negative news and images which seem to point to the hopelessness of humanity - particularly in the United States, we seem to hear only the negative stories about Africa - it is quite refreshing to hear from a man and woman who have had such a widespread positive impact on improving people’s lives for the better.



Dr. Adesina is currently the president of the African Development Bank and for several years he has been leading Africa’s development

through agricultural innovation and promoting good governance. During his acceptance speech, he pointed out the very simple yet profound truth in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples in which the first line was, “give us this day our daily bread.” How much hinges on that basic need to be well fed, yet how much is lost due to corruption and war? He pointed out that while today over 850 million people are hungry and over 150 million children are malnourished, the UN estimates that a whopping \$3 trillion per year is lost to corruption globally, money which could be used to feed our children. Efforts to educate and empower are useless if people are not first fed and healthy.

His passion for feeding those in need and creativity to get the job done shone through as he recounted his

experience as Minister of Agriculture in Nigeria. He helped cut out middle men who were getting rich off of government contracts and gave the power to buy and sell into the hands of farmers. They used a very simple tool, the cellphone, by developing an app through which farmers can buy seeds and fertilizers directly from suppliers, as well as sell their products. As Africa is heavily reliant on agriculture, this had a tremendous impact on people’s lives. One woman proudly showed him her phone and said, “Now we can live with pride.” He concluded with a rallying call to turn our spears into pruning hooks as the Bible advises. The entire audience stood to their feet to celebrate all the work



and investment Dr. Adesina represents. The second awardee, Ms. Waris Dirie, had a much different background and focus, but no less passionate and driven to help others, especially women and girls in Africa. Ms. Dirie was the first person to publicize the horrific nature of female genital mutilation (FGM) to the world and has since worked tirelessly for its eradication.

During the ceremony she shared very openly her story of growing up in a nomadic family in Somalia and the simplicity and beauty of her life there. However, when she was only five years old, she experienced FGM performed by her mother and grandmother. There was no anesthesia and no medical professional to perform this dangerous and unnecessary procedure. She was left



with her legs tied together bleeding, in extreme agony, and heartbroken. As a young child filled with hope and dreams, how can she comprehend why such violence was done to her? When her father introduced her to a much older man as her future husband, when she was just 13, she vowed to leave Somalia to escape the atrocities she'd experienced. Her journey took her to England, where she eventually became a world-renowned model. However, even with fame and fortune, she never forgot the little girl she was and the promise she made to herself that she will fight against FGM. With the world platform, she was able to open the public's eyes about FGM and rally the international cause to ban its practice.

As we all know, even when laws are passed, it takes time to change people's perceptions and deeply-rooted cultural practices. FGM is performed on millions of young girls, primarily in Africa, each year. Thus, Ms. Dirie did not stop there. She continues to work with girls and families to educate on the harms of FGM, both physical

and psychological. Her foundation also provides reconstructive surgery for victims as well as trauma counseling so they can recreate their lives.

Though her speech highlighted the multifaceted atrocity that is FGM, she concluded by saying that only love can make a world of difference. In the face of such ugliness, we need to have hearts of love and the willingness to embrace the bruised and broken. Ms. Dirie's deep heart and love for the children of the world could be seen and felt in her smiles for the Little Angels, a children's Korean folk dance troupe, as they performed a congratulatory song.

Though the situation of the world and in Africa can seem bleak, from issues such as extreme hunger and poverty and female genital mutilation, with such bright beacons of hope in Dr. Adesina and Waris Dirie, one can feel that there is hope for the future. The Sunhak Peace Prize advocates for "One Family Under God" and these two incredible individuals are doing a tremendous job in taking care of God's family. WFWP applauds you and thanks you deeply for your work.

# Commission on the Status of Women



## WFWPI: The Family and Social Protection: SDG 5

The focus for this event was an exploration of WFWPI's viewpoint on the importance of the family particularly in providing social protection to members of a population. WFWPI believes that the family, although it is the smallest unit in society, plays an important role in establishing a culture of peace within the individuals in the family and ultimately within the community and within society as a whole.

The event featured a range of speakers who imparted



their understandings of the role that family plays in social protection. A summary of some of their views are presented here -

### Ms. Renata Kaczmarska

Renata is a Social Affairs Officer in the Division for Inclusive Social Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the UN Secretariat in New York. In this capacity, she acts as a spokesperson on family issues for the UN Secretariat.

She emphasised the role the family plays as the first social protection provider for children. When evaluating the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) she suggested that we often forget the contribution made by the family towards ending poverty, providing welfare and



supporting family members emotionally and financially. Media reports usually refer only to government legislation and the work NGOs implement in working towards the achievement of the SDGs. She recommended that more attention could be given to the role the family plays in this arena.

### Dr. Alex Vazquez

Alex is the representative of the International Federation for Family Development to the United Nations, New York and is founder of CIDESOC – a think tank on social and political research.

Alex explained that social protection links to SDGs 1 and 2 which focus on economic poverty, while SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10 broadly seek to realise the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. These goals are integrated, and balance the two dimensions of economic and social development.

When working on the design and implementation of policies related to the family, some of the important issues to keep in mind are family diversity;



cooperation and partnerships with non-state participants and how to inform and include families in this process. However, determining what constitutes progress for families and establishing valid methods of measuring family well-being continue to be challenging and these challenges will need serious consideration for any improvements to take place.

### Ms. Jeanne Carroll

Jeanne is a senior UN representative of WFWPI and a member of the NGO Commission on the Status of Women, NY. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Working Group on Girls.

Only 45% of the world's nations offer government social protection she explained and therefore, the family unit is essential for the survival of family members. In developing countries, many households support their extended family. While in developed countries, when elderly family members reach a certain age, they are often dependent on government social protection. This is often insufficient as adequate care can often be very expensive. Therefore, the family requires social protection so that adults in the family can offer support and respond appropriately to the needs of those who more vulnerable. A nation's infrastructure needs to be adjusted to protect this basic unit of society.

Jeanne explained that in developing nations, "girls need an education, not a dowry." In these nations, girls are valued based on their dowry and are married off according to the amount of the dowry. Women in these nations are seen as property. In these nations, government infrastructure needs to be set up to protect the family so that girls can get an education and a job, rather than be married off to reduce the burden placed on the family to support the daughter. If suitable infrastructure exists, families could encourage their daughters to get an education, rather than marrying them off.

She also addressed the importance of 'parenting

education'. She believes that the best way for children to learn is through the good examples shown by their parents. It is important she felt to educate the 'boy child' about relationships particularly with women.

As women are the vulnerable gender, such an education will have an impact on the way these boys will treat women when they have grown up.

Overall, the event was a stimulating experience which left participants with much food for thought.



## Town Hall meeting with the UN Secretary General

After lining up for almost two hours, most of the members of our Oceania delegation were finally able to enter the main hall of the United Nations building to listen to the address given by the Secretary General of the United Nations -António Guterres. Just before Mr. Guterres arrived, the UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-NGcuka led the CSW63 delegates present in singing an inspiring song together. (To view this uplifting segment, please visit our Women's Federation for World Peace Oceania Facebook page)

### Some key themes covered in the Secretary General's speech:

- ❖ Communication between the UN and civil society is really important; the UN cannot advocate for change within member states unless civil society sends in letters about issues that need addressing.
- ❖ The central defect in acquiring gender equality is reluctance to lose power. Those in power do not like relinquishing their power. This is particularly evident in a male dominated culture which affects women adversely. The key to achieving equity is to assign positions of authority equally between men and women. At the UN, two thirds of senior executives are still men, but the Secretary General is working on bringing this into parity.
- ❖ The Secretary General has created a UN investigation unit to investigate sexual harassment claims about UN staff within UN offices and with UN Peace Keeping Forces. Reports have revealed that some Peace Keeping soldiers have been involved in the sexual harassment of vulnerable populations. Again, he explained, it is a misuse of the power relationship which has allowed sexual harassment to occur.

One of the distressing concern she has is that many government leaders and parents seem to pay more

attention to dealing with drug trafficking in comparison to dealing with human trafficking. In order to eradicate these horrific incidents of human trafficking, he suggested that more intelligence, more data and more intense efforts are needed to prohibit traffickers from prospering financially and escaping legal retribution.



The address was followed by an animated question and answer session between the Secretary General and participants of CSW 63.

### Three goals the Secretary General is working towards in order to counteract the misuse of power:

- ❖ Achieving parity between men and women working within the UN organisation, and working towards zero tolerance of sexual harassment and violence against women during peace – keeping operations
- ❖ Ensuring the safety of the defenders of human rights. As there seems to be a rise in the persecution of human rights defenders through campaigns of harassment and hatred, work is being conducted to eliminate this persecution
- ❖ Advocating a policy of ‘push back against the push back’. Unfortunately, those working for all forms of parity, justice and human rights are experiencing a backlash from extremist groups. To respond to this predicament, the UN and civil society need to work towards ‘pushing back against this push back’

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: effective response for women and girls



The Australian Minister of Women, Kelly O'Dwyer gave the opening presentation to the powerful event on Modern Slavery

and Human Trafficking, effective response for women and girls. In 1865 slavery was abolished! However, it has just changed its form and methods. Modern slavery occurs in the form of commercial sexual exploitation and bondage labour, and 77% are women. Women become trapped due to lack of education, gender inequalities, and searching unsuccessfully for work in foreign countries. The presenters stressed that no government alone can defeat human trafficking; all civil societies and NGOs need a collective approach to raise this issue with their UN representatives, their local governments,



and to educate their communities.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing business and

the hardest to confront because men need to be brought to the table regarding attitudes to women and girls. The end result is an escalation of sexual violence! Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex, provide labour, or services against their will.

While more research is needed on the scope of human trafficking, below are a few key statistics:

- The International Labour Organisation estimates that forced labour and human trafficking is a \$150 BILLION industry worldwide
- Only 60% of the victims have been identified
- 9% of the world's countries have no laws about human trafficking
- Human trafficking is a global phenomenon that affects every country of the World
- The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally
- 81% of them are trapped in forced labour
- 25% of them are children
- 75% are women and girls
- The U.S. Department of Labour has identified 148 goods from 75 countries made by forced and child labour
- In 2017, an estimated 1 out of 7 endangered runaways reported to the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims. Of those, 88% were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran
- There is no official estimate of the total number of human trafficking victims

# Support our Service Projects in the Pacific Islands

## Why the Pacific Islands?

WFWP Australia focuses its Service Projects in the Island Nations of the Oceania region (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Samoa). These regions are some of the poorest countries in the world. The 2014 World Bank ranking of 181 nations according to GDP for the Pacific Islands is: Solomon Island (ranked 131), Micronesia (123), PNG (127), Vanuatu (119) Marshall Islands (113), Samoa (103), and Fiji (95). In these countries, there is no social security, and no free education, even in public schools. For these reasons, and especially as these regions are our immediate neighbours, we feel responsible for their wellbeing and development.

## Some of our Service Projects in the Island Nations of Oceania

### Women's Sewing Centres



Dating back to 2003, WFWP Women's Sewing Centres provide Island women an opportunity to gain skills and support their families economically. They have been established in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa.

### New Hope Academy



In 2010, WFWP Australia provided funding for the building of the New Hope Academy. The school was established as a kindergarten and opened with an intake of 40 students ranging from 3 to 6 years old. It now accommodates more than 100 children and is a growing primary school.

In 2018 WFWP Victoria donated a set of 32 iPads, which function as additional learning resources for the teachers and students. This donation has boosted the learning curve for students to the next level, making the school grow in popularity. Now the New Hope Academy is the first kindergarten in Solomon

Islands that has a computer class where students can access new technology, learn new things and develop their skills as part of their learning experience.



### Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund

The WFWP "Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund", is a not for profit development program launched in March 2017 that aims to provide

young adults from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with opportunities to access empowering education programs in their own country. The program supports young people who are passionate about getting an education and who align their heart with one of the values and goals of WFWP: "Living for the sake of others".

Our first chosen recipients are Jenny (currently in her second year of studies to become a primary school teacher) and Janet (currently in her first year of studies in early childhood education). As a newly graduated teachers, Jenny and Janet will be employed in the New Hope Academy.

Visit [www.wfwpaustralia.org/pacific-islands-projects](http://www.wfwpaustralia.org/pacific-islands-projects) for more information about these projects

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We thank all our members, sponsors and supporters for their contribution to WFWP Oceania.

## United Nations Affiliation

WFWP International became a “NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations” in 1997. This status has continued to be renewed based on the preparation of the Quadrennial Report.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States.

There are only 139 NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- Applying organisation’s activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
- The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least two years in order to apply
- The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
- The major portion of the organisation’s funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components
- NGOs granted General Consultative Status must submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, in particular regarding their contribution to the work of the United Nations (Quadrennial Report). General consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

The benefits of receiving this status include:

- The NGO may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC
- Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies.

WFWP International maintains a UN office in New York City. WFWP International has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.