

What happened! - It's just life happening - I got just a little bit older and wiser.

Lilly Gundacker
November 10, 2023



What happened you ask? You see me post a picture of myself in a wheelchair with tears in my eyes. It's just life happening. If you know me, you realize I often tear up at the slightest emotional situation. So don't worry. I am showing my vulnerability. Maybe now I can appreciate the Facebook function which deletes posts after 24 hours. I've posted a photo of the friendly airport special services staff member who helped me in my time of need.



Still grateful

Cyprus

We went to Cyprus for the [WFWP Leadership Conference](#) in Larnaca. Josef came too. I was very grateful for that. I managed the live streaming to [Facebook](#) on the [WFWP Europe Page](#) despite confusion and lack of communication beforehand.

Missed Flight

We missed our flight due to delays in security and immigration.

I have two artificial knees and they set off the alarm at security, so I had to have a whole-body scan with a female security officer who finally confirmed it was the knees that set off the alarm. I had to take my shoes off and, honestly, with both legs sore and swollen, even putting my shoes back on was a tedious chore.

Next, I had an interesting discussion with the immigration officer. I am not an Austrian national and now have a plastic ID residency card. Apparently, I need to show this with my

foreign passport every time I go through immigration. Ah ha. Did not know that. I used to carry my old passport with the permanent residency visa in it. An Austrian official blatantly stamped it invalid when I

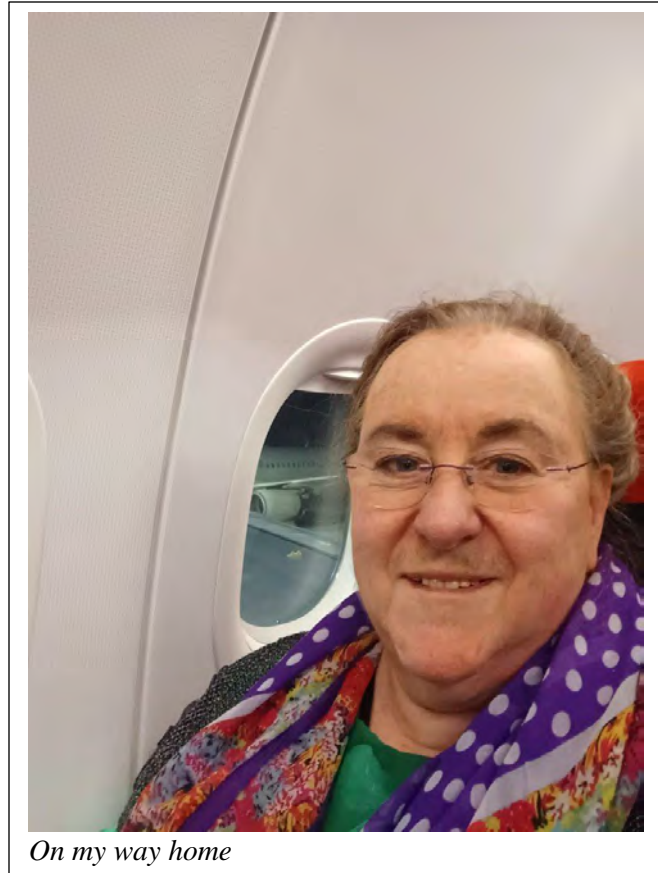
applied for the plastic residency ID. I was indignant but he insisted it was procedure.

Immigration

The immigration officer at the airport said he would not have given his passport. As I felt grateful for his confirmation of my own concept, I knew we were already running late and yet had to stop the discussion mid-sentence as Josef urged me to hurry up.

I cannot run and each step was causing me pain. I was very grateful for Josef's support with the luggage. However, the airport is big; the gates are many; and the terminal paths long. I finally stopped a transport trolley and asked to be taken to our gate. There, we were told that the flight had already been closed.

Result? We had to rebook the next flight with extra fees. I finally asked about wheelchair support and then obtained it for the rest of the trip.



On my way home

What Happened?

I discovered that it is okay to ask for help.

I learned that I MUST ask for help. Yes, I discovered vulnerability and accepted it. Even now, again, the tears in my eyes. Me, the strong woman with five sons. Me the, one with four brothers, the Tomboy growing up. Me the only one in my family now living outside Australia.

Actually, I already became familiar with a wheelchair, in hospital, while I had my knee replacement surgery. Even once, as one of my sons pushed me down the road to physiotherapy afterwards, I felt sheepish, but accepted it with grace. It kinda feels like another type of imposter syndrome. No, I don't really need this. No, I am not disabled.

Vulnerability

Is it really so hard to accept that we are not perfect? That we are fallible? That I am getting older? That I can't do what I used to do with ease?

Yes, it is hard. And yet I can accept it. I am grateful for what I have experienced and mindful of what I can give and do. I am so aware that my time here is limited and oftentimes overwhelmed with realizations.

Aging

We have reached an age that some of our friends and colleagues have not reached and never will. So, we speak truths that are not often spoken. We are insightful and grateful for our lives, our experiences, our opportunities, our blessings.

What happened? I got just a little bit older and wiser.



Donate

First name

Last name

e.g., name@example.com

Country

Sign up for our newsletter!



[Conference Content,
Photos, Presentations
and Bios](#)

- [Top of Page](#) ●
- [Opening Banquet](#) ○
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ○
- [Session III](#) ○
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Session V](#) ○
- [Interviews](#) ○
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○

Opening Banquet



1. Moderator: Ms. Marcia de Abreu, WFWP Europe Secretary General/ WFWP Spain President

2. Welcome Greetings
Ms. Mitty Tohma, WFWP Europe President, WFWPI Vice President, UK

3. Ms. Moriko Hori, WFWPI President, WFWP President, Japan

4. Dr. Zoe Bennett, WFWP Middle East President, WFWPI Vice President, Cyprus



5. Greetings from H.E. Mrs. Philippa Karsera,
First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus

[Opening Banquet Video Recording](#)



- [Top of Page](#) ○
- [Opening Banquet](#) ●
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ○
- [Session III](#) ○
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Session V](#) ○
- [Interviews](#) ○
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○

Session I

The Invaluable Contribution of Women to Peace Education



Session Ia
Moderator: Ms. Elisabetta Nistri, WFWP President, Italy

Identity and Human Dignity

Ms. Ingrid Lindemann, Former WFWP President,
Co-Founder Dignity Project, Germany

[Recording](#)

Ms. Lubica Magnusson, WFWP President, Slovakia

[Recording](#)



- [Top of Page](#)
- [Opening Banquet](#)
- [Session I](#)
- [Session II](#)
- [Session III](#)
- [Session IV](#)
- [Session V](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)



Session Ib
 Moderator: Dr. Maria Riehl, Director of WFP UN Vienna, Austria

Peace Leadership and Peace Culture

Ms. Carolyn Handschin, CSW/NGO Geneva
 President, Switzerland

[Recording](#)

Ms. Laetitia Van Haren, Cultural Anthropologist,
 Former Director of Defense for Children,
 Netherland

[Recording](#)

[Q&A](#)

[Awards](#)



- [Top of Page](#)
- [Opening Banquet](#)
- [Session I](#)
- [Session II](#)
- [Session III](#)
- [Session IV](#)
- [Session V](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)

Session II

**The Power of Women's Networks in Building a Culture of Peace.
 Taking Action for Peace: the Way Forward**



Moderator: Ms. Britta Houston, WFP President, Sweden

H.E. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Former Prime Minister,
 Finland

[Recording](#)

Ms. Sophia Giorgala, President of Women
 without Borders, Cyprus

[Recording](#)

Ms. Lubjana Malaj, Center for Education and
 Social Advancement, Executive Director, Albania

[Recording](#)

Ms. Aleksandra Skonieczna, WFP President,
 Poland

[Recording](#)

- [Top of Page](#)
- [Opening Banquet](#)
- [Session I](#)
- [Session II](#)
- [Session III](#)
- [Session IV](#)
- [Session V](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)





Session III

The Importance of Women's Voices in Creating a Culture of Peace: The Middle East Perspective seen from within and from the outside



Q&A and Awards

Moderator: Dr. Zoe Bennett, WFWP Middle East President, WFWPI Vice President

H.E. Neziha Labidi, Former Minister of Women, Family and Children, Tunisia - 1st half of video

Recording

Ms. Fatemah Alacrookah, Pioneers for Peace 1325, President, Kuwait - 2nd half of video

Recording

Ms. Carmen Magallón, President of Fundación Seminario de Investigación para la Paz, Spain

Recording

Ms. Maryam Alan Kairouz, Student of Psychology at the Lebanese American University, Lebanon

Recording

- [Top of Page](#) ○
- [Opening Banquet](#) ○
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ●
- [Session III](#) ○
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Session V](#) ○
- [Press News](#) ○
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○



Session IV

Creating a Sustainable Future: Women's Role in Environmental Peacebuilding



Moderator: Ms. Sara Marchan, WFWP Young Women Representative, Spain

Ms. Kefilwe Lebepe, WFWPI Young Professionals Coordinator, Germany

Recording

Ms. Anais Vega, WFWP Youth Representative, Spain

Recording

Ms. Gloria Marinsanti, "Mondo Internazionale" APS, Secretary General, Italy

Recording

Ms. Sharon Kabubi, Co-Chair of Young Women Speech Contest, UK

- [Top of Page](#) ○
- [Opening Banquet](#) ○
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ○
- [Session III](#) ●
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Session V](#) ○
- [Press News](#) ○
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○



[Recording](#)



- [Top of Page](#)
- [Opening Banquet](#)
- [Session I](#)
- [Session II](#)
- [Session III](#)
- [Session IV](#)
- [Session V](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)

Session V Awards and Closing Session



Moderator: Ms. Brigitte Wada, WFPW President, France

Ms. Ninetta Kazantzis, Secretary General,
Mediterranean Children's Movement
1st half of the video

[Recording](#)

Ms. Nargis Hassanzai, Founder Farkhunda
Foundation - 2nd half of the video

[Recording](#)

Ms Thecia Kwangsa Mbunwe, Chairwoman of
Southern Cameroon European Women e.V and
Paulette Mengnjo, Southern Cameroon
European Women

[Recording](#)

- [Top of Page](#)
- [Opening Banquet](#)
- [Session I](#)
- [Session II](#)
- [Session III](#)
- [Session IV](#)
- [Session V](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)



Rapporteur and Resolution

Ms. Kyung-in Van De Ven, WFPW UN
Representative, Vienna

[Recording](#)

Participant reflections

Ms. Amanda Toumanguelov, WFPW Ireland Vice
President - 1st third of the video

[Recording](#)

Global Women Peace Ambassador Awards
middle of the video

[Recording](#)

Closing Remarks

Ms. Mitty Tohma, WFPW Europe President,

- [Top of Page](#)
- [Opening Banquet](#)
- [Session I](#)
- [Session II](#)
- [Session III](#)
- [Session IV](#)
- [Session V](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)

Interviews



Ms. Gloria Diana Marinsanti



Ms. Kefilwe Lebepe



Ms. Sera Mustafa



Ms. Anais Vega



Ms. Sara Koy



Ms. Sharon Kabubi

- [Top of Page](#) ○
- [Opening Banquet](#) ○
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ○
- [Session III](#) ○
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Interviews](#) ●
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○

- [Top of Page](#) ○
- [Opening Banquet](#) ○
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ○
- [Session III](#) ○
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Interviews](#) ●
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○

Photo Gallery

Photos will be added / changed as we are receiving more and better ones.



The atmosphere



- [Top of Page](#) ○
- [Opening Banquet](#) ○
- [Session I](#) ○
- [Session II](#) ○
- [Session III](#) ○
- [Session IV](#) ○
- [Session V](#) ○
- [Interviews](#) ○
- [Photo Gallery](#) ○



[Privacy Policy](#)
[Refund Policy](#)



[Become a sponsor](#)